

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Wedding Policy 2013

THE GIFT OF MARRIAGE

Among the gracious gifts we may receive from our loving Creator and Heavenly Father is that of Marriage. All of life lived together in marriage becomes an act of faith that acknowledges that everything we have, indeed everything we are, is of God. On the basis of that faith, we enter into marriage acknowledging that the hope of two lives lived together in love will be fulfilled only if the love of God is acknowledged, depended upon, and affirmed as the central basis of that union.

When we understand such a basis for this union, the solemnization of a marriage can be understood for what it is -- a worship service in which all the gathered congregation, along with the couple and members of their families, give glory and praise to God for God's endless and unfailing love for us. Couples preparing for marriage need to consult with the pastor and the church secretary as soon as they have made a decision to become married. The wedding date must be secured through the church office. Counseling sessions with the pastor will follow, as needed, preferably several months before the wedding.

All aspects of the rehearsal and wedding ceremony are under the direction of the pastor of Lord of Life.

MUSIC

Music for the wedding should be in keeping with the spirit of worship in the church. No selections of music, vocal or instrumental, shall be made without the approval of the pastor and the Minister of Music. The music should reflect the joy of celebration found in the marriage service focusing on God's love rather than the love two people have for one another. Generally, sacred music is considered appropriate where secular "pop" music, "show" tunes or themes from movies are not.

MUSIC OPTIONS

Many options are available for the wedding rite. The Minister of Music will discuss the following items with you:

Prelude: Music played before the service during which time guests and family members are seated.

Processional: Entrance music for the wedding party.

Hymnody: Hymns may be sung at several places during the worship service. They reinforce the sense of community support of the couple.

Recessional: Exit music for the wedding party. Like the recessional, the music is generally instrumental in nature. A list of appropriate material is available.

Note: If you desire to involve a soloist or instrumentalist in any of the above aspects of the wedding rite, please discuss this with the Minister of Music.

DECORATIONS

The altar is the central focus in Lutheran worship and care should be taken that decorations strengthen the position of the altar, enhance the beauty of the church, and do not dominate the scene themselves. Floral arrangements must be of live flowers and plant material; there may be no plants (i.e., potted plants) placed on the altar. There should be a minimum of candles and greenery around the altar. The color of the altar paraments will always be that appointed for the day or season of the church year; the paraments may not be removed from the altar.

No furniture in the sanctuary may be moved without permission from the pastor.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Picture taking requiring flashes or other distractions is NOT PERMITTED during the wedding ceremony. The couple must make family and close friends aware of this policy. A video camera may be set up in a prescribed STATIONARY position. It is not to be moved around during the ceremony. The designated photographer may be invited to take pictures prior to the wedding and immediately following the ceremony

LICENSE

It is the responsibility of the wedding couple to secure the marriage license. You need to call Wake County Government Marriage Licenses thirty (30) days prior to the wedding date. The wedding cannot be conducted without the marriage license. The pastor must have the license at the time of the wedding rehearsal.

WEDDING PARTY DEPARTURE

Your guests may throw only things that aren't hazardous to the environment outside the church at the conclusion of all activities, including the photography sessions.

ORGANIST

For consultation with the couple regarding music selections and a brief (15-10 minute) prelude with no soloist or choirs in attendance at the service, the suggested minimum donation is \$150. Should the organist of this congregation not be available, the wedding party may select a substitute from the church's approved list of musicians.

SANCTUARY USE AND JANITORIAL SERVICE

There is no charge to couples of Lord of Life Lutheran Church for use of the sanctuary. A security deposit is required for use of both the sanctuary and the fellowship hall, if it is used for the reception.

MEMBERS FEES

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| Music Program, including consultation | \$150.00 (minimum) |
| Reimbursable Deposits | |
| Sanctuary | \$150.00 |
| Fellowship Hall | \$250.00 |

NONMEMBER FEES

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| Sanctuary | \$200.00 |
| Fellowship Hall | \$250.00 |
| Deposits | |
| Fellowship Hall | \$250.00 |

Sanctuary. Premises must be left in the condition in which they were found. Wedding party may leave flower arrangements if they wish; all bulletins, tissues, other items must be removed from pews; outside entrance must be left litter free.

Fellowship Hall. If used for reception, all furniture must be returned to original position, floors swept and spills wiped up. No alcohol may be served. No food may be left over in the refrigerators, all dishes and silverware must be washed and put away. Trash cans must be emptied. The dumpster is at the end of the parking lot.

A check covering all fees and deposits is to be mailed to Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 2100 Buffaloe Road, Garner, NC 27529, AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE WEDDING DATE.