

St. John Lutheran Church Wedding Policy

Approved by the Congregational Council on November 19, 2015

1. The Pastor of the congregation will conduct all marriage ceremonies in this church. Outside clergy and friends may participate in the service after consultation with the pastor.
2. The Pastor will meet with the couple 2 or 3 times before the wedding, to plan the ceremony and to complete a pre-marital inventory.
3. Christian symbols in the sanctuary may not be removed or obscured. Nothing may be removed or placed on the altar without permission from the pastor. The altar paraments and linens may not be changed or removed. The color of the paraments are assigned by the church calendar. There is a wedding banner available for use if desired. The church will supply altar candles. If the couple wishes to use a unity candle, that will need to be purchased from a florist or at a Christian bookstore.
4. Flash photographs are permitted up until the time the Pastor begins the ceremony and may be resumed after s/he presents the couple to the assembly. Pictures without flash may be taken during the ceremony. The photographer should be as discreet as possible at all times and should not be moving about the altar area.
5. Church membership at St. John Lutheran Church is not a requirement in order to be married in the church. However, non-members are expected to abide by the same guidelines as members. Weddings in which both the bride and the groom are non-members are to be approved by the Congregational Council. There is also a different table of fees for non-members. Members of other Wartburg Parish congregations will follow the fee table for Members.
6. No alcohol is to be consumed prior to the wedding or the rehearsal by anyone in the wedding party. If the Pastor is aware that either the bride or the groom is under the influence, the wedding will be postponed. No one who is drinking will be permitted to participate in the wedding. No alcohol is permitted in the church or on the church grounds or property – including the parking lot.
7. All fees are due at the wedding rehearsal.

<u>Fees</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>	<u>Members</u>
Church Use Fee	\$100.00*	No Charge
Pastor's Fee	\$150.00	<i>Suggested Honorarium: \$150.00</i>
Basement and Kitchen**	\$40.00	\$20.00

*This fee includes compensation to the church custodian for extra responsibilities on the wedding weekend.

**Only applicable if the basement and kitchen are being used for the rehearsal dinner or reception. No fee is to be charged for the use of the basement by the wedding party prior to the wedding.