



*A Guide  
For Services  
of  
Christian Marriage  
at  
Immanuel Lutheran Church*

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This booklet is given to you as a practical guide to help you plan your wedding service at Immanuel Lutheran. If you have any further questions, feel free to call the Pastor 410-673-7107.

Every wedding service conducted at Immanuel is a service of worship. In planning a Christian wedding, the following worship principles must be observed:

The Christian wedding service is a public event,  
set within the context of the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

The Christian wedding service is a public worship service.

The Christian wedding service seeks to glorify God.

The Christian wedding service proclaims God's good news and  
grace in Jesus Christ.

### **WHO MAY MARRY AT IMMANUEL?**

Ordinarily, weddings at Immanuel will be limited to those in which either the bride or groom is a communicant member in good standing. There may be valid exceptions from time to time. These exceptions will be granted by the Pastor and the Board of Elders. They must be satisfied that making the exception is in the best interests of the couple and the congregation.

Ordinarily, the Pastor of Immanuel will officiate at the wedding. Other Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod clergy may participate with the permission of the Pastor and the President of the congregation, and the Board of Elders. Any exceptions must be submitted to the Board of Elders.

### **PRE-MARRIAGE COUNSELING:**

ALL couples being married at Immanuel as a part of the congregation's ministry will normally be expected to participate in pre-marriage counseling with the pastor. The pastor may, as part of this counseling, impose other requirements on the couple as a condition for performing the ceremony.

### **REHEARSAL:**

The rehearsal is held at least one day prior to the wedding. All participants in the wedding party should be present. In case of more than one wedding on the same day, other arrangements may need to be made. Please inform the organist as to the day and time of the rehearsal.

### **MUSIC:**

Normally, only organists who regularly play for our services will be used for weddings. If there is a legitimate reason for requesting another organist, be sure to consult with the Pastor in advance for his approval. As in other worship services, the music at weddings should also serve to glorify God. There is much beautiful and appropriate music available for the wedding service. Consult with the Pastor and the organist to choose proper sacred music. The Order of Service is the standard Lutheran Order. Congregational hymn singing is encouraged.

### **SOLOS:**

Solo and other music may be used as approved by the Pastor. Music used in the service must never distract attention from God to the music itself or to some person. Arrangements may be made through the Pastor and organist.

### **PARAMENTS:**

Paraments used for the wedding will in every case be the normal color for that particular season of the year. A wedding banner is also available to be used during the service.

### **FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS AND RUNNERS:**

Arrangements for flowers, runners, wedding candles and wedding pictures are the responsibility of the couples. The chairperson of the Altar Guild, and the Flower Coordinator must be contacted concerning the arrangement and disposal of flowers. Please give the name and phone number of your florist and the time when the flowers are expected to arrive at the church to the Altar Guild Chairperson.

### **RECEPTION:**

Arrangements must be made in advance for the use of the fellowship hall for reception purposes. No more than 250 persons may be served in the fellowship hall. A time limit of 3 hours is set on the use of the church (not to go past 10:00 p.m.). No alcoholic beverages may be served. Outside Caterers may be employed, or the WinGS may be contacted to cater the reception and for their own fees. If the kitchen is used, a WinGS member must be present.

### **LICENSE:**

The wedding license must be obtained from Caroline County (Denton) and is to be given to the Pastor at the time of the rehearsal.

### **RICE/BIRDSEED:**

As a safety precaution, no rice or birdseed is permitted inside the church proper. The use of rice is not permitted outside. The use of birdseed is discouraged outside.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY & MISCELLANEOUS:**

Photographers are to move quietly and are to be properly attired. Time exposures may be taken from the balcony, but **NO PICTURES WILL BE TAKEN IN THE NAVE OR CHANCEL DURING THE WEDDING SERVICE.** Videotaping is allowed provided arrangements are made in advance. Relatives and friends should be informed that pictures may be taken after the service. All cell phones and pagers should be turned off during the service.

### **CLEANUP:**

Those marrying at Immanuel are responsible for insuring that the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are cleaned at the conclusion of the wedding. A cleaning deposit will also be required.

### **FEES:**

The following guidelines have been offered to assist you in remunerating Immanuel Congregation, and those who have rendered you special service. All fees should be made directly to each individual prior to the wedding. Place check or cash in separate envelopes with the individual's name or title on the envelope.

Use of church (No charge for members)	\$200.00
Use of the Fellowship Hall	
Member fee (with private catering)	\$150.00
Non-member fee (with private catering)	\$250.00
Kitchen Fee	\$150.00
(A WinGS member is to be present)	
Cleaning Deposit	\$ 50.00
Wedding Bulletins (per 100 [100 minimum])	\$ 30.00
Pastor's honorarium (suggested for non-members)	\$200.00
Organist (more if soloist is used)	\$150.00
Soloist	Personal arrangements