



A Marriage Celebration

At

First Evangelical Lutheran
Church

246 South Main Street

Greensburg, PA

724-834-1457



We give thanks to God for the blessing of a deep relationship that has led you to seal your lives together in a mutual commitment of love and care. We look forward to sharing the joy and wonder of your wedding and marriage. Like every day, the day of your wedding will be a blessing from God, and although the world may want you to believe it will simply be your day, we are thankful that in truth it will still be God's day; full of the richness, peace, hope and love that only God can give to it and give to you. As you make your way toward that day, we will journey with you, preparing for the amazement of what God has in store for you.

Date & Time

Weddings are arranged in consultation with the Pastors. Call the Church Office to check on the availability of the Church for the date and time you desire. Do this as far in advance of the wedding date as possible, at least three months in advance. A pastor will meet with you to get to know you better and place your wedding date and rehearsal date on the calendar, confirming your wedding date.

The Pastor(s)

Either of the pastors of First may preside at your wedding; if you have a preference, please state that when you request a date for the church. Although schedules do not always make those preferences possible, we will do our best to honor your request

You may request permission to have an additional clergy assist at the wedding. You should make such a request to one of our pastors who will issue the invitation on behalf of First Lutheran Church. In special circumstances, a minister from another congregation may be permitted to be the one to perform your wedding, and generally such ministers should be pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Friends, family or others may assist in the worship service in such ways as reading lessons, offering prayers, or providing music. Our pastor will guide you in involving them in the service.

Holy Communion may be part of the wedding, but its inclusion needs to be discussed with the pastor.

Music

We consider your wedding to primarily be a worship service of thanks and praise to God; to God who has brought you to this day, to God who surrounds your promises with his promises to you, and to God who will walk with you every day of your life. The music that accompanies your wedding should therefore draw everyone's attention, praise, and hopes to this gracious God. Music that would lead you and those attending your wedding to set their hearts and hopes elsewhere would blur the very reason that you desire to have your wedding at First Lutheran Church. So, in selecting your music, the best criterion to use is this: "Would I hear this piece of music at worship on Sunday morning?" A great way to include those attending your wedding in your praise and thanks to God is in the singing of a hymn.

It may be that a certain "popular" song is deeply meaningful to you and you may want to include it in your wedding. The best place for these songs, songs that bear the world's mark in your life, is at your reception. In selecting the music, remember that hymns, sung by the congregation, are a wonderful use of music as a processional, recessional, or as "special" music during the wedding service.

Before making any final decisions, please discuss your music selections with our Director of Music who can confirm the music's place in the worship service. Also, you will find our Director of Music to be a wealth of musical knowledge. He will be happy to make suggestions, play through selections, or provide CD's. If you would like to include a soloist in the service, our Director of Music can contract a soloist. If you are going to provide the soloist(s), please note that the soloist(s) will need to contact our Director of Music at least a month before the wedding to arrange for a rehearsal time.

If you wish to provide your own organist, that person will need to contact our Director of Music to provide instruction for the use of our organ. Even if you provide your own musicians, all of your service music must be reviewed by our Director of Music who will make certain that your wedding will be the service of thanks and praise to God that you want it to be

Listed below are some suggestions for your processional and recessional. If you are unfamiliar with these compositions, our Director of Music will be happy to play through the suggested pieces and discuss other possibilities as well. A tape of various selections is also available.

Suggested selections:
Trumpet Tune in D (Purcell/Clarke)
Rondeau (Mouret)
Wedding Chorus (traditional – Wagner)
Trumpet voluntary (Purcell/Clarke)
Joyful, Joyful (Beethoven)
Hornpipe from WATER MUSIC SUITE (Handel)
Rigaudon (Campra)

Additionally, our Hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, is available to you to select hymns to be included in your service.

Decorations

- We have stands on which you may place your flowers in the front of the church. Flowers or other decorations may not be placed on the altar. Please let our church Secretary know if you would like to have the flowers remain in the sanctuary for the Sunday morning worship service in order that proper arrangements may be made. Otherwise, you will need to have a family member remove the flowers after the wedding.
- The color of the altar paraments is determined by the church-year calendar and is not changed for weddings.

- The candles behind the altar will be lit for your wedding.
- A candelabra stand for a Unity Candle is available for use from the church; however you will need to provide the candles.
- The sanctuary has 15 pairs of pews. Pew decorations must be tied onto the pews – please, do not use clips
- First Lutheran does not provide aisle runners. If you wish an aisle runner, your florist will most likely be able to provide it

Bulletins

A printed bulletin is not necessary for your wedding, but if you wish to have one, please consult with the Pastor at least a month before the service. The Pastor will help you in listing the order of worship.

We have an assortment of bulletin covers from which to choose and purchase. If you use one of our bulletin covers we will print them for you. If you choose this option, please bring a “copy-ready” version of your bulletin to the church for printing purposes. If, however, you wish a different cover, you will need to have it printed by a local printer.

Photography

Since your wedding service at First Lutheran will be a worship service, we ask that photographers and videographers respect the service by not drawing attention to themselves or by distracting people's attention from their praise and thanks to God. Therefore, processional and recessional pictures should be taken as near to the rear of the church as possible, and photographs taken during the service need to be taken from the balcony without a flash. Likewise, a video of the service may be taken from the balcony. Posed pictures can be taken before or after the service.

Rice/Birdseed/etc.

We ask that you refrain from giving people anything (birdseed, rice, confetti, etc.) to throw as you leave the church or 1st Lutheran Park as this creates a major clean up issue. A suggestion: to celebrate your marriage, you may have the church bell rung as you leave.

Parking

Our church parking garage, located immediately behind the church, will be reserved for your wedding. In addition, by making arrangements with the local police department at City Hall, cars for the wedding may be parked along the sidewalk on the Main Street side of the church.

Rehearsal

We ask that everyone in the wedding party as well as parents be present. The Pastor(s) will lead the rehearsal. Questions concerning ushering, receiving line, where to meet before ceremony, and other details of the wedding will be answered at this time. If you have any special requests for your wedding, please discuss them with the pastor before the rehearsal. Any special requests by the wedding couple can be discussed at this time also.

VERY IMPORTANT: the marriage license must be given to the Pastor(s) at the rehearsal or before.

Wedding Day

ALCOHOL OF ANY KIND IS NOT PERMITTED ON THE CHURCH PREMISES.

Our custodial staff will be responsible for opening and closing the building for rehearsals and weddings. It will be very important that you to consult with the Pastor or the church secretary as to when you will need to be in the building or in 1st Lutheran Park in order to make sure you can get in.

In addition to the worship space, you may use the fellowship hall, parlor, and conference room as needed. Please do not use the basement and second and third floors of the education building.

Please make sure to remove all your belongings from the church premises immediately following the service. We are not able to be responsible for articles left after the service.

Wedding Costs

The following is a listing of costs, including special services, for the wedding ceremony and rehearsal:

When either the bride or groom (or both) are members of First Lutheran Church, there will be no fee for the Pastor(s) nor will there be a cost for use of the facilities.

Director of Music (organist)	\$150.00
Soloist (if contracted by Director of Music)	\$100.00
Custodian	
- For weddings less than 100	\$100.00
- For weddings of 100-200	\$125.00
- For weddings of 200 or more	\$150.00

All gratuities/honorariums must be received in the church office ONE WEEK prior to the scheduled wedding.

Revised May 7, 2009
Adopted by Worship & Music Committee, September 24,
2009

Revised January 8, 2013
Adopted by the Church Council, January 8, 2013

