



**Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**208 Woods Drive**  
**Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17050**

*A Member Congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

---

## **GUIDELINES FOR HOLY MATRIMONY**

In accordance with Biblical teaching and the doctrinal position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), marriage is a sacramental act in which one man marries one woman. As Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church is a member congregation of The LCMS, it will abide by the doctrinal positions of The LCMS in regards to its guidelines for Holy Matrimony. In accordance with LCMS policies and resolutions regarding marriage, pastors of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church will not officiate over any marriage inconsistent with these beliefs. Additionally, the property of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church will not be used for any marriage ceremony, reception, or other activity that would be inconsistent with these beliefs and this policy.

The Rite of Holy Matrimony in the Christian Church is to give honor to Christ, our Lord; therefore, the wedding service will be consistent with the rubrics of *Lutheran Service Book*. Exceptions to the rubrics of *Lutheran Service Book* may be discussed with the Pastor in consultation with the Board of Deacons.

In the wedding ceremony, if Holy Communion is not celebrated, the Service of the Word, Matins, or Vespers will be observed. These service orders include the Prayer of the Day, Lessons, and a Sermon. The bride and groom may select appropriate lessons, a Psalm, and a hymn with guidance from the Pastor.

When the Eucharist is celebrated at a wedding, the Service of the Word and the Service of Holy Matrimony precede the Service of the Sacrament. The Eucharist will be distributed to all who are eligible to receive it, and it will not be limited to the bride and groom or the wedding party. The Parish Communion Statement will be included in the service folder.

The pastor of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church will preside and assistants may be used with his permission. The pastor, by virtue of his office and training, will make final decisions pertaining to the order of the service and the ceremonies connected with it.

## WHERE TO BEGIN

Those who plan to be married in the church should contact the pastor to discuss their desire and the nature of marriage. Weddings performed outside the church building are discouraged. At least two months' notice is required. The organist should also be consulted concerning availability.

Sessions of premarital counseling will be scheduled with the pastor, the date of the wedding will be confirmed, and the church calendar will be updated.

It is expected that the couple has demonstrated and will continue to demonstrate a commitment to the Church of Jesus Christ. The bride and/or groom will be (a) member(s) of Calvary. If neither the bride nor the groom is a member of Calvary, the conduct of the wedding in the church will be at the discretion of the Pastor, in consultation with the Board of Deacons. It is expected that non-member couples will make a commitment to attend the Pastor's instruction class.

## RULES REGARDING WEDDING PRACTICES

- MUSIC** Music will be selected in consultation with the church organist, and it will be consistent with the teachings and worship practices of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church. *Non-sacred music is not permitted.* The church organist will be used. A guest organist may be used with the approval of the church organist. Soloists and other musicians are permitted within the above guidelines.
- SERVICE FOLDERS** Orders of Worship for congregational participation are encouraged. The couple will be responsible for purchasing the service folder. The service folder will be approved by the Pastor, and the church office will provide the printing of the basic service folder.
- PHOTOGRAPHY** *NO FLASH CAMERAS will be used during the Service.* Video cameras will be located in an inconspicuous location with guidance from the Pastor.
- FLOWERS** Flowers may be placed in the chancel area, *but not on the altar.*
- UNITY CANDLE** A ceremony using a "Unity Candle" is permitted. The couple will provide the candles.
- OTHER OBSERVANCES** The throwing of birdseed and/or the use of bubbles will be limited to the outside of the building. *Confetti and rice are not permitted.*

## RECEPTION AT THE CHURCH

If a reception is desired in the Fellowship Room of the Church, the couple will seek approval from the Board of Trustees. The Fellowship Room has a seating capacity of **85** persons. Consistent with the example of Jesus' providing the wine at the wedding at Cana, wine may be served to toast the bride and groom. If wine will be served, a waiver document provided by the trustees will be signed, and proof of personal liability insurance will be provided by the couple and/or the parents of the couple.

## EXPECTED REMUNERATIONS FOR SERVICES OF THE CHURCH

<b>Organists' Fee</b>	\$150.00 \$50.00 per hour for rehearsal with bridal party \$30.00 per hour for additional rehearsals \$15.00 per person hired for contracting singers and/or instrumentalists
<b>Custodial Fee</b>	\$50.00 for the wedding ceremony \$100.00 for the wedding ceremony and a reception at the church
<b>Pastor</b>	A gratuity is traditional.

---

*Approved by the Board of Deacons: October 1982  
(Revised August 1992)  
(Revised June 2002)  
(Revised August 2009)  
(Revised August 2015)  
(Revised April 2016)*