

# ***WEDDING GUIDELINES***

***MEMBERS***

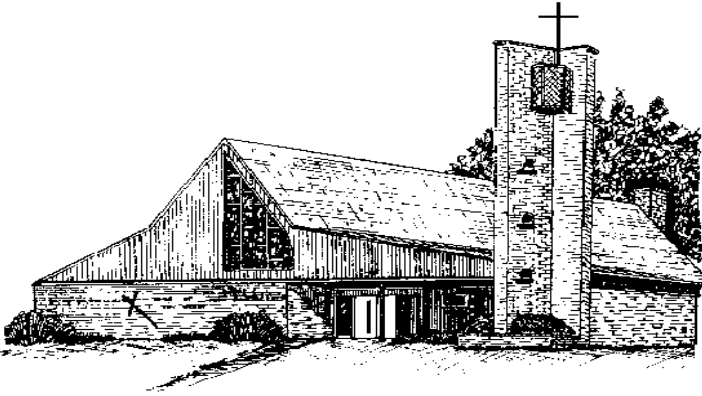


**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

727 Eighth St., Baraboo, WI 53913

Phone: 608-356-3230

[stpauls@stpaulslutheranchurch.us](mailto:stpauls@stpaulslutheranchurch.us)



## CONGRATULATIONS

*... and GOD'S BLESSINGS on your decision to be married!  
We are pleased that you have chosen to have your wedding at  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The marriage service is sacred,  
and everything in your service needs to conform accordingly.  
In order to make your wedding as sacred, special, and stress-  
free as possible, we offer you the following guidelines.  
Please read them carefully, and share them with your family  
and friends.*

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 12:00pm // 1:00pm - 4:00pm  
Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm

### CHURCH DIRECTORY

<b>Pastor:</b> Karen Hofstad	608-434-3397
<b>Wedding Coordinators:</b> Teri Fichter	608-963-0846
Brenda Larson	608-485-3975
<b>Organist:</b> Sue Lappin	608-393-6634
<b>Office Administrator:</b> Alice Woodward	608-356-3230

## I. PREPARING FOR THE WEDDING

**Initial Arrangements:** Your preparation for a wedding at St. Paul's begins with your initial consultation with the Pastor.

**Marriage Preparation:** ALL couples are expected to participate in marriage preparation activities. You may choose one of these two options:

- **Pre-marriage Workshop** through Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin (a schedule of workshops can be found on-line) with 2-3 follow-up sessions with Pastor Karen.
- **Prepare-Enrich** – a pre-marriage inventory completed (individually) on-line with 3-5 follow-up sessions with Pastor Karen.

\*\*These sessions should be completed at least 1 month before the wedding.

## II. A WEDDING IS WORSHIP

That you have chosen to be married at St. Paul's or by Pastor Karen means that your wedding will be a worship service. Therefore, as is the case in all Christian worship, our primary focus is on God and God's promises to us. We come together to praise and thank God for the good gifts that God has showered upon the human family and upon the church.

God gives us marriage as the foundation for human community. Jesus affirmed the covenant of marriage, and by the mystery of his self-giving, revealed the breadth and depth of God's love. Even as the one Spirit holds the church of God in the bond of peace, so the Holy Spirit sustains those who are united in marriage, that as one they may be a living sign of God's grace, love, and faithfulness. As you come before the altar to pledge your love and life-long faithfulness to each other, the Church offers what is has been authorized by Christ to give: God's blessing.

## III. SCRIPTURE

Scripture readings declare the steadfast love of God, proclaim the blessings of God, and call the couple to live out God's love within the covenant of their life together.

Usually 2-3 scripture passages are read during the wedding service. The following is a list of scripture passages couples frequently ask to have read. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list.

**Gospel readings:**

- Matthew 19:4-6
- John 2:1-10
- John 15:9-12
- John 17:22-23

### New Testament Epistle (Letter) readings:

- Romans 12:1-2
- 1 Corinthians 12:3–13:13
- Ephesians 5:21-33
- Colossians 3:12-17
- Philippians 4:4-7
- 1 John 3:16
- 1 John 4:7-19

**Psalms:** 29, 33, 34, 63, 100, 117, 127, 128, 136, or 150

### Old Testament readings:

- Genesis 1:26-31
- Genesis 2:18-24
- Ruth 1:6-17
- Song of Solomon 2:10-13
- Isaiah 61:10-11
- Isaiah 63:7-9
- Jeremiah 32:38-41
- Jeremiah 33:11
- Hosea 2:19-20

You may select a reading from each category, if you choose. At least one scripture passage should be read. In addition to readings from the Bible, a selection from a secular source may be used *if it is in harmony with the spirit of a Christian worship service and with the Church's understanding of marriage.*

## IV. VOWS / PROMISES

You have the option to choose from several different vows. Please inform Pastor Karen as to your choice at least one week before your wedding.

1. I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband, from this day forward, to join with you and to share all that is to come; and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.
2. I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect, trust, help, and care for you; I will share my life with you; I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will try with you to better understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and worst of what is to come until death parts us.
3. I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband. I promise before God and with these witnesses to be your faithful husband/wife, to share with you in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, to forgive and strengthen you, and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.
4. \_\_\_\_\_, I take you to be my wife/husband, from this time onward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being until death parts us.

5. In the presence of God and this community, I \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband; to have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

You may wish to write your own vows. They should be consistent with the Church's understanding of marriage and should make clear that the promises are a life-long commitment. Pastor Karen must approve the wording you choose, since it is the pastor who, as a representative of the Church, must certify that a marriage has taken place. If you write your own vows, be careful not to promise the impossible. The vows printed above may serve as a good outline for the writing of your own promises to each other.

## V. MUSIC

### **Instrumental Music:**

Throughout the centuries, music has been one of the primary vehicles that the church has employed to praise and thank God. There is a vast selection of music that is particularly appropriate for a wedding ceremony.



Remember that your wedding is a worship service; therefore, it is important to choose music that emphasizes our praise and thanks to God. Purely secular music is best left to be used at your reception or wedding dance.

The organist and/or Pastor Karen will assist you in your musical selections.

### **Vocal Music:**

If you are wondering about whether or not a vocal selection is appropriate for a wedding service, here is a tip: If you can answer “yes” to any of the following questions, the music is probably appropriate:

1. Does the music and/or text of the song reflect praise and thanksgiving to God?
2. Is the song based on, or does it reflect a scriptural theme?
3. Is this song in the form of a prayer?

### Some suggestions (you are not limited to these):

A Nuptial Blessing - Proulz  
Love - Van Dye  
Wedding Prayer - Dunlap  
Wedding Song - Stookey  
Where there is Love - Haas  
The Prayer - Sager & Foster  
The Lord's Prayer

Household of Faith - Lamb / Rosasco  
The Greatest of These - Moe  
On Eagle's Wings - Joncas  
The Gift of Love - Hopson (Arr.)  
Two Candles - Salisbury  
In This Very Room - Harris  
Parent's Prayer - Davis

## Congregational Hymns:

Since the wedding service is a worship service, it is appropriate for those gathered to sing together. A hymn also adds to the sense of participation in the service by those attending. If you are interested in including a hymn(s) in your service, talk with Pastor Karen for suggestions.

## VI. WEDDING FLOWERS



You may use silk or real flowers in the bridal bouquet, attendants' bouquets, and boutonnieres.

Please provide your own vase if flowers are to be placed near the Altar.

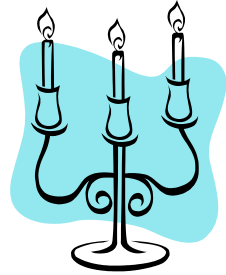
Flowers may not be placed on the Altar.

## VII. CANDLES

The church provides candles for the Altar candleholders only.

If you choose to use the tapered candelabras, you will need to provide your own candles (10" tapers). Dripless candles are mandatory.

If the service is to include a unity candle, it is the couple's responsibility to provide the candle, tapers, and holder.



The church has pew torches available. They may be used for a rental fee of \$10, payable to St. Paul's two weeks before the service.

## VIII. FEES

**For a wedding at St. Paul's:** [**\*\*ALL payments should be made at the rehearsal]**

- Officiating Pastor – an honorarium at your discretion (standard range: \$150-\$200) – made directly to the pastor.
- Wedding Coordinator – minimum \$80 (payment is to be paid directly to the coordinator at the rehearsal).
- Musician fees are to be negotiated directly with the person(s) involved, and payment is to be made directly to them at or before the rehearsal.
- Pew torch rental fee –\$10.
- An offering gift to St. Paul's is appropriate.

**For a wedding NOT at St. Paul's:**

- Officiating Pastor – an honorarium at your discretion (standard range: \$150 - \$200) + mileage reimbursement (if out of town).
- An offering gift to St. Paul's is appropriate.

## IX. WEDDING COORDINATOR

St. Paul's will provide a wedding coordinator at your rehearsal and on the day of your wedding, who will assist the wedding party with set-up, appropriate and timely line-up, order, etc., and many other details. She will open the church at the time you request on your wedding day.

Her fee is a minimum of \$80, due the night of the rehearsal and payable directly to her. Please be courteous; she has the full authority of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

## X. WEDDING BULLETINS

Wedding bulletins are the responsibility of the wedding couple.

Stock bulletin covers are available from religious supply stores, Augsburg/Fortress publishers, or an area printer.

A typical order of service (to be printed in the bulletin):

*Prelude*  
*Processional*  
*The Greeting*  
*Declaration of Intention* (optional)  
*Prayer of the Day*  
*Scripture Readings*  
*Wedding Sermon*  
*Exchange of Vows*  
*Giving of Rings*  
*Acclamation of Marriage*  
*The Blessing*  
*Lighting of the Unity Candle / Unity Sand Sculpture* (optional)  
*The Prayers*  
*The Lord's Prayer*  
*Benediction / Blessing*  
*Introduction of the Couple*  
*Recessional*

\*\* *Musical selections* can be slotted in where appropriate.

*Holy Communion* (optional) -

Marriage and Holy Communion are both covenants characterized by self-giving love. Holy Communion makes present the self-giving love of Jesus Christ in his body and blood. When Holy Communion is celebrated within the wedding service, the meal is offered to ALL in attendance.

## XI. INVITATIONS

The pastor(s), musicians, and wedding coordinator do not assume that they are invited to the rehearsal dinner and/or wedding reception unless they are asked verbally or in writing. If inviting, please do so well in advance of the rehearsal and wedding.

## XII. PICTURES, VIDEOS, AUDIOTAPES, ETC.

NO flash pictures are to be taken during the actual wedding ceremony by the official photographer. Pictures can be taken during the processional and recessional; but during the service, itself, NO flash photography is allowed.



Video recordings should be made from the balcony or the front of the church.

Formal pictures may be taken before or after the ceremony – or both. Please notify your photographer that pictures must be finished at least 30 minutes before the ceremony.

Please have the photographer and/or video personnel check with the Pastor at least one-half hour before the wedding to discuss procedures.

## MISCELLANEOUS – BUT VERY IMPORTANT!

The marriage license may be obtained in Sauk County and mailed or brought to the church office before the day of the wedding rehearsal.

Dressing rooms are available. Please let Pastor Karen know if you will be getting dressed on site. These rooms must be cleaned up immediately after the wedding.

If bows or other decorations are attached to the pews, please DO NOT use tape of any kind! Decorations may be tied onto the pew with ribbon, etc.

NO confetti, glitter, rice, bubbles, or birdseed may be used anywhere.

NO alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are to be brought onto church property at any time.

NO smoking is allowed inside the church building. Please respect the church grounds by using receptacles for discarding cigarettes. An extra \$25 clean-up fee will be charged if grounds are not left litter-free.

You may bring food into the church building, but please keep it in the kitchen (either upstairs or downstairs). Respect the sanctuary and the rest of the building. Appoint someone to oversee clean-up and check that you leave nothing behind.

**THE CHURCH (BUILDING AND GROUNDS) MUST BE LEFT IN THE SAME CONDITION AS BEFORE THE WEDDING.**