

Wedding Policy



**Christ Lutheran Church of Spry
2385 South Queen Street
York, Pennsylvania 17402
717-741-4639
christ.spry@verizon.net**

Christ Lutheran Church of Spry

Approved Wedding Policy – November 2002

Our understanding of Marriage

The Lutheran Church understands marriage as a public commitment of faithfulness between a man and a woman which establishes the basic community of human society. It is a part of God's created order. A marriage in the context of the Christian community means that the couple has chosen to make their vows to one another before God and they seek the church's prayers for God's blessing upon their life together. This means that a church wedding is a Christian service of worship, and as a result, our congregation sets forth these general guidelines for weddings in our church.

Guidelines for Weddings

1. All weddings should be scheduled at least three (3) months before the intended date of marriage. Six (6) months or more is preferred.
2. Pre-marital conversation of approximately six (6) hours is required. These meetings with the Pastor are not only to plan the wedding service itself, but more importantly, to discuss the meaning of marriage, and to share with the couple perspectives which will be helpful in their life together.
3. The officiating Pastor is normally the called pastor of the parish. Any other participating clergy serve only at the invitation of the parish pastor.

4. The marriage service is a service of Christian worship and therefore, everything within the context of the service shall be only that which is appropriate in worship and in keeping with the Lutheran understanding of the Gospel.
5. The rehearsal is usually scheduled the evening before the wedding. **The couple must bring the marriage license at this time.**
6. Music – Great care must be exercised in the choice of music. Only music which is appropriate for any other Lutheran worship service is acceptable. This would eliminate secular tunes and lyrics and some contemporary religious music which tends to be trite, unduly sentimental or trivialize the fact that the wedding is an exchange of vows before God. All music used must be approved by the organist and the Pastor.
Only the organist of Christ Lutheran Church of Spry shall provide organ music during the rehearsal and wedding ceremony.
7. Photography and videotaping – The taking of pictures during the wedding service is inappropriate. Photographers, even those using non-flash film, must remain out of the line of sight of the congregation and bridal party. All photographers and videotape operators must talk to the Pastor prior to the service to plan appropriately. Following the service it is easier to pose any parts of the service.

8. Wedding Flowers – Flowers for the wedding are to be supplied by the couple. Location of the floral arrangements and other decorations should only be done in consultation with the Pastor.
9. Candles – Altar candles will be provided for the wedding service. Additional candles and locations should be discussed with the Pastor.
10. Service Bulletins – Bulletins encouraging congregational participation are not necessary, but are welcomed. The cost of purchasing the bulletins is borne by the couple, but given two (2) weeks notice and a print ready copy, the church will photocopy the bulletins free of charge.
11. Holy Communion – Holy Communion may be celebrated and is encouraged as part of the wedding worship. When celebrated, it is open to the entire congregation.
12. The throwing of rice – The throwing of rice is not permitted. The options available are bird seed or bubbles, both used outside of the church building.

A Checklist for the Bride and Groom

Have you...

- _____ Cleared the time and date of the wedding with the church office?
- _____ Cleared rehearsal time and date with the church office?
- _____ Made certain that the wedding party knows the location of the church?
- _____ Checked all music with the organist and the Pastor?
- _____ Notified all who you wish to attend rehearsal dinner including musicians, clergy and special guests?
- _____ Ordered bulletins (if they are to be used)?
- _____ Informed photographers about church policy regarding the ceremony?
- _____ Arranged for your marriage license?
- _____ Remembered that your wedding is a time for you to celebrate God's graciousness and your love for one another. It is not a time to be dictated by others, especially those who have a commercial interest.

Wedding Worksheet

Cost of a wedding at Christ Lutheran Church of Spry

Half of the fees are due when the wedding date is reserved, and the balance is due two (2) weeks prior to the wedding date. The down payment is refundable up to thirty (30) days before the wedding.

Church Use Fee
\$100.00 members \$150.00 non-members

Church Organist/Pianist
\$100.00 members \$150.00 non-members

Church Organist/Pianist (when there is a soloist)
\$125.00 members \$175.00 non-members

Pastor
\$0.00 members \$150.00 non-members

Members: If a gift is given to the pastor, it is preferred that the gift be monetary since some pastors prefer to give their fees to charity.

The check for the church use fee and pastor should be made payable to: **Christ Lutheran Church of Spry**

The check for the organist should be made payable to her/him.

We agree to the terms and conditions set forth above.

Bride's signature Date

Groom's signature Date

Received \$ _____ for the wedding service on _____ at _____ am/pm.

Pastor's signature Date

