

## ***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, the pastor, and the organist for your wedding. A \$100 non-refundable deposit holds your date. Weddings are not scheduled during Holy Week.

### **Setting for Your Wedding**

The sanctuary can seat 250 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 Evangelical Lutheran Worship book and a brief outline is in this booklet. We support each couple's personalization and creativity so that the service is meaningful.

## **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 a Christian 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 pastor and Music Minister 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 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**

The pastor 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 various inventories or outside pre-marriage counseling, conduct the rehearsal and preside at the wedding. Other clergy may be welcome to participate in the service at our pastor's discretion. 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 prior to the service. Christiania may refer the couple to limited pre-marriage sessions, these sessions do 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 schedule participants to gather 15 minutes before rehearsal time so that rehearsal begins 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 four hours before the service, and will begin cleaning up after the service. Please make arrangements if you would like more time.

The Heritage/Youth Room and the nursery are available for dressing. Please check before you leave for 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/Youth Room or the kitchen 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 located 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, drugs and tobacco, or any controlled substances in or around the church, including the parking lot.

### **Flowers**

Christiania has two stands for flowers. The altar is generally 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.

### **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.