

**WEDDING MANUAL
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
25630 GRAND RIVER AVE.
REDFORD TWP., MI
(313) 532-2266 * FAX (313) 532-0643**

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH! Our church is very happy for you and we are honored that you will be married before our altar. We wish you the Lord's blessings! This little manual is designed to help you make your wedding very beautiful and helps us to keep everything well organized.

Pastor Timothy P. Halboth

I am happy to work with you and to meet with you for counseling and the consultation of your wedding ceremony. I have performed many weddings and my goal is to prepare you for a life of happiness together, forever.

The Wedding Staff

Steve Robinson is our organist and will play at your wedding. He will offer guidance of the types of music

allowed at our church. He is a very gifted organist and musician and is familiar with classical and contemporary Christian music.

Erika Halboth will serve as wedding coordinator. She works with the pastor and understands the policies and procedures of our parish. She has served at many weddings and will be present to help you at your rehearsal and the day of your wedding.

The Music

Your wedding will be a worship service in which Jesus Christ is glorified. The music used at your wedding must be the type that will glorify Him. The organist and I will consult with you about the music. You may choose either classical music or contemporary Christian music. Such pieces as: "The Lord's Prayer," "The Wedding Song," or "One Hand, One Heart" are always acceptable.

The Wedding Service

Since your wedding ceremony is a Christian service being conducted in a Christian Church we do insist

that the Lutheran Wedding Service be used. I will guide you through the entire service. We do not allow lay readers. Our building is very large and the voices of lay readers do not carry well. I also use a clip-on microphone and cannot be used by anyone else. I will officiate at the ceremony. If a guest pastor is to assist in the service I will make proper arrangements with them.

The Decorations

Floral pieces are a very important part of the service and I certainly understand your desire to use them in our sanctuary.

Our policy ~ You may use two arrangements ~ one on either side of the altar or one arrangement in the center of the altar as a centerpiece.

The church will provide the candles for your wedding at the altar. Aisle candelabras may be used if they free standing (on the floor) and have a glass globe over the candle. **THIS IS THE RULE FROM THE REDFORD TOWNSHIP FIRE MARSHALL.** The candelabras may not be attached to the pews. You also must provide them from a florist.

If you wish to have pew bows they must be tied on to the pews. No tape, thumbtacks, or nails of any kind may be used. There are 36 pews in the sanctuary – 18 on a side.

We do not allow a white runner. This regulation is for several reasons:

- 1) many in the wedding parties and guests have tripped in the past,
- 2) today's runners are cheaply made and tear easily,
- 3) we have no way of attaching the runner at the front of the church.

The Photographer

We realize that you will want pictures of your wedding to re-live your happy day. The professional photographer is asked to meet privately with the wedding coordinator before the service. We request that **NO PICTURES** be taken during the service. They may take one flash picture of each of the party members as they stand in the doorway, following those pictures **NO FLASH** pictures may be taken. They may take pictures in the balcony during the service **WITH NO FLASH.** Before the ceremony

there will be no pictures taken in the Sanctuary. They may only be taken in the lounge areas. You will also have 30-45 minutes after the worship service to pose for pictures with family and friends in the Sanctuary.

The Videographer

We know that you will also want video taken of the great day. The videographer must attend the rehearsal. The coordinator will also meet with the videographer to show them where to position themselves. They are not allowed to roam around the sanctuary and are asked to have no special lighting or sound equipment. This is not allowed. We ask for their complete cooperation.

Church Etiquette

The Lord has blessed us with a beautiful building and we attempt to keep it in excellent condition. We are good stewards of what God has given us. Therefore, we ask you to treat our building with respect and care.

Guests are asked to keep their talking before the ceremony at a minimum.

In addition, the lounge areas that are used by the wedding party must be treated with great care. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED IN ANY AREA OF CHURCH OR PARKING LOT.** We also have a smoke-free building.

The bridal party is requested to dress at home. Again, we have many weddings and time is at premium.

No rice, confetti, or bird seed is allowed on any part of the church property. We thank you for your cooperation.

Final Thoughts

The teachings of Grace Lutheran Church are Bible-based and Christ-centered. The Bible says that your marriage is a commitment that is to last for a life-time. If you are a member of the church our prayers go with you and we urge your continual faithfulness to your church and your Lord in worship. Pray and study your Bible and join us in the Sacrament. If you are not a member of the church our prayers are with you and we invite you to become members of our fellowship here at Grace. We have many things to offer young adults and families in our parish. I invite

and urge you to enroll in our new member class and become full members in our church and join in all that God has planned for you.

Our policy on couples living together

Unfortunately, our society has become very permissive. We know that some couples do live together before marriage and this poses a real problem for our church.

Couples who are living together and who have a connection with our parish are permitted to be married before our altar in a **SMALL SERVICE**. There will be no music and the wedding party will consist of only a best man and a maid of honor. The number of guest must be limited to immediate family only (approx. 30).

As a Board of Elders, we have studied this problem very carefully. A special committee was formed and met with the pastors and a Lutheran Marriage and Family Counselor. Living together outside of marriage is forbidden in the Bible and we adhere to the Word of God.

Please read: I Corinthians 6:9; I Corinthians 6:18-20; & Ephesians 5:3

We also live under the Gospel and we are willing to work with couples who are trapped in this sad situation.

Visit us on the web!

www.gracelutheranredford.org

Please feel free to e-mail anytime!!

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