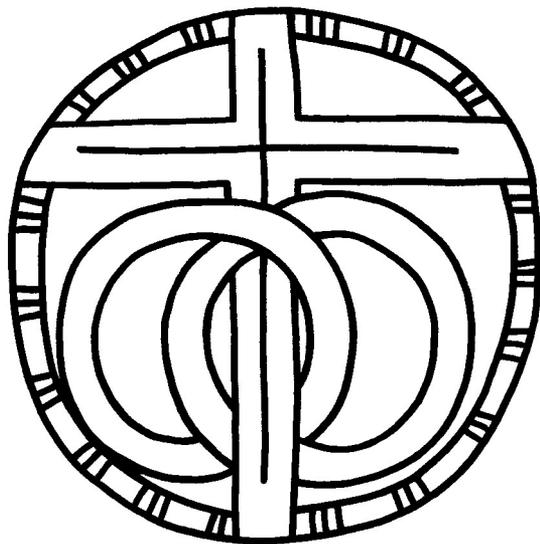


# Celebrating Your Marriage



**St. Andrew's  
Lutheran Church**

*Sharing Christ in Faith, Fellowship & Service*

914 West Boulevard South  
Columbia, Missouri 65203

(573) 449-5674

[SaintAndrewsLutheran.org](http://SaintAndrewsLutheran.org)

# **WEDDING POLICY**

A wedding is a service of worship. We praise God who has created us to find our greatest joy in life when we live in relationship with other people. We thank God for the special relationship God has given those being married. While our attention goes to you, the couple, the wedding ceremony is also a statement of faith in God. We express our desire that God's presence will strengthen your relationship so that the joys in life will be more profound and the challenges of life may be overcome.

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church adheres to a policy where the pastor determines who will be allowed to be married at the church, or by a member of the pastoral staff of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church. This congregation welcomes requests from all persons who desire to be married here. Couples who wish to be married will be eligible for a valid Missouri State Marriage License. The pastor will determine who may be married after meeting with the couple and participating in premarital conversations. This congregation will recognize both different gender marriage and same gender marriage promises made elsewhere and offer recognition, support and accountability for the couple.

Saint Andrew's desires to minister to you as well as your families and friends at this important stage in life. The facilities of Saint Andrew's may be used for weddings and receptions with the approval of the pastoral staff. While it is not necessary that a pastor of Saint Andrew's participate in each ceremony, the pastor's approval of the officiant(s) and the ceremony used is required. Pastoral service preparing for a marriage and for the wedding itself, is also required of members and non-members alike.

In order that the true importance of a wedding be recognized, the wedding must be scheduled at least three months in advance. During this period a minimum of three consultations must be scheduled with the officiating pastor. These consultations include various topics helping prepare for marriage and include time to plan the ceremony. The wedding service is to be you, the couple's, statement to each other as well as to family and friends about your relationship with each other and with God.

**Counselor:** We also expect you to meet with a counselor who is trained in marriage and family counseling. God gives us the marriage relationship to be a grace-filled refuge from the hurts and hatreds of the world. Past wounds can be healed and present burdens can be lightened through the love shared between spouses. These same wounds and burdens can, however, cause difficulties which would hinder and even destroy a good marriage. The time with the counselor is intended to help you affirm the strengths of your relationship, be aware of potential difficulties you may be carrying into the marriage, and look ahead to ways those difficulties can be overcome. If the marriage will form a blended family, you must also arrange a time for the whole new family (including children who will not be residing in your household) to meet as a group with the counselor.

The content of the counseling session will remain confidential, except for the counselor's verification to the pastor that you met with the counselor. (Please see the release form included with this information.) We suggest working with either Pamela Mauch or Patrick Kane (449.0120). You may also use the counselor of your choice. You pay the fees for the counselor.

**Time:** Due to the schedule of our weekend worship services, weddings may be scheduled on Saturdays up until 4:00 PM. All times must be approved by the pastor. In planning, allow adequate time for the ceremony and transitions following.

**Wedding Ceremonies:** There are several ceremonies available for your consideration. During the preparation and counseling sessions, the pastor works closely with you to design a wedding that is reflective both of the Christian understanding of marriage and your personal preferences.

If you desire to have children participating as flower girl, ring bearer, or other such attendants, please make certain that they have the maturity to function appropriately. Children under first grade age, can easily detract from the central focus of the service. Make certain a reliable caregiver in addition to any in the wedding party is seated close by. Be sure your expectations of the role your children have in the ceremony truly honors them. If the marriage is a blending of families, the wedding can support and bless this transition.

Also, to prevent delays in starting, make certain that you have an appropriate number of ushers for the size of the group.

**Music:** Please select your music in consultation with the church musicians and the pastor so that the music is in good taste and reflective of the Christian ceremony in which it is included. Family or friends are welcome to help provide the music. Our pipe organ does require a musician who is competent to operate it.

**Wedding Consultants:** If you are working with a wedding consultant, please have the consultant contact the pastor as soon as possible, so we can coordinate the details of the wedding ceremony.

**Photographer:** We ask that photographers respect the integrity of our worship service and sanctuary. **NO** flash photography is permitted during the marriage ceremony except during the processional and recessional. A few time exposures are permitted if done discretely. Other photography is best done before or after the service. Video recording may be done with consultation with the pastor.

**Wedding Bulletins:** Wedding bulletins can be selected by ordering through the church or can be designed and printed through the church office. The preprinted bulletins need to be ordered at least six weeks in advance. If you would like help in designing or printing the bulletins, you must consult with the church's Parish Administrator at least six weeks in advance.

**Rehearsal:** If you desire a wedding rehearsal at the church, it must be scheduled in consultation with the pastor. In planning the rehearsal, please emphasize to the participants the need to begin on time. If you are uncertain that someone can make it at that time, it is better to schedule the rehearsal a bit later.

**Dressing Room:** It is possible for participants to dress at the church. The bride and attendants usually make use of Classroom 105; there is a sink in the room. A portable, full-length mirror and a dress rack are available to move in the room. The groom and attendants may use a classroom at the end of the Fellowship Hall.

**Rice:** For safety reasons, it is requested that **no rice** (or similar substance) be thrown inside the church building or on the sidewalks and parking lot outside.

**Preparation and Cleanup:** Family or friends can be of great help putting things back in order after the ceremony. Please make sure you enlist several persons who are reliable to help with preparation and cleanup of the building for the wedding ceremony. Any work that is done by participants will lower the cost of custodial services.

**Reception:** The Fellowship Hall can handle approximately 150 people. The reception would need to be catered but couples can use the facilities available in our kitchen. There are to be **No alcoholic beverages on the church grounds**. Details of the reception need to be handled through the church office.

**Fees:** For members of Saint Andrew's, there are **no fees** for the use of the church or the services of the pastors. For members expenses are as follows:

<b>Organist</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>
<b>Custodian</b>	<b>\$ 25.00/hour</b>
<b>Bulletin preparation</b>	<b>\$ 25.00</b>
<b>Counselor fee</b>	(according to the Counselor)

For non-members of Saint Andrew's, expenses are as follows (costs for use of the Centrum and Fellowship Hall are in the Building Policy):

<b>Organist</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>
<b>Custodian</b>	<b>\$100.00 plus \$25.00/hour</b>
<b>Pastor Services</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Cost for bulletin preparation</b>	<b>\$ 50.00</b>
<b>Counselor fee</b>	(according to the Counselor)