

Your Wedding at St. Mark's Begins Here

*A quick guide for couples
considering St. Mark's for their wedding*

Step One



YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED! *Congratulations!*

A Christian marriage begins with a wedding ceremony with worship to God at its center. We strongly believe that preparation for marriage contributes to building a stronger, lifelong marriage relationship. This work is rooted in our Christian faith, and the importance of honoring and protecting relationships.

St. Mark's encourages you to be an active participant in the worship life of our congregation so that you may return week after week to receive God's love and forgiveness and find friends and community to help you remain true to your vows.

Included here is some basic information about weddings at St. Mark's. If you decide to hold your wedding here, you will receive more detailed information and resources.

Your wedding date is considered reserved when ALL THREE of the following steps are completed:

1. Call the church office to ensure that the date and time you have in mind is available.
 - In general, weddings are scheduled on Saturdays between 1pm-4pm, with rehearsal taking place at 5pm on the Friday evening preceding. Dates currently unavailable for weddings: Christmas, Holy Week & Easter, Labor Day weekend, Memorial Day weekend, 4th of July. All other days are at the Pastor's discretion.
 - On the day of ceremony, you will have a 4-hour window for preparation, photos, ceremony and clean up.
2. A completed Wedding Reservation Form and non-refundable deposit of \$150 is submitted to St. Mark's to hold this date on our calendar.
3. St. Mark's has confirmed the date in writing (by email or letter).

WEDDING FEES AT ST. MARK'S **for use of Facilities and Associated Services**

Pastor's Honorarium	\$250
Music Leader*	\$200
Wedding Coordinator	\$200
Sound Tech/Custodial Fee	\$200
<u>Building Use fee**</u>	<u>\$100</u>
Total	\$950

* Includes one rehearsal with soloist prior to ceremony. Music requiring additional rehearsal time will be subject to additional charges per music leader's discretion. If using a soloist, secured by St. Mark's on your behalf, please add an additional \$150 to the overall cost..

** Building use fee includes use of the sanctuary for the rehearsal and wedding and the use of two rooms for dressing. These rooms are available for a TOTAL of four hours on the day of your wedding.

Your \$150 non-refundable deposit will be applied to the overall cost of the wedding at St. Mark's.

NOTE: If you are getting married offsite, alternate fees will apply.

FIRST STEPS ONCE YOUR WEDDING DATE IS RESERVED:

1. Register for and participate in pre-marriage counseling (required). Pre-marital counseling is a great investment in your future relationship, and is required by St. Mark's. Counseling must be completed 4 months prior to the wedding date. You will discuss what you learned during counseling when you meet with the pastor at St. Mark's. We recommend the following:

Attend a Marriage Preparation Workshop facilitated by a licensed therapist through Lutheran Social Services in the Twin Cities (www.lssmn.org).

- This workshop is a relationship experience alongside other couples preparing for marriage. Topics covered include: communication, conflict management, finances, roles and expectations, sexuality and intimacy, spirituality, and personalities.
- The total cost for the class is \$185. Workshop locations can be found throughout the state.
- To find out more, or to sign up for a workshop, please go to www.lssmn.org and click on find help > counseling and support services > marriage preparation.

OR

Participate in a Pre-Marriage Workshop with Karen Stevensen, a licensed clinical social worker with 25 years of experience working with couples. The cost is \$150.

Classes are held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (4100 Lyndale Ave, Mpls, MN).

Visit www.karenstevensen.com/pre-marriage-workshop for more information and to register for the workshop.

2. Schedule a consultation with the St. Mark's Wedding Coordinator. After the initial consultation with your wedding coordinator, you'll have the opportunity to schedule time with the music leader and pastor. The wedding coordinator will help you with details concerning your rehearsal and wedding ceremony, including the procession, flowers, candles, ushers, receiving lines, and bulletins. The coordinator will review church suggestions for the ceremony, policies for building use, and provide a wedding bulletin information worksheet to help plan the ceremony.

Questions? Need more information?

If you have additional questions, or would like to check on a potential wedding date, please contact the church office at 651.777.7451.

St. Mark's Wedding Checklist

- Call the church (651-777-7451) to see if your desired date for the wedding is available.
- Pay the \$150 non-refundable deposit and complete necessary paperwork.
- Register for and complete a pre-marriage workshop.
- Set up initial wedding consultation with wedding coordinator to discuss your desires for the wedding and review St. Mark's wedding policies.

After Initial Consult with Wedding Coordinator

- Meet with Music Leader and select music
- Work on planning the worship service
 - Select your Scripture readings.
 - Select/write your vows.
 - Begin to draft your wedding bulletin/program.

4 months prior to wedding:

- Once you have completed a pre-marriage workshop, meet with the Pastor to get acquainted and review what you learned from the workshop.

2 months prior to wedding:

- Schedule final meetings with wedding coordinator, music leader and pastor to finalize plans for the wedding ceremony.
- Obtain your marriage license.

1 month prior to wedding

- Print your bulletin (after approval by pastor).
- Pay all remaining church and professional fees.
- Present marriage license along with witness names to office.

Day of your wedding:

Be fully present in the day and ENJOY!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
North St. Paul, MN
stmarks-nsp.org
651.777.7451