



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Cultivating communities of caring and belonging as champions of the gospel

Wedding Welcome

So, you're getting married—**congratulations!** Welcome to the celebration of life that is blessed by the partnering of two individuals drawn together by love. We are glad you have considered us as a possible location to celebrate your happy day.

Amid the celebration, you will be asked to make a lot of decisions, both large and small. Some of these decisions may seem trivial, but they are, in fact, very important. This letter is the first step to guide you in your decision and planning process.

At Zion Lutheran Church, the wedding ceremony is a special worship event designed to honor God with and between the couple seeking to commit themselves in unity. We believe that getting married in a church is a public witness of God's love working through the relationship and that this love is supported through the blessing of the church and the church community. To seek the blessing of the church, the couple presents themselves before God, asking for God's guidance and support in their new life together. As such, we design the wedding service to reflect the gracious love of God, our faith in Jesus Christ, and our belief that the commitment you are making is bound beyond the measures of material goods and linear time.

Please contact the church office as soon as possible if the above is a shared value and you wish to engage Zion Lutheran as a wedding venue. *The pastoral staff is integral to the planning process and should be consulted before any wedding plans are made or announced.* The staff will confirm availability, discuss the order of the worship/music portions, as well as premarital counseling obligations.

Got big ideas or dreams? Please be honest about your desires. Ultimately, the pastoral staff has final authority as they are responsible for ensuring the balance between the sacred space and the unique expression of the event, so it is best to communicate your desires up front. This includes not just the music, but the decorations and any imagery you desire to reflect the special day. As a general rule of thumb, when deciding what to do, ask the following question, "How does this reflect the sacred relationship with God and my spouse I am entering into?"

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Worried you might not be welcomed? Zion Lutheran affirms the dignity of all people, valuing the beautiful expression of God's creation as expressed through age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual expression, and ability, being guided by the words of Christ:

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength,
and love your neighbor as thyself." (Luke 10:27)*

and the principles set forth in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no
record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*

Important Information

There are many details to consider that display both your dreams and the sacredness of the event. Here are a few of note to get you started.

- ❖ Contact the church as soon as possible—at least three months before your anticipated date is preferable. Weddings are first-come, first-served and dependent upon the pastor's availability. After availability is confirmed, a \$100 non-refundable deposit will secure the date and be applied to the total cost. Deposit is due when you schedule the wedding.
- ❖ Zion has a designated wedding planner to assist with planning. She will be an instrumental part of the planning process, walking you through the fine details.
- ❖ Premarital counseling is done with the pastor to honor Zion's commitment to support new couples.
- ❖ Our seating capacity is 280 people (300 with balcony).
- ❖ Zion's organist/pianist plays for all weddings. In the event she has a scheduling conflict with the chosen date, she will provide names of other local organists familiar with our organ. Pre-recorded music is possible but must be selected in consultation with pastoral staff.
- ❖ Holy Communion may be celebrated during the worship with the congregation participating.
- ❖ Wedding rehearsals will always be the day before at the same hour as the wedding.

Wedding Fees

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-members</u>
Use of sanctuary	\$0	\$275
Use of fellowship hall/kitchen for reception	\$150	\$150
Sound System	\$75	\$75
Sound System using recorded music	\$100	\$100
Custodian fees sanctuary use only	\$75	\$75
Custodian fees with reception at church	\$150	\$150
Wedding Coordinator	\$175	\$175
Organist	\$150	\$150
Soloist	arrange with them directly	
Pre-marital counseling	\$90	\$90
Pastor	suggested honorarium \$150-\$250	

Next Steps

Your first step in booking your wedding at Zion is to please contact the church office and schedule an appointment with the pastor by calling (605) 225-6755 or emailing zion@nvc.net. We look forward to supporting you during this wonderful occasion. May blessings of grace and joy be upon as you consider how to celebrate your wedding day.

-Zion Lutheran Pastoral Staff