

ST. MARKS' LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH USE POLICY

St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Olathe, Kansas, is dedicated to the glory of God and joyful worship. The Church Council has established the following church-use policy in keeping with the church's use as a house of worship.

WEDDING GUIDELINES – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! We know these times of planning and preparation will be packed with joyful anticipation, and we are happy for you. We want your wedding service to be a memorable occasion that you can cherish for a lifetime. To help accomplish this, we have prepared this list of frequently asked questions.

1. Who may be married at St. Mark's Lutheran Church?

Any couple, members or non-members, are welcome to have their wedding at St. Mark's. Each couple must meet with the Pastor for three to four pre-marriage sessions before their wedding. Wedding dates are first-come, first served. (Only one wedding per day).

2. How do I schedule my wedding?

Contact the church office. The Parish Secretary will help you schedule an initial interview with St. Mark's Pastor. Ordinarily at least three months lead-time is needed. After you have agreed on a date and time with the officiating Pastor, it will be placed upon the official church calendar when the security deposits are received.

3. Are there premarital counseling requirements?

Yes. You will be meeting with the pastor from St. Mark's who will officiate at the service. There will be a minimum of three marriage preparation sessions, which are designed to help you focus on the issues common to every marriage. These meetings are scheduled at times mutually convenient to you and the Pastor. Both bride and groom are to attend.

4. Are any other preparations expected of us?

Yes. A church wedding is a worship service. In addition to the exchange of their vows, the bride and groom will be asking God to bless their home and be a part of their life together. Thus spiritual preparation is also important. During the weeks and months prior to your marriage, we desire for you to attend worship on a regular basis, either here at St. Mark's or at your home congregation.

5. What about music, photography and special decorations?

6. Will we need a wedding rehearsal?

A rehearsal is necessary for all weddings, (at the church or offsite). Everyone in the wedding party should attend. A rehearsal will ordinarily last less than one hour and it should begin and end on time. The bride and groom are responsible for seeing that everyone is present at the appointed time.

7. How are decisions made about the service?

The officiating Pastor from St. Mark's will work with you on the service. There will be some options for you to consider. We will try our best to help you keep your plans simple, so that you may relax and concentrate on the significance of your marriage itself. Enjoy! Don't worry about the technicalities of the ceremony! We want your wedding day to be beautiful and meaningful.

8. May I have a reception here at St. Mark's?

You may use our Fellowship Hall for a reception if you desire. No catering service is available through the church, however. Your caterer needs to furnish whatever is used, and must leave the premises in the clean condition in which they were found. Sorry, tables and chairs from St. Mark's cannot be removed for off-premises use. Please advise your guests that no rice, birdseed or confetti may be thrown on the premises. Smoking, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are not permitted. The maximum capacity of the Fellowship hall is 150.

9. Where may I apply for a marriage license?

You may apply for a Kansas license at the Courthouse in downtown Olathe. You will need positive identification, preferably a birth certificate. Plan on being asked to make sworn statements about your identity and eligibility. It is not possible to perform a marriage ceremony here without a valid Kansas marriage license in hand.