

Congratulations on your engagement!

This booklet has been prepared by the Christiania Lutheran Church staff to assist you in preparation for your wedding and marriage.

You have chosen to begin your married relationship in a church, in a worship service that asks for God's blessings on your life together. In your ceremony we offer God our praise and thanksgiving, and God meets you with strength and love, gifts for your entire marriage.

Together we will work for a beautiful and meaningful event.

Setting the Date

Call the church office, 952.461-2283 to secure a date and one of the pastors for your wedding. Often a \$100 non-refundable deposit is request. Weddings are not scheduled during Holy Week.

Setting for Your Wedding

The sanctuary can seat 300 people. When a couple plans a wedding in another setting, most of the guidelines in this booklet still apply; please check with the pastor.

Reception

Fellowship Hall is available for receptions and groom's dinners.

Wedding Service

Our pattern for the service follows the Lutheran Book of Worship and a brief outline is in this booklet. We support each couple's personalization and creativity so that the service is meaningful.

Holy Communion is welcome at all weddings; with the gifts of bread and wine Jesus Christ meets us with newness and life. Communion is always offered to all guests, prefaced by an explanation and an invitation.

Music

Since the wedding is a worship service, care is given to ensure that the music is in keeping with the tone of the service. Both traditional and contemporary music, consistent with the message of the wedding is welcome.

Music typically is played

- as a prelude when guests arrive
- as a procession for the wedding party
- as hymns or solos to reinforce the message
- as a recession at the close of the service

Our worship and music director will help you with all selections, play in many styles and help with securing ensembles or solos in a variety of instruments and voice. Recorded music is discouraged as projection is difficult.

If our musicians do not have the music for pieces you desire, it is your responsibility to secure them in advance. Because of copyright laws, we request that music be purchased and not photocopied.

Our musician will be present at the rehearsal and before the wedding to rehearse with any other musicians. Since guests tend to arrive early, it is important that musicians complete their practice one half hour before the service.

The Pastor

One of the pastors at Christiania will work with you through the entire wedding and planning process. The pastor will help you plan your service, explore your relationship through the Prepare Inventory (usually 2-3 sessions), conduct the rehearsal and preside at the wedding. We welcome other

Christian clergy you may wish to invite to assist in the service. Godparents and other special people can serve as readers and in other capacities.

License

Please bring your license and the names of the witnesses to the church two weeks before your service. Christiania offers limited pre-marriage counseling that does not qualify for the discount.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal is generally scheduled on the day before the wedding. It is a wonderful time for family and friends to share excitement and conversation, and to feel confident in the procedure of the service. We encourage couples to host a gathering time for one half hour, with the rehearsal beginning promptly when the pastor arrives.

Church Building

Christiania Lutheran Church is located at 26691 Pillsbury Avenue, Lakeville, MN 55044. Our phone is 952.461-2283.

The custodian will open the church for flower delivery, decorating, dressing and photography approximately five hours before the service, and will begin cleaning up two hours after the service. Please make arrangements if you would like more time.

The Heritage Room and the nursery are available for dressing. Please check before you leave any items in these rooms between the rehearsal and the wedding as the church may be used during that time. Keep your valuables secure.

If you serve snacks or beverages to your wedding party we ask that you keep them in the Heritage Room where a large wastebasket will be available to you. You are welcome to bring a cooler for soft drinks and water. A pop machine is in the Youth Room.

Because of the hazards to humans and birds, we ask that no rice or birdseed be thrown in or outside the church.

We are confident that you will respect the church by not using or possessing alcohol or drugs or any controlled substances in or around the church, including the parking lot.

Flowers

Christiania has two stands for flowers. Because the altar is a sacramental table it is not used for flowers or other items. Please do not move or rearrange any items from the altar area.

Banner

The church wedding banner can be hung for your ceremony.

Candles

Christiania offers two large candelabras for the chancel and four pairs on the aisles. The fee for the candelabras includes all candles, two small candles for the unity candle stand, and set up. You provide your large unity candle. You can decorate the stands using non-permanent adhesive.

The unity candle stand is available at no fee. You provide all three of your candles. Usually the unity candle is placed near the Bible.

Photography/Videography

Pictures are important to your wedding. We will work with your photographers so that good photography can be accomplished without interfering with the integrity of the service. Given the quality of modern technology, excellent photos can be taken without flash and without being visible from the front of the church during the service.

Fees

The fee schedule is inserted in this booklet. Please bring all fees two weeks before the service.

A Final Word

Christiania Lutheran Church celebrates the creation of your marriage! You are an expression of God's continuing activity in the world, and God's love and faithfulness to all of creation. We are eager for God's blessing to you and through you.