

Wedding Policy

Wilhelmina Evangelical Lutheran Church

At Wilhelmina, we believe marriage to be the lifelong union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24; Matt 19:4-6) to be held in honor by all and kept pure. It is a gift from God, in which couples make a deep commitment to one another before God and the congregation for a life time of giving to one another.

Congratulations on your decision to take this important step in your life. We are very glad that you have chosen to do so with God's blessing. A wedding is a brief event, but a marriage is intended to last for the whole of one's life. The church is a place where the wedding takes place, but is also a home where your life together can be nourished. We invite your active participation in the life of this congregation both before and after your wedding, so that you may both receive from, and contribute to this family of faith.

Since you have chosen to consider Wilhelmina as the church in which you desire to be married, we anticipate that you wish to have a Christian wedding ceremony, and will proceed on the assumption that your Christian faith has meaning for your life and will be part of your marriage.

In order to assist in preparation for your wedding, and to assist us in supporting you, please take note of the following policies which govern the conduct of weddings here.

Note that providing wedding services is not the primary purpose of the Church. The Church exists to proclaim Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. However, because God established marriage, and Christ blessed it and acknowledged that marriage between a man and a woman was ordained by God, Wilhelmina is happy to assist in making your wedding service and your marriage a Christian one.

- 1. The Pastor:** The Pastor of this church will officiate at all weddings. At the invitation of the Pastor, a guest minister may assist, or on occasion, conduct a wedding. Wilhelmina's Pastor is free to determine whom he/she will or will not marry. It is at his/her discretion that this service is performed in Christ's name on behalf of the congregation. He/she is authorized to solemnize marriages by the government of the Province of Alberta, which issues licenses for Pastors to perform weddings.

The Pastor of this church is not obliged to officiate at a wedding where for reasons of conscience the pastor feels the marriage would be inexpedient, would be to the detriment of the people involved, or is contrary to the will of God. Same-sex "unions" or "blessings of same-sex relationships" are against the Christian beliefs of this congregation and will not be performed in the church building or on the grounds of Wilhelmina Evangelical Lutheran Church.

- 2. Scheduling of Wedding and Counseling:** Scheduling of the wedding ceremony begins with making an appointment with the Pastor. Ideally this would be done six months in advance of the wedding date. This meeting gives us the opportunity to see that your understanding of the wedding is in accord with that of the church. During that meeting, the pastor will provide a copy and review this policy with you to ensure that you are comfortable with it.

The Pastor will arrange weddings, wedding counselling and wedding rehearsals in accordance with his/her schedule. The couple to be married must also obtain permission from the Church Council to use the building. Thus, both the Pastor and the Council must be consulted before any final date or time is set.

If a couple wishes to be married at a time the Pastor cannot be there, or during a vacancy where there is no interim named, the Church Council must be consulted and give its consent to all wedding plans using these policies as a guide. This includes the approval of the person presiding, and ensuring that the ceremony aligns with our Christian beliefs and Church constitution.

Marriage counselling is part of the process of getting married, and we ask that couples consent to pre-marriage counselling, the details of which will be decided in consultation with the Pastor. We also recommend a follow-up visit with the Pastor sometime following the wedding, if possible, at a time and place mutually convenient.

- 3. Music:** The purpose of wedding music is to glorify and praise God. Since a wedding is a worship service, any music used must be appropriate for a Christian Church service. There is a wide variety of music that does this and is available for use at weddings. Our Pastor and music leaders can assist you with choosing appropriate music if you are unsure.

It is the responsibility of the couple getting married to find musician(s) for their ceremony. The church pianist may be available, but cannot be guaranteed. If you want to include a soloist or congregational hymn in the service, please advise the Pastor at your meeting. Secular music may be used at receptions or other events, but should not be used as part of the service.

- 4. Rehearsal:** Normally, wedding rehearsals are held the evening before the wedding and all of the wedding party should be in attendance. If a member of the party is late, it is the responsibility of the other members of the wedding party to share the necessary information. This rehearsal usually lasts about 45 minutes. The Pastor will lead the rehearsal and answer any questions that may arise.

- 5. Facilities:** Your wedding is a meaningful and memorable occasion. The following guidelines have been established to help assure and preserve the beauty, dignity and atmosphere which surround the service. Remember that the church is not the same as a public hall. It is a holy space.

- The altar and baptismal font are not to be moved as they are central to Lutheran worship. Rearranging any other church appointments or furniture may be done only in consultation with the Pastor/Church Council.
- Decorations used for the wedding must be non-marking and do no damage to the woodwork. Thus, pins, nails, adhesive tape, etc. must not be used on the walls, pews and other varnished or painted areas.

- Care should be taken so that no property is damaged in setting up or taking down any special additions (i.e. extra candles or flowers) for the service.
- No confetti or other "throwables" are allowed in or on church property.

It is the responsibility of the wedding party to set up and clean up any spaces they have used. Everything should be left in the same state as it was in before the wedding. Any decorations or items used that are to be disposed of should be removed.

Although precautions will be taken to assure the safety of your possessions, the church cannot be responsible if any personal items belonging to the wedding party are lost, stolen, or damaged.

There will be no smoking in the church. Alcoholic beverages may not be used on church premises at any time, and no one under the influence of alcohol or any other substance may take part in the wedding or rehearsal.

- 6. Photography:** A wedding ceremony is a worship service. Guest photography is allowed only during the processional, the signing of the official papers and the recessional. The appointed wedding photographer will be permitted to take non-intrusive photos during the service. Video recording or other non-intrusive means of recording the ceremony are also acceptable but should be discussed with the Pastor beforehand.

Pictures of the wedding party may be taken immediately before the service, however it is suggested that any photography session done in the sanctuary be completed at least one hour prior to the start of the service.

- 7. Guest Expectations:** The couple to be married is expected to see to it that all people involved in the wedding (musicians, attendants, ushers, photographers, and guests) are informed of the policy of the church regarding pictures, confetti, music, smoking, alcohol and other matters that may arise. They are responsible to see to it that people co-operate, and that the church is left in the same condition they found it in.
- 8. Indemnity:** By their signature below, it is agreed and acknowledged by the Bride and Groom that the church is not liable or responsible in any way for any personal or consequential injury of any nature whatsoever that may be suffered or sustained by the Bride and/or Groom or any guest or any other person who may be in or upon the church property to attend the wedding of the parties. The Bride and Groom further agree to be responsible for any damage to any of the church property by reason of any wrongful act, neglect, or default on the part of the Bride and/or Groom and/or any of their guests.

9. Fees: The costs for using our church building vary for members and non-members of the church. Please bear in mind that there are costs to keeping a church building maintained and in good order.

Non-members: *(where neither person is a member of the Wilhelmina Congregation)*

- Suggested honorarium for the Musician(s): \$100.00
- Damage Deposit (where cleanup is necessary): \$100.00
- Use of the Church: \$250.00
- Suggested honorarium for the Pastor: \$250.00

Members: *(where one or both persons are voting or associate members of the Wilhelmina congregation)*

- Members are encouraged to make a donation to the church and appropriate honoraria to the Pianist and Pastor as their part in helping to defray costs.

If there are any questions concerning these fees, please feel free to discuss with the Pastor or Church Council, who have the authority to adjust them, if necessary.

Thank you for abiding by the policy of our church, as set forth by the Church Council together with the Pastor. We bid you a blessed wedding, and a truly happy married life in the Lord's grace and favour, as you together live in, and express, Christ's love.

We have read the policies outlined above, and agree to abide by them.

Signatures of Bride and Groom:

Bride

Groom

Signature of Pastor or the Chair of Council and two additional Council members:

Date of agreement: _____

Date and Time of Wedding (subject to approval): _____

Policy Adopted by the Wilhelmina Church Council: September 11, 2006 / Amended : November 13, 2016

WILHELMINA LUTHERAN CHURCH



“For you are to be his witness, telling everyone what you have seen and heard.”

Acts 22:15 (NLT)

WEDDING INFORMATION AND FEES

COUPLE INFORMATION

WEDDING DATE: _____

BRIDE’S FULL NAME: _____

GROOM’S FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS AFTER WEDDING: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBERS: _____

WEDDING INFORMATION

PLACE: _____

WITNESSES: _____

PRESIDING PASTOR: _____

FEES

	FEE	DATE PAID	AMOUNT
HONORARIUM FOR PASTOR:	\$250		
HONORARIUM FOR PIANIST:	\$100		
USE OF THE CHURCH:	\$250		
DAMAGE DEPOSIT:	\$100		
TOTAL			