

YOUR WEDDING
AT
AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
DE SMET SD

Since marriage is an institution of God, regulated by God's Commandments and blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, these pages are designed for the purpose of helping you plan your wedding in harmony with Christian understandings of marriage and in keeping with the worship practices of American Lutheran Church. Planners do well to keep in mind that weddings at ALC are services of worship to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

SCHEDULING

Since several meetings with the pastor and others (counseling, music planning, wedding committee, etc) are often needed in preparation for a marriage service, we advise engaged couples to schedule their wedding day well in advance – at least six months.

While you have probably already spoken with the church secretary, no wedding is officially scheduled at this church without being entered in the pastor's parish calendar. This means that you will have to consult with the pastor of ALC in order to schedule a wedding date.

Also, while non-members of ALC may use the church building for a wedding, members have the first option for building use. Non-members may consider their wedding date guaranteed for the six months prior to the date scheduled.

THE WEDDING COMMITTEE

ALC has a wedding committee to help couples and their families plan the details of wedding preparations. A member of the wedding committee will be assigned to each couple to explain the facilities of the church and offer whatever assistance is desired in planning for this most sacred occasion. Committee members can help explain the fees for a wedding, and can offer referrals and information related to church musician and sound system operators.

Wedding Committee members are: Joyce Jansen (854-9112), Austie Albrecht (854-9325), Teresa Palmlund (854-3250). One will be assigned by the church office if needed.

YOUR WEDDING COMMITTEE CONTACT IS:

THE PASTOR

The pastor of ALC generally officiates at all weddings conducted in the church building. It is possible to have another minister participate or officiate but the pastor of ALC must be consulted first.

It is generally expected that engaged couples will seek out some form of **pre-marriage counseling**. A minimum of two meetings with the pastor must be held before a wedding.

REHEARSAL

Most weddings benefit greatly from a rehearsal – usually the evening before the wedding. The pastor will also conduct this rehearsal, explaining the various practices of the church and helping the wedding party make any remaining decisions regarding the marriage service. We urge all those involved in the rehearsal to be prompt in their attendance.

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS

It is important to keep in mind that a church wedding is, first and foremost, a service of worship to God. Music used at a wedding should be in keeping with the reverence appropriate to a house of God. Music used during the wedding service should be chosen in consultation with the pastor and the musicians who will be helping with the service. The music staff of ALC is also a good resource in selecting wedding music (ask your wedding committee contact for more information).

The principle instruments available at ALC include a pipe organ and several keyboards, including an acoustic piano. It is expected that the pipe organ will only be played by a qualified organist.

PHOTOGRAPHY

During the service (after the processional and before the recessional) it is our policy that no photographs are taken with flash or floodlights. It is important for the wedding couple and their families to relay this policy to all those taking photographs or using video cameras.

RECEPTIONS

It is possible to use the fellowship area of ALC for wedding receptions. Ask the Wedding Committee member assigned to you about details and costs in reserving the church basement for this purpose.

SEATING CAPACITY, ETC

The ALC sanctuary seats 280-300 people comfortably. Those using a runner should keep in mind that the distance from the bottom step of the chancel to the front doors of the church is approximately 75 feet. An elevator is also available in the breezeway between the sanctuary and the education wing of our building.

SOUND SYSTEM

ALC has several types of microphones (vocal, instrumental, solo, duet, etc) and microphone locations. For all but the smallest marriage services (50 guest or less) it is usually necessary to use the church's sound system and a qualified technician will need to be present at the rehearsal and wedding service. The wedding committee contact person will have a list of qualified sound technicians who will be able to guide you through this aspect of your wedding (as well as possible lighting variations in the sanctuary).

DRESSING AREAS

Typically, the room behind the kitchen (in the church basement) is used as a women's dressing area. Men use one of the rooms in the lower level of the education wing.

BULLETINS/WORSHIP FOLDERS

Often, couples make their own programs/worship folders. Ask the pastor for the model outline of the service, examples of past folders, etc.

CONDUCT

We expect members of the wedding party and guests to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a place of worship. Prior to the rehearsal and wedding service members of the wedding party are expected to refrain from using alcoholic beverages. Smoking is not permitted in the church building.

INSIDE THE CHURCH

- Use of **birdseed, rice**, etc is not permitted
- The **pianos** in the front of the church may not be used for flowers, candles, etc.
- All candles used in the church must be in a cup or tray to prevent damage to church furnishing, etc.
- The church has **candelabras**, and other wedding related items – ask the Wedding Committee for details.
- **Dripless** candles are to be used.
- Eating is not permitted in the sanctuary and we trust wedding parties will choose to serve food in appropriate areas of the building.

FEES

See the accompanying list of fees for weddings. All fees must be paid through the wedding committee no later than three weeks before the wedding.

MARRIAGE SERVICES AT AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH + DE SMET, SD

STEP ONE. Contact the church and pastor to secure a wedding date.
Read through this guide.
Fill out as much of the Wedding Form as you can.

STEP TWO. Meet with a member of the wedding committee.
Meet with the pastor (at least 2 times, bring the completed wedding form to the first meeting).
Meet with any musician needed for the wedding.

STEP THREE. Complete any legal and financial requirements (license, church building use, etc).
Rehearsal
Marriage service

STEP FOUR. As needed, complete cleanup.