

Wedding Celebration Guide



Highview Christiania Lutheran Church

**26690 Highview Ave. Farmington, MN 55024
952-469-2722**

Weddings at Highview Christiania Lutheran Church

26690 Highview Ave
Farmington, MN 55024
952-469-2722

Email: highview@highview-lutheran.org

Congratulations!

On behalf of Highview Christiania, please receive our best wishes on your upcoming wedding. It is a delight to hear of your interest in having your wedding services performed within Christ's Church. Many will be praying for you during these days of preparation.

In this booklet you will find the following information:

Contact Information for Church Personnel

Wedding Policies

Ceremony Planning Outline and Information

Sample Service Bulletin

Suggested Scripture Readings

Suggested Hymns

Samples of Vows and Promises

Fees and Honorarium

Building Use Agreement

Contact Information

The following are names and phone numbers of persons available to help make your wedding a beautiful and meaningful event.

Pastor: Pastor Michael Mandsager.....507-581-3421

Parish Administrator: Jennifer Gibbs.....952-496-2722

Musical Director: Johnathan Madden.....carahe1@stolaf.edu

Wedding Planner: Cynthia Markle.....cynartist1@aol.com

Custodian: Wally Franklund.....952-469-2722

We will help you plan for your wedding. More importantly, the members of Highview Christiania Lutheran Church will be seeking God's blessing on your marriage. The wedding is for a moment in time; the marriage is forever. We shall all be working together in order to keep all things in proper perspective. Plan for your wedding in a timely and systematic way, so that you may approach this event with energy, a sense of calm, and joy!

HIGHVIEW CHRISTIANIA LUTHERAN CHURCH WEDDING POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Highview Christiania Lutheran Church is pleased to provide its sanctuary for your wedding. Our sanctuary is not restricted to Highview members. We welcome any persons who desire a worship setting for their marriage to use our church, **if agreed upon by our pastor**. We offer this general information to aid you in planning the many details that make for a meaningful church wedding. Your wedding will be performed by our pastor, or-- with our pastor's approval-- by another pastor on the clergy roster of the ELCA or another full communion partner denomination (including the Presbyterian Church USA, the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church, the Moravian Church, and the United Methodist Church).

The sanctuary seats approximately 150 people, not including the overflow room to the north of the sanctuary, which has room for about 40 people with some obstructed view. A few chairs could be added to the sanctuary.

ARRANGING FOR YOUR WEDDING

To reserve a date on the church calendar, call or visit the church office **at least three months** in advance of your anticipated wedding date. Schedule your wedding with the church before you schedule a location for your reception. If you would like to hold your reception at the church, be sure to indicate that at the time you are making reservations for your ceremony. Agree on a definite date for your wedding in consultation with Highview's pastor by contacting the Parish Administrator at (952) 469-2722. We will set up an appointment for you to meet with the pastor in begin marriage preparation, including pre-marriage counseling. The Parish Administrator will contact the wedding coordinator with your name and date of the wedding, after all fees have been paid. All weddings (member or non-member) will use our wedding coordinator, who will contact you to discuss arrangements and answer any questions you may have regarding your wedding.

ORGANIST

The Highview church organist will be used for all weddings, unless approved by the organist or pastor. It is your responsibility to make sure the organist is available for your wedding. Choice of music and use of soloists are to be coordinated with and approved by our organist and pastor. Music selections should reflect Christ-centered worship and life-long marital fidelity. We recommend at least one congregational hymn as a way to include your guests in the wedding service. No recorded music please.

A WORSHIP SERVICE

A church wedding is a service of worship. The community gathers to join the couple in worshipping Christ and thanking God for God's blessings. The couple shares their vows in this worship setting, and thereby are presenting their marriage as an offering to God. A marriage service performed in a court house or private home is every bit as blessed as one performed in a church; therefore the reason to request a church wedding is not to seek God's blessing, which God freely gives, but to worship God in the company of a congregation.

A CONGREGATIONAL EVENT

A church wedding is a congregational event, and the minister presides as pastor of a congregation. Church weddings grow out of a history of being an integral part of congregational life. If you or your partner are not currently an active church member, the pastor will probably suggest that you take part in the worship life of the congregation for a period of months leading up to your marriage so that you experience being part of the faith community where your wedding will take place. You will also discover congregational involvement can be an enriching part of your marriage in the years to come.

PRE-MARRIAGE COUNSELING

The pastor will ask you a pre-marriage inventory called PREPARE ENRICH. The inventory takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. The cost is \$35, which you can pay to Prepare/Enrich, Inc. The results of PREPARE ENRICH will be forwarded to the Pastor. Couples will schedule follow-up appointments with the pastor. Included in the three appointments will be time to plan for the service.

MARRIAGE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Couples in relationships which involve physical or emotional abuse, untreated alcoholism or chemical dependency, or extreme jealousy should delay marriage plans until these issues can be addressed through counseling. Unless dealt with openly, each of these situations will get worse, not better, after marriage. Couples (or individuals) concerned about any of these issues may speak to the pastor about them.

DECORATING SANCTUARY, CANDLES, BANNER

There is a unity candleholder and a wedding banner available to use at your wedding. There will be no rearranging of the sanctuary furniture, paraments, etc. Any decorations (or removal of decorations) need to be agreed to by the wedding coordinator or the pastor. Please check with the coordinator as to materials to use to attach things to walls, pews, etc.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

Arrange for a rehearsal time at the initial appointment with the pastor. The rehearsal should be attended by all in the wedding party, ushers, and immediate family. It is important that rehearsals begin on time. The marriage license is to be given to the pastor **two weeks** prior to the wedding.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

The coordinator will be available at both the rehearsal and the wedding for any questions that might come up at this time and to help with any of the needs of the wedding party. The facilitator will be available to open the church for the wedding and will make sure the sound system is working for the wedding. After the wedding, the facilitator will make sure everything is turned off and the church is locked.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please limit flash photography to the processional and recessional only.

WEDDING DAY

Rooms will be provided in the education building where the wedding party may change. If you need additional rooms, please let the wedding facilitator know. If you wish to invite the pastor to your wedding reception, please make your intention clearly known. Due to other church and family commitments, the pastor may not always be able to attend the reception.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Licenses can be purchased at a County Courthouse. Dakota County License Bureau: 651-438-4313. Please bring license to the rehearsal so the officiating pastor can complete the forms. All completed forms will be mailed to the Dakota County Courthouse. Copies will be given to the Bride and Groom to act as a temporary license. Official copies will be received directly from Dakota County.

WE REQUEST THAT NO ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, OR DRUGS BE USED ON THE CHURCH PROPERTY. A \$250.00 fine will be incurred for violation of this policy. The wedding couple will be responsible for the fine. Do not throw rice or confetti in or outside of the church, as it is difficult to clean up and deadly to small birds.

PLANNING OUTLINE: ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude (may have organ, instrumental, or vocal music)

Processional

Greeting

Declaration of Intention

Prayer of the Day

Solo or hymn (optional)

Readings (two or three selections)

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Vows

Giving of Rings

Acclamation

Unity candle (optional)

Solo or hymn (optional)

Marriage Blessing

Prayers of Intercession

Communion (optional)

Lord's Prayer

Peace

Blessing

Presentation of the couple

Dismissal

Recessional

Postlude

SERVICE BULLETIN FORMATTING

Highview Christiania Lutheran Church is not equipped to provide bulletin services for weddings. Bulletins may be purchased at any religious book store (for example: Northwestern Bookstore, Cobblestone Court, Hwy #42, Burnsville). The use of a bulletin during the service is not necessary.

Some People wish to include in the Wedding Bulletin:

Officiating Pastor(s)

Parents of the Bride

Parents of the Groom

Bride's Grandparents

Grooms Grandparents

Maid of Honor

Bridesmaids

Best Man

Groomsmen

Ushers

Personal Attendants

Ring Bearer

Flower Girl

Vocalist

Musician(s)

Thank you to friends and family....

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS

We will have two or three scripture readings for your wedding, which may be read either by the pastor or a friend or family member. Here are a few suggested readings:

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 33
Psalm 100
Psalm 117
Psalm 127
Psalm 128
Psalm 136
Psalm 150
Genesis 1:26-31
Genesis 2:18-24
Song of Solomon 2:10-13
Song of Solomon 8:7
Isaiah 63:7-9

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 19:4-6
John 2:10
John 15:9-12
Romans 12:1-2
1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13
Ephesians 3:17-21
Colossians 3:12-15
1 John 4:7-21

SUGGESTED CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

Here are a few suggested hymns from our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Jesus Come! For We Invite You #312
Where Charity and Love Prevail #359
Holy God, We Praise Your Name #414
The King of Love My Shepherd Is #502
Go, My Children, With My Blessing #543
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #631
Ubi Caritas #642
Borning Cry #732
Lord of All Hopefulness #765
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us #789
Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus #802
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee #836
Beautiful Savior #838
Now Thank We All Our God #840
Praise To the Lord, the Almighty #858
Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven #864
We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator #870
For the Beauty of the Earth #879
Let All Things Now Living #881

FEES AND HONORARIA

Please make separate payments for each of the following:

	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>NON-MEMBERS</u>
Pastor's honorarium (suggested)	\$150	\$300
Organist	\$200	\$200
Custodian	\$100	\$100
Wedding coordinator	\$200	\$200
Rental of building	\$0	\$500
Maintenance	\$100	\$0

BUILDING USE AGREEMENT FOR WEDDINGS

Highview Christiania Lutheran Church
26690 Highview Avenue West
Farmington, MN 55024
(952) 569-2722

Date of Wedding _____ Time of Wedding _____

Bride's Name _____ Phone #: _____ Home: _____
Cell/Work: _____

Address: _____

Groom's Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Home: _____
Cell/Work: _____

Address: _____

Rehearsal: Date: _____ Time: _____

Arrival Time: _____

of Dressing Rooms Needed: _____

I agree to the following:

- 1. To return the signed Building Use Agreement to the Pastor, Wedding Coordinator/Facilitator, or the church office prior to the Wedding Rehearsal.
2. To notify my homeowners insurance company about the event to determine liability coverage in the event of an occurrence of liability.
3. Please pay the fees listed above prior to the wedding rehearsal. The date will not be held unless all fees are paid.
4. Assume responsibility for the conduct of the group and reimburse Highview Christiania Lutheran Church for any damage incurred by the group to equipment, building or grounds. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES of any kind are to be brought on the church grounds. This includes the parking lot.

Bride _____

Groom _____

Date: _____

Return signed copy to
Highview Christiania
Lutheran Church

8/2/2017