



Cross of Hope Church and Schools

A Biblically-Based, Orthodox Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Wedding Policy and Guidelines

At Cross of Hope, we understand that marriage is instituted by God as part of the order of creation. The union of man and woman is a part of God's ongoing creative activity.

We affirm and rejoice with those who find love, and we ask God's blessings for those who surround that love in the commitment of marriage. We understand marriage to be an exclusive, life-long commitment. To that end:

HOSPITALITY

Cross of Hope intends to be a place of hospitality to those who wish to get married and we will work with you to make your wedding a beautiful expression of your love.

COUNSELING

We believe that an important investment in marriage is counseling, which helps the couple grow in understanding their relationship as it currently exists.

We use an instrument called PREPARE. PREPARE helps you assess your relationship in some of the following areas: expectations, communication, conflict resolution, financial management, sexuality, and other matters important to your relationship.

PREPARE is done for us by the Samaritan Counseling Center, 1101 Medical Arts Avenue NE; telephone # 842-5300; www.samaritancc.com; they have six locations around the city. The testing takes about one and one-half hours and up to three sessions may be needed for discussing the scoring and follow up. Total cost of the package is approximately \$225.00; scheduling is done through the Samaritan Center and payment is made directly to them. They set the fees for PREPARE so they may be different than the amount shown above.

THE SERVICE

The wedding service is developed in consultation with our pastor. This may require one or two meetings. The fee for Pastor Bauer's services at the Church is \$200; away from the church, his fee is \$250.00. Because of his schedule, Pastor Bauer cannot perform weddings during Advent (usually the month of December) or Lent (usually the months of March and April).

FACILITIES

Because Cross of Hope is a place of hospitality, there is no fee for the use of our facilities which include the worship area, great hall, dressing rooms for bride and groom, and the lunch room.

Our food preparations facilities are very limited so we encourage couples to host their reception at another site.

WORSHIP

In lieu of facility charges, we ask that you, as a couple worship with us on three Sunday mornings prior to your wedding day. Services are held at 8:00 a.m. (a blended service with traditional and contemporary music); at 9:30 a.m. (a traditional Lutheran Book of Worship service); and at 10:45 a.m. (a contemporary service).

MUSIC

All music for your wedding will be coordinated through our Worship Director who will work with you to include music that fits the service you design with the Pastor.

The Church Accompanist fee is \$85 for the wedding and \$15 for the rehearsal time. If you choose to use a soloist provided by the Church, their fee is \$50 for the wedding and \$15 for the rehearsal time. The services of the Church Audio Visual Technician are needed for the service to assure that microphones and music systems operate properly; the fee for this specialist is \$25 total for the wedding and the rehearsal.

Once you have confirmed your date with the Pastor, the Worship Director will call you to assist with plans for music. If you choose to use a power-point presentation during your wedding, the Audio Visual Technician will run the program for you. If you need the services of a Media Specialist for your production, please let the Wedding Coordinator know well in advance if you want to use such services available through the church. All media presentations must be approved by the Church; the fee for media presentations prepared by our Church Media Specialist is \$25.00.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

Cross of Hope Church provides the services of a wedding coordinator for you to help you with the details of your wedding and coordination with others who will need to be involved. The wedding coordinator will assist you with completing the forms for building use, placement of flowers and candles, rehearsals, coordination with the Worship Director for music, custodian, and all other details needed for your wedding. She will advise you on items of custom and ceremony if you have questions. In order to assure that your wedding details are handled timely and that your wedding runs smoothly, we require that you use the assistance of the Wedding Coordinator; the fee for this service is \$150.00

OTHER ITEMS

The person reserving the building (or his/her designate) is responsible for assuring that immediately after the wedding and/or reception, the church building will be left clean and neat by providing for cleaning through the custodian or taking that responsibility themselves. The responsible person needs to confirm with the Wedding Coordinator prior to leaving for agreement that everything is in order. All other items not discussed here should be discussed with the Wedding Coordinator who will help you find solutions to all concerns.