

WEDDING POLICY

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
DUBUQUE, IOWA

*“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church establishes this wedding policy.

The Christian wedding is a worship service, which recognizes marriage as a God-pleasing union of a Christian man and woman as husband and wife. The Church offers a Christian wedding service based on the following guidelines:

1. **THOSE TO BE MARRIED ARE BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS** who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and who recognize His role in their lives and their marriage.
2. **THOSE TO BE MARRIED ARE MEMBERS**, or at least one of those to be married is a member, in good standing, of a congregation within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). All couples will be informed of the benefits of and strongly encouraged toward full unity in faith.
3. **THOSE TO BE MARRIED ARE NOT LIVING CONJUGALLY OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE.** This is fornication, and if it is occurring the two will be admonished to repent and to abstain from such relations until marriage.
4. **THE COUPLE TO BE MARRIED CONSISTS OF A MAN AND A WOMAN.** In accordance with the beliefs, teachings, and policies of the LCMS, only weddings between one man and one woman shall be performed.
5. **THE WEDDING SERVICE** will be a witness to the Gospel; it will be based on the Word of God. Therefore, non-Christian music or customs will not be part of the service. The Pastor will know of appropriate music and orders of service, and will accept suggestions for music or customs, which are consistent with the reverent nature of Christian worship.
6. **THOSE TO BE MARRIED SHOULD CONTACT THE PASTOR TO ARRANGE FOR PREMARITAL COUNSELING AND WEDDING PLANNING PRIOR TO OTHER ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE.**

The demeanor of all who attend or participate in the service will be one of reverent respect for God and His word. Any disruptive, inconsiderate, or intoxicated person, whether groom, bride, member of the wedding party, or assembled guest, will be immediately escorted out of the building by the elder on duty.

Flash pictures are prohibited during the service. Video cameras, if placed at the rear of the sanctuary or in an inconspicuous position, may be used.

Other matters are largely matter of Christian freedom and proper etiquette. It is the main concern of the Church that Christ alone be glorified, not only the day of the wedding, but also throughout the marriage, by those whom He has brought together by His will.

Adopted by the Board of Elders December 8, 2016
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church