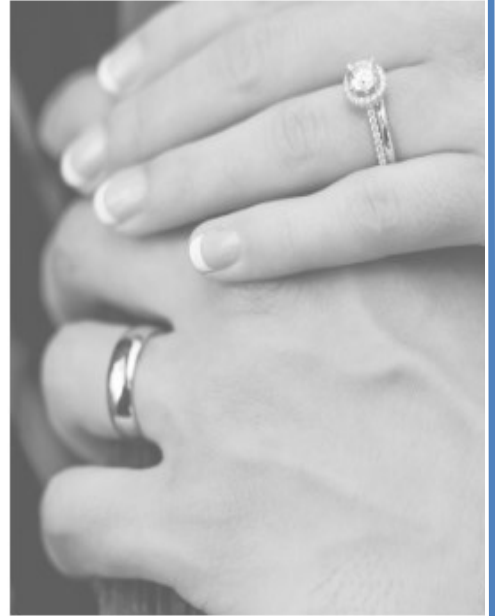


Wedding Information Guide



St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

158 East Avenue

Hilton, NY 14468

585-392-4000

“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

Colossians 3:14-15

Introduction

Our congregation congratulates you on your engagement and in your decision to begin your married lives by seeking the blessings of God in a Christian wedding service. While those married by judges and other authorized and licensed people are equally married before God, your desire to have the presence of a Christian pastor expresses a desire to include God's presence on your wedding day and throughout your married life.

A Christian Wedding

When one seeks the assistance of a Christian pastor in planning the wedding service, it reflects a commitment to seeing that all aspects of the service are Christian in content and that it is done to the glory of God. Your wedding day will be special not because you are the "star attractions" but because you have invited Jesus to be present with you, your family, and your friends as you celebrate the joining of your lives together. If either you or your partner is uncomfortable with having the Bible read or with a pastor speaking a message based on Christian truth, you may want to pursue a more secular setting to celebrate your wedding. Faithfulness to Jesus Christ will not allow us to downplay the distinctively spiritual elements of the wedding service.

A Christian Marriage

Having the wedding in a church will not make yours a Christian marriage. A wedding is a ceremony; a marriage is a complex relationship between you and your partner that can grow in health or be weakened depending on your attitudes and actions. What makes a marriage uniquely Christian is the faith commitment each spouse has to Jesus. The mutual giving and receiving of unconditional love and unlimited forgiveness can only happen when those gifts have been received from Christ. Serving and building each other up are possible with Jesus' presence through worship, prayer, and other spiritual practices.

An active relationship with the Lord Jesus can make all the difference in your marriage. The Bible states, "...a cord of three strands is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 3:12)—those strands being you, your partner, and the Lord Jesus Himself. While married life contains difficulties and challenges, studies have shown that partners who pray and worship together on a regular basis are less likely to separate and divorce, pointing to the wisdom, love, and strength Jesus can bring to you as an individual and to your marriage.

Rehearsal and Wedding

The rehearsal—During this time we will run through the wedding ceremony a couple of times so everyone knows where they are supposed to be on the wedding day and all questions are answered. Once everyone has a better understanding of how everything will flow, it will make it a less stressful day.

St. Paul Wedding Coordinators will be present at the rehearsal as well as the wedding day to facilitate the wedding service.

Important: Please be sure the Pastor has your wedding license by the time of the rehearsal. You may also bring your unity candle, holder and side candles at this time and any other decorations you may be using.

Scheduling the Date

The date for your rehearsal and wedding must first be cleared with the Pastoral staff based on their schedules and availability of the church. It is recommended that this date be cleared prior to arranging a date and place for a reception hall. Please complete the Wedding Questionnaire found on our website at www.stpaulhilton.org/connect/weddings. No weddings will be conducted during Holy Week and through Easter.

Flowers and Decorations

- Your chosen florist or yourselves supply all flowers and decorations. St. Paul has a supply of plant stands if needed.
- All decorations and personal belongings must be removed before vacating the building.
- Bows may be attached to the pews along the central aisle using clips or an elastic band – no pins, tape or wire can be used.
- If an aisle runner will be used, the center aisle at St. Paul is 75 feet long.

Other Data

- The bridal party is invited to use the Church Conference room and Library as a dressing room. They are located in the north hallway by the Ladies' restroom. The groom's party may assemble in the Sacristy across from the Men's restroom.

Music, Video, Audio Technical Needs

- The St. Paul accompanist normally serves as first choice (if available and arranged by St. Paul) however, the couple may choose and arrange the services of other qualified musicians.
- Discuss any technical needs with the Pastor at least two weeks prior to the rehearsal (i.e powerpoint presentation, video songs, pre-recorded music, etc.).

Building Use Guidelines

- Rooms reserved for use by the wedding party during the rehearsal include the Church and welcome area, Church Conference Room and Library, and Sacristy.
- Children and/or youth should be supervised at all times.
- All furniture should be returned to its original locations.
- The wedding party is responsible for any damage incurred by them, their guests and their representatives. Damages/spills should be reported immediately to a Church representative.
- No smoking or alcohol consumption is allowed in the building or on the grounds.

PLANNING CALENDAR

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| 4-6 months in advance: | Complete a Wedding Request Form and schedule initial meeting with the Pastor and to set date and time of wedding and rehearsal.
Set up pre-marital counseling meetings. |
| 2-3 months in advance: | Begin your 4-7 Pre-Marital Counseling sessions with the Pastor. |
| 30 days in advance: | Obtain Marriage License. Complete your final Pre-Marital Counseling sessions with the Pastor. |