



SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELIZABETHVILLE, PA

Salem Lutheran Church Wedding Guidelines

Weddings held at the Salem Lutheran will be officiated only at the pastor's discretion. Members of the congregation seeking a wedding should seek out the pastor or deacon as soon as possible to make sure there are no conflicts with the church or the ministerial schedule.

If church building is to be used, please let the ministerial staff know and they will bring it before the council. While no fees are required for members of the congregation, donations will be appreciated to help offset supplies, electricity, heating, and time spent for the wedding.

For non-members of the congregation, if the church building is to be used, you will need to write a letter to the council and seek permission. There is a \$150 fee to cover the costs of supplies, electricity, and heating. There is also a pastoral fee to cover time and mileage of the pastor. Both are due at the time of the wedding.

All couples must meet with the pastor or deacon a minimum of two times for premarital counseling with the possibility of more sessions depending on the situation. These sessions are meant as a get-to-know-you time. We typically meet over dinner to talk about marriage and you. The officiating minister reserves the right to decline a marriage if he feels that the couple is not ready or there is a legal reason why the marriage cannot take place.

There are a few rules that the couple **must** follow:

- No outside clergy may lead a wedding service unless they have the permission from the pastor. Only church-bodies with which the NALC has a pulpit and altar fellowship will be considered as a part of our governing constitution.
- The service that used is the Lutheran Rite of Holy Marriage. No other service may be used. There are few options that you may choose for use within the marriage rite. The pastor/deacon will provide you with those options at the first counseling session. If you wish to add elements to the liturgy, please speak with the pastor to discuss those options. However, the service's words and prayers cannot be change, be removed, or altered.
- If you wish, you may have other readings such as poems read at your wedding. Because this is a Christian service, you must have at least one reading from the Bible in addition to a Gospel reading. The pastor/deacon has a list and will provide you with it at your first session.

• Because the wedding is a worship service, we ask that couples, those in the bridal party, and guests of the wedding treat the service with respect. Couples that show up intoxicated will not be allowed to be married (it is also against the law to marry anyone who is impaired). Members of the wedding party should also show respect. Please speak with your party about this before the wedding day.

• No flash photography during the wedding ceremony and photography should be limited within the rite itself. This is a worship setting and it is distracting and very disrespectful. Please speak with your photographer before the ceremony about this request. If your photographer has an issue with this, please have them contact the ministerial staff directly.

• If your wedding is being held at the church and music is desired, the couple is responsible for contacting the organist and paying them their required fee. Outside organists are only permitted at the ministerial staff's discretion. Please speak with the pastor/deacon about music requests so that all arrangements can be made.

Bride Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Groom Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Desired Wedding Date _____

Desired Wedding Location _____

Address _____

Signatures

_____ Bride _____ Date

_____ Groom _____ Date

_____ Pastor or Deacon _____ Date