



WEDDINGS



*Marriage is a gift God has given to
all humankind for the well-being
of the entire human family.*

Why should we get married in a church?

If you choose to get married in church, there is an added dimension - the assurance that God cares about your relationship and that His resources and strength are available to help you. Including God in your marriage doesn't mean that you will avoid all the usual ups and downs, but you will know that you can look to God for help and guidance and that His love will sustain you. You will also have the support of the Bethany Lutheran Church family, which we want you to be a part of.



What do I need to do to schedule my wedding at Bethany?

We are glad that you are considering having your wedding at Bethany Lutheran Church.

Please **follow the steps** listed on this page to ensure a smooth process in planning your wedding.

NOTE: WE DO NOT SCHEDULE WEDDINGS MORE THAN ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE. WE ALSO WILL NOT SCHEDULE WEDDINGS DURING HOLY WEEK OR CHRISTMAS WEEK.

STEP ONE

Download the **Wedding Application** from our Website or pick one up from the church office. Return this application along with your deposit to the church office. Please be as specific as possible on your application. Note if you are requesting a particular pastor to perform your service. Remember you will need to talk to the Pastor **before** you book a reception hall.

STEP TWO

If you have not heard from someone at the church within 10 days of submitting your application, call the church office. This will be to schedule a time to meet with the Pastor. You will be asked to complete a pre-marital test, called the **"Prepare" questionnaire**. Please do this at least 6 months prior to your wedding date.

STEP THREE

Consultations with the Pastor will need to be scheduled directly with the Pastor. Please discuss this with the Pastor in your initial conversations. The Pastor will review with you a **list of fees**. Any financial hardships can be discussed with the Pastor.

STEP FOUR

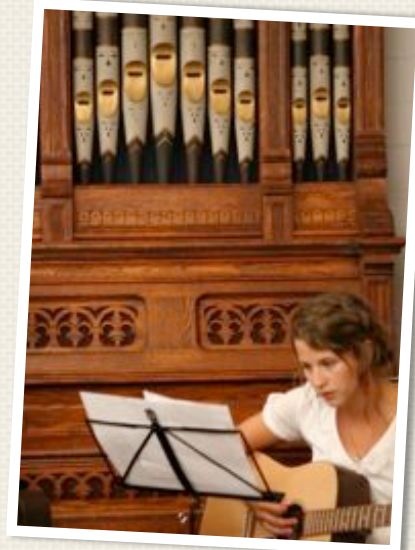
Contact the Pastor 6 weeks prior to the wedding to **finalize** the **details** of your wedding. Be prepared to know answers to the choices listed on the right.

BE PREPARED! MAKE CHOICES ON THE FOLLOWING:



SELECT READINGS

Psalms 33, 100, 117, 127, 128, 136, 150
Genesis 1:26-31 or 2:18-24
Song of Solomon 2:10-13 Isaiah 63:7-9
Romans 12:1-2 | Corinthians 13
Ephesians 5:21-33 Philippians 4:4-7
I John 4:7-12 Matthew 19:4-6
John 2:1-10 John 15:9-12
Let the Pastor know your choices.



SELECT MUSIC

At least 6 months prior to the wedding, you will need to make music arrangements with the Bethany organist. The organist of Bethany Lutheran Church is the expected organist for all weddings. If you have any soloists or special music, you should discuss this with the organist and the Pastor.

Please call the church office to request a contact from the church organist.
219-362-3312



BULLETINS

Preparing the bulletin for your wedding day is an optional service provided by Bethany Church. If you would like for us to prepare your bulletins, there are additional fees that you can discuss with the Pastor or other church representative. If you would like us to prepare your bulletins, contact us 30 days prior to the wedding.

BULLETIN OPTIONS CAN BE VIEWED ONLINE AT

www.bethanylaporte.org

COSTS

NON-MEMBER COST

BUILDING USE FEE
PASTORAL FEE
CUSTODIAL FEE
ORGANIST FEE
ADMINISTRATION FEE
BLDG COORDINATOR FEE
BULLETIN PREP FEE
BULLETIN PRINT FEE

TOTAL NON-MEMBER COST
\$1,050.00

MEMBER COST

(To receive a Member discount: The Bride/Groom or the Bride/Groom Parents must be a Regularly Attending BLC Member for 60+ days prior to the wedding date.)

MEMBER DISCOUNT ON:
- BUILDING USE FEE
- PASTORAL FEE
- BULLETIN PRINT FEE

TOTAL MEMBER COST
\$610.00

Not allowed at any BLC Facility: Alcohol, Smoking, Confetti, Bird Seed, Rice, or Flower Petals. Also, do not move or remove any items from the facility without consulting the Pastor. Leave the building as you find it. Any flowers left for the Sunday Service can be noted in our bulletin, please make the church aware of your intent with remaining flowers.

NOTE: \$50 DEPOSIT DUE UPON RECEIPT OF APPLICATION. REMAINDER IS DUE 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE WEDDING DATE.

BE PREPARED! MAKE CHOICES ON THE FOLLOWING:



THE REHEARSAL

Set your rehearsal time on your application. Be sure it is accurate!

The rehearsal is usually the evening prior to the wedding and will last about one hour. Everyone involved in the wedding will need to be present. Ushers, parents, the wedding party, and all musicians and officiants.

IT IS VITAL THAT EVERYONE BE ON TIME TO THE REHEARSAL!



PASTOR

The acting Pastors of Bethany Lutheran Church are the expected officiants of all weddings at Bethany. If you want another Pastor to co-officiate, you must discuss this with the Pastor of Bethany prior to making arrangements.

Pastor Dennis H. Meyer
pastordenny@gmail.com
219-369-3530



LETTERS

Pastor Dennis will use letters from the bride and groom to make the wedding service more meaningful, personalized, and special to your family.

Be prepared to talk to the Pastor about these letters and their content. They are a very important part of your wedding message.

Wedding Day Rules

Building Use: 4 hour building use limit on the wedding day. Provide church with firm entry/exit times 10 days prior to wedding.

Pictures: Must be taken within the four hour building use limit. If usage exceeds 4 hours there is a \$50 fee per hour.

Arrive: The wedding party must arrive at least one hour prior to the ceremony. The organist begins the prelude at 30 minutes prior to the ceremony.

Where to Go:

One person needs to wait at entry doors to greet attendants, family, and guests as they arrive. You should always have someone watching to help direct people from the time you arrive at the church.

The Ushers need to be in the Narthex (outside Sanctuary) 45 minutes prior to the ceremony. Ushers light candles, distribute bulletins and assist guests.

The Groom and his Groomsmen will prepare and wait in the Conference Room on the Main Level. (Across from the main church office area). The Pastor will escort them to the Sacristy ten minutes prior to the ceremony.

The Bride and her Bridesmaids will prepare and wait in the Fireside Room on the Upper Level. (Third Door on the right at the top of the stairs). The building coordinator will escort them towards the Sanctuary ten minutes prior to the ceremony.

Five minutes prior to the ceremony the ushers, grandparents, and parents need to meet in the Narthex for the processional. All the wedding party will enter from the Narthex except the Groom and Best Man who will enter with the Pastor from the Sacristy.

Processional Order

Grooms Paternal Grandparents
Grooms Maternal Grandparents
Brides Paternal Grandparents
Brides Maternal Grandparents
Father & Mother of the Groom
Mother of the Bride

Option: Aisle Runner Extended by Ushers

Front: The Pastor, Groom and Best Man

Ushers enter singly or by two's

Bridesmaids enter (with Groomsmen)

Maid or Matron of Honor

Ring Bearer and Flower Girl

The Bride and her Escort

BE PREPARED! MAKE CHOICES ON THE FOLLOWING:



BETHANY CHURCH

Location: 102 G Street, LaPorte, IN

Seats approximately 500 people

Dressing rooms for all parties

Multiple Restrooms

Availability for Audio Visual

Large Atrium can be used for receptions (non-alcohol) for an additional charge (review with Pastor)



CARMEL CHAPEL

Location: West 50 South, LaPorte, IN
Past Garwood Orchards

Quaint Country Church

Seats approximately 100 people

Single Dressing Area

No Restrooms

Reduced Building Use Fee May Apply
(Discuss with Pastor)



QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about your wedding, the church, or your faith, please contact us at:

contact@bethanylaporte.org

Phone 219-362-3312



BLC WEDDING APPLICATION

Bethany Lutheran Church

102 G Street - LaPorte, IN 46350

219-362-3312

contact@bethanylaporte.org

To be completed by BLC Staff

DATE SUBMITTED TO BLC: _____ CC TO PASTOR: _____ CC TO COORDINATOR: _____

BRIDE'S INFORMATION

First Name

Middle

Last Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Cell Phone

Email Address

Are you or your parents members of Bethany Lutheran Church?

If Parents, list parents names.....

GROOM'S INFORMATION

First Name

Middle

Last Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Cell Phone

Email Address

Are you or your parents members of Bethany Lutheran Church?

If Parents, list parents names.....

WEDDING INFORMATION

Date of Wedding Time of Wedding Date of Rehearsal Time

Facility Requested (circle) BLC Sanctuary Carmel Chapel ARC (Non-Alcohol Reception, Additional Charge)

Pastor Requested Date Talked to the Pastor

We have read and reviewed the Wedding Information Documents and had an initial conversation with the Pastor. We hereby consent to the churches guidelines, procedures and timelines.

Bride's Signature..... Groom's Signature.....

GUIDELINES FOR FLORISTS

SHARE THIS IMPORTANT INFO WITH YOUR FLORIST!



If you are using a runner, our aisle is 75' long.

If you use pew bows, flowers, or other decorations: please use ribbon to hold the bows in place or padded clamps to protect the wood.

The church has pew candles and candelabra available for wedding use if requested. (Additional Fees Apply)

Candles with flame may NOT be used in the windows.

Decorations must be in place at least one hour prior to the wedding. Please notify the church at least 10 days prior to the ceremony.

All decorations must be removed within the 4 hour time limit on building use. The church is not responsible for removal of your decorations.

The custodian has cleaned your area prior to your arrival. If your florist leaves debris prior to the wedding, they need to clean it.



The church is not responsible for any items left behind.

GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

SHARE THIS IMPORTANT INFO WITH YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER!

NOT ALLOWED

1. NO FLASH EXCEPT FROM THE REAR OF THE SANCTUARY DURING THE PROCESSIONAL OR RECESSIONAL.
2. PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WALK FORWARD ON THE MAIN FLOOR AT ANY TIME DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE (AFTER THE BRIDE ARRIVES AT THE FRONT)
3. SOME VIDEO SETUPS ARE NOT ALLOWED. VIDEO EQUIPMENT MUST BE APPROVED BY PASTOR

Pictures during Worship may be taken (without flash) from the Narthex or Balcony

Posed pictures may be taken in the Bride's Room, Atrium, Courtyard, or other areas prior to or following the ceremony.

Posed pictures of the ceremony may be taken in the sanctuary after guests leave.

Inform the pastor in advance if he is needed for any posed photographs.



Please consult the pastor or building coordinator before setting up equipment.