



Planning Your Wedding
Information and Instructions

prepared by the
Wedding Committee
of the Altar Guild of
St. Luke's Church

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50 Pope Avenue
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
843-785-4099

Notes From the Rector

Marriage is a sacred union of two people that was ordained by God at creation and sanctioned by Jesus by His presence and first miracle in Cana of Galilee.

Christian marriage is a covenant relationship between a man and a woman that binds them together as husband and wife.

Marriage is given to us for our mutual joy, help and comfort in prosperity and adversity, and when it is God's will, for the procreation and nurture of children. It is also given as a visible reflection of the bond between Christ and the Church.

At St. Luke's, our goal is to prepare you for, and help you have, a Christian marriage through pre-marital counseling, the marriage ceremony, and serving you throughout your life here.

May our Lord bless you as you begin this journey together with Him!

The Reverend Gregory J. Kronz

7. What time will the wedding party be arriving at the church on the wedding day? The Wedding Committee recommends arriving at least forty-five minutes before the ceremony is due to begin.
8. Will the wedding party be dressing at the church? The Library is available. The groom and best man should gather in the location designated by the clergy, usually the Choir Room and/or the Sacristy.

At the rehearsal and at the ceremony members of the Wedding Committee will be present for guidance and to make suggestion to the wedding party at the altar, etc. Please bring to the rehearsal:

1. The marriage license;
2. Payments for the organist and the sexton, if not already paid;
3. Pew assignment sheet to help identify the persons to be seated as "family" and the groomsmen/ushers who will seat them. Please designate someone to be responsible for the seating and escorting out of the mothers and grandmothers.

On the day of the wedding, a committee member will be at the church one hour prior to the ceremony. Please bring to the wedding:

1. The rings;
2. The bride's and attendants' flowers, if not being delivered to the church.

TO THE BRIDE.....

The wedding committee of St. Luke's Episcopal Church serves as a source of information for the wedding couple and their families regarding traditions and customs of the church. A member of the wedding committee will be present at the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. The following information will be helpful in planning your wedding.

To assure that the planning and the ceremony itself move smoothly, there are a number of things we will need to know. A member of the committee will be in touch with you, or whoever is making the arrangements prior to the ceremony to determine:

1. What is the size of the wedding party: bridesmaids, maid or matron of honor, groomsmen, best man, flower girl, ring bearer, etc.?
2. Will there be a Eucharist? If so, when, (rehearsal or wedding ceremony)? Who will be included for communion (the bridal couple, the wedding party, the whole congregation)?
3. If there is a wedding director, what is her name and telephone number?
4. When is the date and time of the rehearsal? The wedding party should plan to assemble at the church thirty minutes prior to that time, so that the rehearsal can begin on time.
5. Exactly who will be seated just prior to the ceremony (mothers, grandmothers, etc.)?
6. How many pews will you need to have reserved for family and special friends?

Regulations for Weddings

1. Consultation with the clergy is necessary before a wedding date may be set. In accordance with Canon Law, at least thirty days' notice is required, and sufficient time is needed to complete pre-marital counseling and to establish Church membership.
2. Instruction in Christian marriage as a preparation to marriage and the answering of questions relative to your intentions is required by our Canon Law. It is therefore necessary for you and your fiancé to meet together with one of the clergy. You may call the Ministry Center to make an appointment (785-4099).
3. All marriages are governed by the laws of the State of South Carolina and the Solemnization of Marriage by the Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church. It is your responsibility to fulfill the requirements of the licensing law in South Carolina and canons of our church. You must present a valid license prior to the service.
4. Marriage can only be solemnized in the church when:
 - a. both parties have received Christian Baptism;
 - b. a dispensation has been received from the proper church authority if either party has been divorced;
 - c. this ceremony at St. Luke's will be the only religious ceremony to take place.
5. The marriage license must be obtained in South Carolina.
6. Before any minister other than the rector or associate is engaged, the St. Luke's parish clergy must be consulted.

7. **The sexton's fee is \$100.** There may be additional sexton fees if other church facilities are used. These facilities include the Parish Hall and the kitchen. If you are considering using these rooms please ask for the regulations and fees for their use. Your caterer should contact the sexton for details.
8. Please contact the organist Nina Rodman (843-363-6471) and the clergy who will officiate before any music is chosen. It is helpful to remember in choosing music that this is a Christian marriage ceremony and service of worship. Nina shall provide and perform the music except when her permission has first been sought and obtained for another person to take part. **The fee for consultation, rehearsal and ceremony is \$300.** There will be an additional charge for providing soloists or for instrumentalists, and/or extra rehearsals.
9. Wedding rehearsals are generally held the day before the wedding. It shall be arranged by appointment with the clergy and organist. Since a wedding is a religious service, the clergy shall have full charge of the rehearsal. A member of the Wedding Committee will be present to assist the bride.
10. There will be no alcohol permitted at the rehearsal or wedding ceremony.
11. Arrangements must be made with the Flower Committee, which is responsible for all flowers and decorations in the church. Normal decorum is flowers at the altar only, arranged with simplicity and good taste. Any additional decorations must be approved by the clergy. Flowers at the altar are considered to have been given to the church and are always placed there by a member of the Flower Guild. Ribbons and small floral arrangements for pew designation are allowed. Call the Ministry Center (843-785-4099) to make arrangements.

12. We ask that the photographers remain at the back of the church, refrain from using flash photography, and take only time exposures during the ceremony. Photography following the service should be limited to thirty minutes. Guidelines for video taping during the ceremony require that the videographer be located in a well-screened location that has been cleared with the clergy.
13. A wedding is a public service, and no person may be excluded from the church except when the number of invited guests approximates the seating capacity and cards of admission have been issued. The church now seats about 580 persons.
14. St. Luke's asks that you begin weddings no later than 7:00pm on Saturday evenings. If you choose a day other than Saturday, please discuss the time with the clergy.
15. Often times brides and their families choose to have a bulletin with the order of service, especially if many in attendance are unfamiliar with Church. The wedding chairman has examples of those used in previous weddings.
16. **An honorarium for clergy is customary.** We are often asked for a recommendation and a recommended amount would be \$300.
17. All fees are to be paid on or before the rehearsal date.

