

# *Your Wedding at Zion*



**ZION**  
Lutheran Church

2901 S. Highway 169  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218.326.8553  
[www.ziongr.org](http://www.ziongr.org)



# *Your Wedding at Zion*

You're getting married! Congratulations, what an exciting time!

Marriage is a covenant of mutual promises, commitment, and hope authorized legally by the state and blessed by God.

When you begin your marriage in a church, you are asking God's blessing on your union and thanking God for his blessing. Our goal in a church wedding is to lift up and celebrate this blessing from God.

Your wedding service may be formal or informal, traditional or contemporary, but most importantly, the focus is on giving thanks and celebrating your union with each other and with Jesus Christ. We do this by gathering together in worship and proclaiming the word of God.



*“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress;  
working together is success.” -Henry Ford*

While we want your big day to be special, at Zion we hope to not only help you to plan for your wedding, but more importantly to help you plan for your marriage.

## First Things First...

# *Setting the Date!*

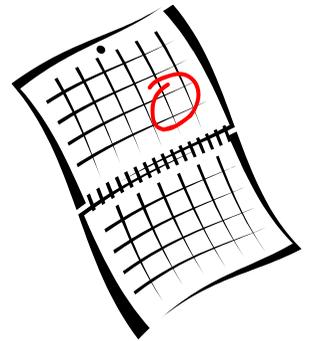
## Reserving Zion for your Wedding

You will need to call the church office to see if your date is available before you make further wedding plans at Zion. It is highly recommended that your wedding date be reserved at least 3 months in advance!

The bride, the groom or their parents who are members of Zion may reserve a wedding date as far in advance as they wish. (As defined by our constitution, a member has communed and made a contribution of record during the present or preceding year.) Non-members are able to reserve their date no more than 9 months ahead of the wedding date.

## Deposit

A payment of \$500 is required to put your wedding date on the church calendar. This includes a stipend for the pastor, custodial fees and a \$200 damage deposit which may be refunded by notifying the office following your wedding. If you are using candelabras and/or aisle candles, please include those amounts as well.



## Facility Use Agreement

Included in your wedding packet are the Facility Use Policies containing the Facility Use Agreement attached on the back. **PLEASE BRING COMPLETED AGREEMENT AND DEPOSIT TO CHURCH OFFICE** to secure your date on the church calendar!

# *Preparing with a Pastor...*

Depending on availability, Pastor Ben will be happy to work with you to prepare for your wedding day!



Pastor Ben Buchanan  
ben@ziongr.org

While it is policy that a Zion pastor be present at all wedding services held at the church, it is possible to have other clergy participate.

It is common courtesy that any clergy would seek permission from a lead pastor of a congregation in order to participate in or conduct a service in that church building. We ask that couples and clergy would respect that tradition. If you have another pastor that you would like to officiate your wedding, please feel free to ask.

Pastors from full communion denominations may conduct weddings at Zion without the participation of a Zion pastor. Pastors from non-full communion denominations must have a Zion pastor participating in the wedding service.

# Pre-Marital Counseling

## Counseling

Pre-marital counseling is required. You may seek pre-marital counseling from someone other than a pastor of Zion. If you choose this option, please have a letter from the pastor or marriage and family counselor sent to Zion verifying that counseling has been completed.

PREPARE  ENRICH<sup>®</sup>

• *building strong marriages* •

If you would like to go through premarital counseling here at Zion, plan on about 3-4 sessions. Pastor Ben is a certified facilitator for PREPARE/ENRICH, a national organization dedicated to helping couples explore and strengthen their relationship. There is a \$35.00 cost for the program that includes an online assessment, a couple's report and a couple's workbook that is used during the premarital sessions.

For more information on PREPARE/ENRICH, please visit their website:

[www.prepare-enrich.com](http://www.prepare-enrich.com)

# Wedding Fees

	<u>FEE</u>	<u>PAYABLE TO:</u>
Building Deposit	\$500	Zion—see DEPOSIT, p. 3.
Premarital Counseling	\$35	Paid Online—see COUNSELING, p. 5.
Organist	\$175	Patty Dorn ( <i>or appropriate organist</i> )
Soloist(s)	<i>To be arranged with soloist(s).</i>	
Instrumentalist(s)	<i>To be arranged with musician(s).</i>	
Candelabras***	\$20	Zion—see DECORATIONS, p. 9.
Aisle Candles***	\$40	Zion—see DECORATIONS, p. 9.

\*\*\**OPTIONAL SERVICES FROM ZION*

The rehearsal is an appropriate time to pay the musicians for your wedding if you haven't already done so, but all payments should be made before the day of the wedding!

Please note that no wedding will be refused because of finances. Contact one of our pastors if finances are a concern.

# Decisions to make prior to the Service...

## *Music*

### Choosing Music

A wedding at Zion is a worship service. Our policy at Zion is that the music for a wedding needs to be worship music—music that would fit a worship service. Worship music makes mention of God, God’s love for us and consequently our love for each other.

Our Director of Music is a great resource and will meet with you to help you choose your music—see MUSICIANS (below).

All music used at Zion by organists, vocalists and other musicians must be legally printed. If there is music that is photocopied, it must have the written permission from the copyright holder attached.

### Musicians

Zion’s Director of Music is available to meet with you and explore a wide variety of wedding music that is worship centered in both traditional and contemporary styles. She can also play for weddings, though you are free to use musicians of your choice. If you would like her to play, please check as early as possible for availability.

**Whether or not the Director of Music plays for your wedding, we will work with you to help you choose music that fits with Zion’s wedding music policy.**



Director of Music  
Patty Dorn

# Scripture Readings

## Scriptures

Typically, a wedding service will have two to three readings from scripture. The following are some suggestions for your use. You may choose any scripture passages that are meaningful to you.

### Old Testament Readings:

Genesis 1:26-28, 31	Genesis 2:18-24	Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67
Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	
Song of Solomon 2: 8-10, 14,16, 8:6-7	Isaiah 61:10-11	Jeremiah 31:31-32, 33-34

### New Testament Readings:

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39	Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 {14-18}	Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13
1 Corinthians 6:13-14, 17-20	1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8	Ephesians 4:1-6
Philippians 4:4-9	Colossians 3:12-17	Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b
1 John 3: 18-24	1 John 4:7-12	Revelation 19:1, 5-9

### Gospel Readings:

Matthew 5:1-12	Matthew 5: 13-16	Matthew 7:24-29
Matthew 22:35-40	Mark 10:6-9	John 2:1-11
John 15: 9-12	John 15: 12-16	John 17:20-26

# *Decorations*

## **Decorations**

All decorative effects are arranged for by those being married. Flowers and candles have become traditional ways to help create the mood of worship and celebration. Please use nothing that will mar, scratch, or disfigure any furnishings in the church. Decorations should not interfere with the movement of people, nor obstruct the altar.



## **Colors**

The season of the church year determines the color of the altar paraments. Ask the pastor what colors will be on the altar on your wedding date.

## **Aisle Runner**

If you wish to use a white aisle runner, you will need to obtain it from a florist. Zion's sanctuary center aisle is 50 feet long.

## **Candelabras and Aisle Candles**

There are candelabras and aisle candles if you wish to use them. The pastor can show them to you if you would like to see them. There is a small fee for using them—see Fees, pg. 6.

# *Additional Service Decisions*

## **Vows**

Some couples choose to write their own vows. There are two sets of vows to choose from in our ELW Hymnal, and many realize that they are there for a reason... they are succinct, well thought out and rich in tradition... a great choice!

## **Symbol of Marriage**

If you turn to “A Wedding Liturgy” on page 12, you can find the Symbol of Marriage. This is an opportunity to be creative... the lighting of a unity candle, the mixing of sand, the giving of roses to recognize family... whatever it may be. Music is playing and it can be a very special time during the service.

## **Communion**

Communion is a wonderful sacrament that celebrates the presence of Christ in the gathering of community. Please talk to one of our pastors if you would like to celebrate communion during your wedding ceremony.

## **Final Introduction**

At the end of the service, you will be introduced for the very first time as a married couple! This can range from the very traditional “Mr. and Mrs.” to the very informal first names only. It depends on your personality as a couple, but a decision that you’ll have to make before the service!

# Other Preparations

## The Marriage License

A State of Minnesota marriage license must be applied for at least ten days and not more than six months before the date of the wedding. Please give the license to the church secretary as soon as you get it. We need it no later than one week before the wedding. The license can be obtained anywhere in the state of Minnesota. Under no circumstances will the pastor perform a wedding without a valid marriage license in hand.



## Bulletins

Some couples print bulletins with the order of service. Be sure to check the order of service with the pastor before printing.

# *A Sample Wedding Liturgy*

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP HYMNAL

ENTRANCE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

PRAYER

READINGS

SERMON

VOWS

GIVING OF RINGS

ACCLAMATION

HYMN

SYMBOL OF MARRIAGE (Sand/Candles/Flowers/Signing of Marriage License)

MARRIAGE BLESSING

PRAYER

COMMUNION\*\*\*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION\*\*\*

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

\*\*\**OPTIONAL*

# *Rehearsal and Day Of...*

## **Rehearsal**

Most weddings require a rehearsal so that all people involved will be comfortable with the service and be able to participate fully in the worship.

Everyone taking part in the ceremony should attend the rehearsal: attendants, parents, ushers, musicians, etc. If everyone is on time, the rehearsal need not last more than forty-five minutes.



## **Dressing Rooms**

Room 121 is available for women to use as a dressing room, and the “Living Room” is available for the men.

Please clean up these rooms and leave them as they were when you arrived. Be especially careful about pins and other sharp objects left on the floor.

# *Here Comes the Bride!*

## **Photography**

Family and friends are gathered and the celebration has begun! We hope that this is a deeply joyful and meaningful time that you will never forget. To capture the moment, we allow photography and simply ask that it be done respectfully and in a way that minimizes disruption to the service.

If it can be avoided, flash photography should not be taken once the processional begins.

We suggest that photos be taken before the ceremony to enable the bride, groom and parents to get to the reception without delay after the wedding.

## **Video**

You may use a video camera at the wedding as long as the camera is stationary, no lights are used and the camera is positioned off the altar area.



# *Considerations for After the Service*

## **Wedding Reception**

There is plenty of space here at Zion. We have a great area for food and fellowship in our Christian Life Center. You are welcome to have your reception at Zion, though you will be responsible for handling all arrangements.

An additional Facility Use Agreement and deposit is required.

## **Cleaning Up**

Please leave the building as you found it. Please put garbage: pop cans, paper, pins, etc., in the garbage or appropriate place.

It is also a good idea to assign someone the task of picking up what you want following the wedding: extra bulletins, flowers, bows, lost cameras, etc...

## **Custodial Services**

Zion's custodian will do routine clean up of the church after your wedding and assess deposit damages. This fee is included in your initial building deposit.

## **Claiming Your Deposit**

As stated in Zion's Facility Use Policy (pg. 2), it is your responsibility to contact the church office after your wedding day to claim your damage deposit if you would prefer to not make it a donation to the church.

# Final Considerations...



## Respect

Although it is proper to celebrate and enjoy ourselves in the church, please remember at all times—before, during and after the rehearsal and the wedding, that you are in a place of worship. We ask that at all times you respect this building as a House of God.

1. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the CHURCH BUILDING OR ON THE CHURCH PROPERTY at any time. Also, if ANYONE in the wedding party is under the influence of alcohol on the day of the wedding, they WILL NOT participate in the wedding—no matter who that is!
2. There is to be no smoking in the church or on church property at any time.
3. Flower girls should not drop flower petals down the aisle, unless silk petals are thrown onto the aisle runner.
4. Some families have the tradition of throwing things at the newlyweds. Please do not throw things inside the church or use anything that will leave a mess outside (rice, confetti, etc.).

---

*“Marriage is like a fine wine, if properly tended, gets better with age.”* -Unknown

Congratulations on the beginning of your journey together!

Any Questions? Don't hesitate to ask!