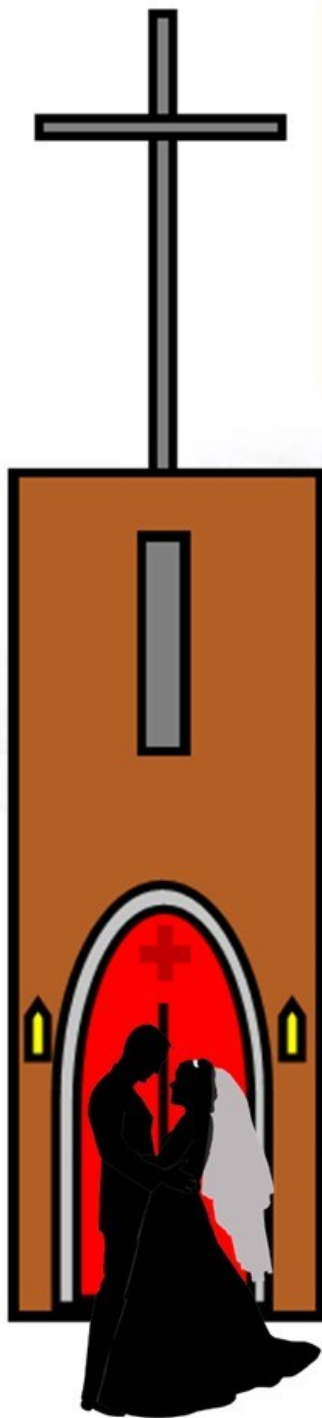


Marriage Preparation Booklet



From this Day Forward

Getting Married At St. John's Lutheran Church
Depew, New York

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
67 Litchfield Ave.
Depew, New York 14043
(716)683-3947
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Dear friends,

Congratulations on your engagement! I along with the members of St. John's Lutheran rejoice with both of you and give thanks to God for the blessing you are to each other.

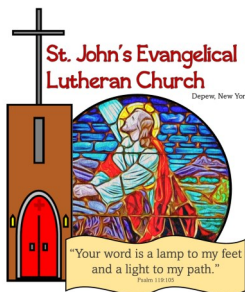
Thank you for your interest in using our church facility for your special day. Our goal is to provide the support personnel and a setting that will uphold the sacredness, the beauty, and the joy of a Christian marriage celebration.

In this booklet you will find some basic information regarding weddings at St. John's. please look the information over carefully and contact me for a wedding pre-planning session.



Once again, Congratulations! I look forward to working with you and celebrating your special day with you.

Pastor



"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ..."
Prov. 3:3-4

Marriage: A Christian Perspective

Christians believe that the marriage service is a time of worship. It is a time when the couple being married enters a relationship of devotion and dedication with one another before God. A Christian couple believes that God has given them to one another and they pray that by God's grace He would unite their lives in a spiritual union. In the marriage service they ask for God's blessing on their union and the support of His grace and love in their relationship.

In the worship service, the couple testifies to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They do this in the midst of the love and support of the Christian community, represented by the guests who assemble for the service. With this support, a couple may have the faith and courage to meet the joys and challenges of their life together. With this support, they can dare to commit themselves to a life-long relationship of love and faithfulness.



“For I have found the one
my soul loves.”

Song of Solomon 3:4

Policies and Procedures

Membership– Weddings can be conducted for non-members at the approval of the board of elders; however, membership is strongly recommended. A solid faith foundation and church family is an important part of marital life together.

Photography and Video– Photographers are asked to refrain from any flash photography during the service. Natural light photos may be taken during the service but must be from a stationary spot that does not interfere with the service. Video is welcome, but recording must be done from a stationary spot that does not interfere with the service.

Music– Since the wedding service is a worship service, we kindly ask that couples work closely with the church musician in selecting ceremony music. Secular music is not permitted during the ceremony.

Holy Communion– speak with the pastor.

Flowers and Decorations– pew bows and flowers are acceptable decorations. Nothing is permitted on the altar itself. When no conflicts exist, the church can be decorated the day before at the rehearsal. Please let the pastor know when flowers will be delivered to the church in order that arrangements be made.

*Due to tripping hazard, runners are no longer permitted.
Plastic Petals may be tossed, live petals are prohibited.*

Tradition upon Exiting– Bubbles are permitted. Birdseed, rice and an other option are prohibited.

The Wedding Rehearsal– The wedding rehearsal should be scheduled the day before the wedding. All ceremony participants are expected to attend.

Alcohol Consumption– All wedding ceremony participants are asked to refrain from consuming alcoholic beverages before the service– either at home or on church grounds. The church reserves the right to ask anyone who has consumed alcoholic beverages to leave the premises. The church also reserves prohibit the participation of those in the wedding party who might be under the influence of an alcoholic beverage.

Participants and Service Details

Officiating clergy	Purpura	Florist	
Assisting clergy		Photographer	
Organist		Videographer	
Pianist		Other	

Matron of honor		Bestman	
bridesmaid		groomsman	
bridesmaid		groomsman	
bridesmaid		groomsman	
bridesmaid		groomsman	
bridesmaid		groomsman	
Bridesmaid		Groomsman	
Bridesmaid		Groomsman	
Bridesmaid		Groomsman	

Jr. bridesmaid(s)		Mother-bride	
Ringbearer		Father-bride	
Flowergirls		Mother-groom	
Ushers		Father-groom	
		Other	

Reading	Reader

Unity Candle	
Unity Sand	
Unity Glass	

Receiving Line	
Yes	
No	

Holy Commun-	
Yes	
No	

Memorial Names for the Prayers	
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Scripture Readings for your Ceremony

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:26-28
Genesis 2:18-24
Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67
Proverbs 3:3-6
Song of Solomon 2:10-13
Song of Solomon 8:6-7
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
Isaiah 63:7-9
Jeremiah 31:31-34

PSALMS

Psalms 33
Psalm 67
Psalm 100
Psalm 117
Psalm 121
Psalm 127
Psalm 128
Psalm 150

EPISTLE

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Ephesians 3:14-19
Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33
Philippians 2:1-11
Philippians 4:4-9
Colossians 3:12-17
1 John 3:18-24
1 John 4:7-16
Revelation 19:1, 5-9

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-10
Matthew 5:14-16
Matthew 7:21, 24-29
Matthew 19:4-6
Matthew 22:35-40
Mark 10:6-9
John 2:1-11
John 15:9-17

⁹ Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. ¹⁰ If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. ¹¹ Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? ¹² A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Ecclesiastes 4

Music Options

Please schedule an appointment with the organist as soon as possible to discuss your music options for the ceremony. There is a vast selection of music that is particularly appropriate for wedding ceremonies. Remember that your wedding is a worship service! Therefore, it is important that you choose music that emphasizes praise and thanks to God. Secular music is best used at the reception.

Music Director: Camden Church..... (716) 228-4034

The Wedding Ceremony

- Prelude
- Seating of the Mothers..... *Music of your choice*
- The Processional
 - Bridesmaids.....*Music of your choice*
 - Bride.....*Music of your choice*
- The Invocation
- The Wedding Prayer
- Scripture Readings
 - Reading One
 - Reading Two
 - Reading Three
- Hymn..... *If Desired*
- Homily
- Special Music..... *If Desired*
- The Wedding Vows
- The Ring Exchange
- The Announcement of Marriage
- The Unity Candle Ceremony
- Holy Communion..... *If Applicable*
- The Prayers
- The Benediction
- Introduction of the Bride and Groom
- Recessional.....*Music of your choice*



Wedding Vows

OPTION 1

I take you, _____ to be my wife/husband from this day forward to join with you and share with you that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

OPTION 2

I take you, _____ to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest to you; I will respect, 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 try with you to better understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and the worst of what is to come until death parts us.

OPTION 3

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

OPTION 4

_____, I take you to be my wife/husband from this day onward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being until death parts us.

OPTION 5

In the presence of God and this community, I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife/husband; to have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

OPTION 6

_____ do you take _____ to be your wedded wife/husband, to live together in marriage. Do you promise to love her/him, comfort her/him, honor and keep her for better for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health and forsaking all others, be faithful only to her so long as you both shall live? (I do)



Checklist

SIX MONTHS PRIOR

Date	Description	✓
	Called Pastor- Reserved the Date and times for Rehearsal and Wedding Ceremony	
	Received a Copy of the Wedding Manual from the Pastor and Read it through.	
	Completed and Returned Information Forms	
	Met with the Pastor	
	Scheduled pre-marriage Sessions	

THREE MONTHS PRIOR

Date	Description	✓
	Meet with the Church Musician and select music approved and appropriate for a worship service.	

A FEW WEEKS PRIOR

Date	Description	✓
	Purchase wedding license from town clerk's office.	
	Purchase unity candle for unity candle ceremony.	
	Get all final information to the pastor- correctly spelled names of those standing up and their role.	
	Select your Bible passages and select readers to read them in the ceremony. Get names and readings to the pastor	

Wedding Service Agreement

I _____ and I _____ agree to the selected
(Groom) (Bride)

Date of _____ at _____ am/pm for our Wedding ceremony at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

As a couple we understand that our wedding ceremony at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is considered a worship service and will be conducted in an orderly and reverent way. We along with our wedding party and other participants will be respectful throughout the worship service. We will refrain from the consumption of alcohol prior to the worship service. We along with our wedding party understand that if any member of the wedding party or guests exhibits signs of impairment he/she/they will be asked to sit out and/or will be asked to vacate the property.

In addition:

- We agree to complete a minimum of three sessions of pre-marriage with pastor. Additional sessions may be added based upon need or concern. Failure to complete sessions will result in the postponement of the ceremony until completed.
- We agree to the appropriate fee schedule and ensure that payment will be provided no later than the evening of the Rehearsal. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of our wedding ceremony.
- We agree to acquire our Wedding License and ensure it is present the day of the rehearsal.
- We understand that the wedding is to start promptly at the pre-arranged and agreed upon time.
- We agree to respect and comply with the policies and procedures as outlined in this booklet

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Groom

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Bride

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Pastor

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman of the Elders

Notes