

## **WEDDING GUIDELINES**

### **Our Savior Lutheran Church**

[www.oursaviorelca.com](http://www.oursaviorelca.com)

772-567-2253

Our Savior Lutheran Church (OSLC) shares your joy as you plan for your wedding day and your future life together. Since you have come to the Church and asked one of its pastors to preside at your wedding ceremony, you are stating your desire to ask for God's blessings in your marriage and to have your vows consecrated by the Word of God and prayer.

Many wonderful details can assist in celebrating your day and create beautiful memories for years to come. Yet, at the center of Christian marriage is Christ. That's why the wedding service is always first and foremost a worship service. As a steward of the worship life of the church, the pastor will guide you in making your marriage ceremony an event in which Jesus Christ remains central through the Word of God and prayer.

The guidelines in this brochure will help answer many of your questions.

### **Pastors and Pre-Marital Preparation**

All arrangements for the wedding ceremony must be approved by the pastor in advance of the service. The ceremony will be conducted by a pastor on staff at Our Savior Lutheran Church, unless otherwise specifically approved by the pastor. Other clergy may assist with the wedding, but must be discussed with the pastor during the wedding planning.

At an initial visit, the pastor will go over the wedding service and determine with you the need and place of premarital counseling. Pre-marital counseling seeks to support a Christian couple as they consider the emotional, physical and spiritual aspects of marriage.

## **Wedding Service**

The marriage service at Our Savior Lutheran consists of the entrance of the wedding party, an opening statement and prayer regarding marriage, several scripture readings, the rite of marriage (including the intentions, vows, and exchange of rings), the wedding prayers, and the benediction and kiss.

Some couples wish to symbolically light a candle to emphasize that their new-found unity has begun, will continue, and end in the light of Christ. The pastor will discuss this simple option. Couples choosing this option will be asked to provide the candles and holders necessary.

## **Musicians and Wedding Music**

Since the marriage service is a worship service, the music should be chosen likewise. Our Savior Lutheran Church requests the use of music in weddings which reflects the praise of God and the steadfast love of Christ for his church as the foundation and model for the love and faithfulness in marriage.

The Minister of Music for Our Savior will usually perform and coordinate the music for the wedding, and must approve any substitute musician. The couple must consult the Minister of Music regarding the music for the service. The use of soloists or instrumentalists should also be discussed with the Minister of Music.

Please call or e-mail the church office at 772-567-2253 or [music@oursaviorelca.com](mailto:music@oursaviorelca.com) to schedule a consultation with the Minister of Music.

## **Wedding Program/Bulletin**

If you would like to make a bulletin or program for the service we are happy to provide any information for both the service and correct music titles for printing.

## **Flowers and Other Decorations**

Our Savior's sanctuary is a beautiful place of worship. Flowers are not required. If flowers are desired, they may be placed in the chancel. Decorations or floral arrangements attached to the pews must be made in a manner which leaves no marks when removed.

## Photographs

Please inform any photographer and/or videographer that they must speak with the pastor prior to the wedding concerning flash photography and positioning during the service and the proper placement of video equipment. Photography during the wedding ceremony should not intrude upon the service itself. If you plan to have photos taken before or after the ceremony please include this in discussion with the pastor so the space can reserved.

## Receptions

The Fellowship Hall may be used for small receptions when available. Please discuss this with the pastor during your initial meeting, or call the church office at 772-567-2253 for additional information. The church does not offer a catering service. Those arrangements must be made by the wedding party. Set up, take down, and cleanup are also the responsibility of the wedding party. *No hard liquor may be served on the premises.*

## The Bride's Dressing Room

The choir or quiet room is available for bridal preparations prior to the wedding. After the wedding ceremony, please check these rooms to make sure you have not left any items.

## The Rehearsal

The pastor will help you decide if a rehearsal is needed. If so, it is normally held the evening before the wedding. All members of the bridal party must be present and on time. Those outside the wedding party and immediate family are not required at the rehearsal. Rehearsals typically take about 45 minutes. The marriage license should be given to the pastor at the time of the rehearsal.

## License and Fees

The bride and groom obtain their marriage license through the Clerk of the Court for Indian River County (or from the county in which wedding is to be held) and present it to the pastor at the rehearsal.

Our Savior Lutheran Church makes every effort to keep costs at a minimum. Weddings, however, involve extra services that the church is unable to underwrite. **Charges for the services at OSLC are \$800.** This fee includes building use and custodial fees as well as payment to the minister of music and pastor. If the Fellowship Hall is being used for a reception, there is an additional fee of \$100. All payment should be made no later than the day of the rehearsal.

## Miscellaneous

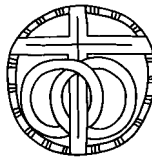
Please respect the buildings and grounds of Our Savior Lutheran. Do not throw rice, flower petals, birdseed or confetti inside or outside the buildings. Any special needs or requests must be discussed with the pastor.

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*We look forward to working with you in preparation for your commitment of marriage and helping you celebrate, through worship, the gift of your love.*

*Blessings to you,*

The Pastors and Staff of Our Savior Lutheran Church



***“To have peace and love in a marriage is a gift that is next to the knowledge of the gospel.”***

**-Martin Luther**