

## **American Lutheran Church Wedding Policy**

### **What is Marriage**

We believe that Christian marriage is one where the Bride and Groom recognize their Savior and Lord to be Jesus Christ, and desire to enter into a covenant with each other before God to establish a Christian home, uniting hearts and hands and lives with Christ. May your wedding in this church be the beginning of a home where Christ is center is your lives.

### **First Steps in Planning your wedding**

1. Meet with the Pastor and Wedding Coordinator
  - Calendar date and time of wedding and counseling sessions
  - Share names of participants in the wedding
  - Learn courtesies, charges and due dates
2. The current Pastor of American Lutheran Church will conduct all weddings, unless the pastor agrees upon different arrangements. Any assisting ministers need to be approved by the Pastor
3. The Wedding ceremony should conform to the practices of the ELCA

### **Pastoral Counseling and Ceremony Details**

1. The bride and groom will meet with the Pastor for 3-6 sessions (each session runs 45 minutes). The wedding service will be planned and preparations for married life will be shared. These should be planned 3-4 months before the wedding.
2. The Wedding Music should be in keeping with the nature of a church wedding service and should be approved by the Pastor, coordinator and the church musician. Additional musicians may be used in consultation with the wedding coordinator.
3. The wedding license should be brought by the couple to the Pastor no later than the day of the rehearsal.
4. Alcoholic beverages/illegal drugs are not permitted on church grounds. Smoking must be kept outside the building.
5. We request that you do not use rice, birdseed or confetti after the service. If you wish, you may use bubbles.
6. All church decorations and seasonal symbols are to remain in place.
7. You may choose your own photographer, but notify the photographer to consult with the pastor and coordinator before the wedding.
8. You may select your own florist, but the florist should consult with the coordinator as to placement of arrangements (no flowers are to be placed on the piano). The two alcoves on the front wall of the chancel may be used for flowers. Tall baskets of flowers may be placed on the floor near the steps to the chancel. Flowers accompanying a wedding candle may be placed on the altar.
9. An aisle runner may be used.