

CONTACT INFORMATION

Saint Paul Lutheran Church
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Celebration Of Marriage

Wedding Information Booklet for:
Saint Paul Lutheran Church
Mount Prospect, IL

WEDDING CHECKLIST

*At least **six months before** your wedding. . .*

- Schedule your pre-marital counseling sessions with the Pastor.

*At least **six weeks before** your wedding. . .*

- Meet with Director of Music to choose music for your wedding.

*At least **three weeks before** your wedding. . .*

- Discuss and finalize ceremony details with your wedding coordinator. (This is a good time to discuss your bulletin prior to your proof for the pastors review, and any situations to be made aware of for the ceremony.)

*At least **two weeks before** your wedding. . .*

- Submit your Proof of the bulletin master for both the Pastor and Director of Music to review. This is very important to make sure everything is ok before you have all your bulletins printed!!!

If you have any more questions about weddings at Saint Paul or would like more information about the church, activities, membership, worship services, etc., please contact the church office at 847.255.0332 or e-mail to church@saint-paul.org.

*God Bless you both during your
journey of becoming husband and wife.*

VI. WEDDING REHEARSAL

The Wedding Rehearsal is ordinarily held the evening before the day of the wedding and is run by the Wedding Ceremony Coordinator. The Pastor and Director of Music are not present at the rehearsal unless prior arrangements have been made. A recommended time for rehearsals is 5:30pm. At the rehearsal, you and your attendants will briefly go through the processional, the ceremony, and the recessional. You will also be informed of details necessary to you and the wedding party. The rehearsal generally takes one hour.

Items to bring to the rehearsal:

- marriage license
- wedding fees & honoraria
- programs
- unity candles
- ring bearer pillows, misc. items

VII. FEES AND HONORARIA

Use of Church	\$200
(Please make check payable to Saint Paul Lutheran Church)	
Pastor*	\$225
Organist*	\$200
Soloist* (optional)	\$100
Wedding Coordinator*	\$125
Sound Technician*	\$75
(needed for soloist(s) or when not using our organist)	

*Please make checks payable to the individuals
Contact the church office for the names of individuals

THE LORD BLESS YOUR WEDDING DAY!

What a great day and a gift from God! To be given your life's partner and friend is a precious blessing. God celebrates the relationship you have! He reaches out to bless you and lead you in marriage.

Wedding planning can be both joyful and stressful at the same time. The purpose of this booklet and the time you spend here at Saint Paul is to replace the stress of planning with the joy that Jesus Christ brings to your marriage. That's what your wedding ceremony will be all about, too.

It is our prayer that God will bless your wedding preparation and that you will see the new and wonderful beginning that Jesus Christ gives you as husband and wife!

Rev. Kris Whitby
Senior Pastor

I. GOD'S GIFT OF MARRIAGE

Weddings at Saint Paul are opportunities for us to share with you the love of Christ that you will express in your marriage. Jesus, your Savior, is the focal point of all planning and preparation. Marriage is a wonderful creation of God and we strive to abide by His Word concerning it.

Marriage is God's gift. He shows us that it is rooted in His public commitment, of faithfulness and love, between a man and a woman, for life. The privileges of living with one another, witnessing to God's love as a couple, enjoying a faithful sexual relationship, and having children are all given by God in marriage.

Please feel free to ask questions about the issues of living together before marriage, divorce and remarriage, the difference between religious denominations, and anything else on your heart.

II. WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

Please reserve your wedding date and time at least four months in advance. This gives time for the preparation necessary. Please do not sign any contracts with reception facilities before confirming a date with Saint Paul.

Weddings will not be held during Holy Week, the week of Christmas, and the weekends before and after VBS week held in June.

Because Saint Paul has a weekly worship service on Saturdays at 5:00pm, **weddings are scheduled no later than 3:00pm on Saturdays.**

Guest clergymen of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations may participate in the wedding ceremony; however, arrangements need to be made in advance. **Clergy of other denominations may not assist in officiating** a wedding ceremony at Saint Paul.

OTHER IMPORTANT CEREMONY INFORMATION:

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

Flash photographs may be taken by your photographer only during the processional and the recessional. In order to prevent any distraction from your marriage ceremony, please advise your photographer, your families, and your friends that **no flash photographs are to be taken during the ceremony.** If you provide a videographer please be advised that cameras are not permitted in the altar area, but can be placed along the side walls or in the back of the sanctuary.

DRESSING ROOMS

For your convenience, the Brides Room is on the upper level in the nursery and will be available to the bride and bridesmaids to dress and/or make their final preparations. The groom and groomsmen may use the Youth Room in the lower level.

FLORAL ACCESSORIES

Your florist can arrange for your church floral arrangement(s). Your florist may also provide a runner. You will need one 75 to 100 feet long. It should be securely fastened at the head of the aisle. If you would like to present roses to the mothers, the florist can place those on the altar. Florists may deliver flowers one hour prior to the service.

UNITY CANDLE

If you choose to use a unity candle, you must provide it along with two additional drip-less taper candles. Please don't forget the stands along with your candles.

WHAT IS/IS NOT PERMITTED

- Alcohol and illegal drugs are NOT permitted in the building, in the parking lot, or on the church grounds.
- Saint Paul is a non-smoking facility. No smoking is allowed in the building.
- Throwing rice, birdseed, rose petals, confetti or letting go of balloons after the service as the couple departs the building are NOT permitted.
- Bubbles, ringing bells or releasing of butterflies ARE permitted.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Some suggested Old Testament and New Testament readings are below. You may feel free to suggest other Bible verses that are special to you, too. Typically, two or three readings are chosen. **NON-BIBLICAL READINGS ARE NOT PERMITTED** in the ceremony.

Old Testament

Genesis 2:18-24 – (The first love story—God creates marriage)

Ruth 1:16 – (The total devotion love brings)

Song of Solomon 2 – (My beloved is mine and I am his)

Isaiah 63:7-9 – (He lifted them up and carried them)

Psalms 67 – (A prayer for God's blessing)

Psalms 100 – (A celebration of God's faithfulness)

Psalms 121 – (The assurance of God's strength)

Psalms 136 – (Giving thanks to God for He is good)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 – (Friendship in marriage)

New Testament

John 15:11-17 – (Jesus' call to love each other)

John 2:1-10 – (The Marriage Feast of Cana)

Romans 8:31-39 – (Nothing separates us from God's love)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 – (The gift of love)

Ephesians 3:14-21 – (A prayer for God's blessing)

Ephesians 5:21-33 – (The calling of husbands and wives)

Philippians 4:4-7 – (The certainty of God's joy and peace)

1 John 4:7-12 – (The definition of and calling to love)

Matthew 19:3-6 – (They are no longer two, but one)

III. PREMARITAL PREPARATION

Before your wedding takes place at Saint Paul, you will need to schedule premarital counseling sessions with your officiating pastor.

These meetings offer the opportunity to get to know the pastor, to discuss wedding details, and talk about resources that will help you build and maintain a strong, Christ-centered marriage.

IV. MUSIC FOR YOUR WEDDING

If you desire our Director of Music to play for your wedding, please inform the church office when you reserve your wedding date. You should meet with her at least six weeks before your wedding to plan music for the ceremony.

The music in your wedding must be appropriate for a Christ-centered worship service. **Secular songs are not permitted in the worship service.** Your organist will lead you through a variety of possibilities, and will discuss any ideas you may have. If you desire additional soloists or instrumentalists, please discuss this with our Director of Music as well.

V. THE WEDDING CEREMONY

WEDDING PROGRAMS

A nice way for your guests to follow along in your ceremony is by providing them with a program. This also makes a nice keepsake for you in the future. You may do your own production of the wedding ceremony bulletin through a printing company or using your own computer. If you are having a program for your ceremony, *please submit a proof of the program to the church office for review prior to printing.* A sample of the ceremony is provided on the next page for your convenience. If you would like examples of completed bulletins, please ask the pastor or church secretary.

SAMPLE ORDER OF YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

Ceremonies typically run about 30 minutes in length

Pre-Service Music

The Processional

The Invocation

The Words of Meaning

The Readings (See Suggestions on page after Wedding Vows)

Musical solo or special music opportunity

The Wedding Address

The Wedding Vows (See Suggestions next)

The Exchange of Rings

The Pronouncement of Marriage

Musical solo or special music opportunity

The Lighting of the Unity Candle (optional)

The Presentation of Roses to Mothers (optional)

The Blessing and Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Presentation of the Couple

The Recessional

In addition to the information that you will cover with the pastor, you will have the opportunity to personalize your wedding ceremony by choosing some important elements:

WEDDING VOWS

Some suggested vows are printed below

I, ____, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, ____, to be my wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death parts us, and I pledge you my faithfulness.

I take you, ____, to be my wife/husband. I promise before God and these witnesses to be faithful to you. I promise to share with you in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health. I promise to forgive and strengthen you as Christ forgives and strengthens us, and to join with you so that together we may serve Christ and others as long as we both shall live.

I take you, ____, to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise you. I will be faithful to you, and honest with you. I will respect and trust, help and care for you. I will share my life with you. I will forgive you as we have been forgiven. And I will grow with you in friendship and in faith, through joy and sorrow, as long as we both shall live.