

# Weddings at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Dear Friends,

Congratulations, you have decided to get married! It is a very exciting time for you, and probably one that already shows signs of being hectic as well. Getting married is one of the biggest changes that happens in life, and so it may also be a time of anxiety. As the people of God, however, we know that our God, who never changes, brings security into the changing conditions of life.

We at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will do all that we can to insure that the planning for your wedding goes smoothly and that your marriage ceremony is a joyous one.

Please carefully read through this entire booklet before meeting with one of the pastors. We also encourage you to bring any questions with you to that first session. It is our prayer that God will be with you in the midst of your wedding preparations and that these preparations will deepen your relationship to God and the Church.

*In order to reserve the church for a specific date, you must fill out the “**Wedding Form**” found with this material and deliver it to the church office with your deposit.*

You may reserve the sanctuary up to 18 months in advance of the wedding.

God’s peace and joy be with you as you plan your wedding!

## ***The Ceremony***

Lutherans understand marriage, and especially the love it is based upon, to be a gift from God. Since it is a gift from God, Lutherans treat marriage with respect and honor. The ceremony, therefore, is first and foremost a worship service. During the service we will give thanks for all God’s blessings to us. We will remember God’s faithfulness as the basis for the wedding vows.

Because the Holy Eucharist is the chief service of the church, the sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered as part of the worship service at weddings. The invitation to communion is always extended to the entire congregation in attendance. The sacrament is never to be offered exclusively for certain persons in the wedding party.

Because marriage is a worship service, any special music or readings should be sacred in nature. “Love songs” by your favorite recording artists would more appropriately be planned for a reception. Readings and poems (other than from the Bible) need to be reviewed and approved by the pastors.

Vows may be written by the couple in consultation with one of the pastors. However, they must include a faithful commitment to one another and to God.

Some popular traditions have no place within a Christian Wedding service.

“Giving away the bride.” Escorting is fine; it is a wonderful way to honor a parent, relative or close friend. But since the woman being married is doing this of her own volition and not as a property transaction, it is not necessary to give her away.

“The wedding veil.” The veil is acceptable for the procession but must be lifted for the wedding service, and especially the vows.

### ***Premarital Counseling & Engaged Encounter***

All arrangements for the marriage service shall be made in consultation with one of the Prince of Peace pastors. This should be done at least six months in advance of the wedding date.

Premarital counseling will include three meetings with the pastor. These sessions will provide you with the opportunity to meet with the pastor performing the ceremony to do the actual planning of the marriage service. In addition, you will be selecting the scripture lessons to be read, agreeing on the wording of your wedding vows, deciding on music to be played, and dealing with a host of other items such as flowers, bulletins, candles, etc.

Secondly, in an age when there are so many pressures affecting the strength of marriages, the premarital counseling sessions will give you an opportunity to explore your unique relationship. What are its strengths? What causes conflict between you? How well do you communicate? How do you plan to mix the traditions that each of you brings from his or her family of origin? How effectively do you affirm and show appreciation for one another? What can biblical stories teach us about relationships?

Thirdly, the sessions allow you and the pastor to become better acquainted. In that way, the pastor will be better able to make suggestions that will help make the ceremony even more meaningful. It will also enable you to feel more confident and comfortable about the planning process and the service itself.

Another opportunity for engaged couples is called “Engaged Encounter”. This seminar is lead by a clinical psychologist and includes time for each engaged couple to be linked with a mentoring couple from the congregation. The seminar, held with other area Lutheran churches, is normally held on a Sunday afternoon. Schedules are available from the pastors.

## ***Guidelines***

We have some additional specific guidelines at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

- Please contact our organist, Lucille Gill, as soon as possible after our first meeting to plan the music for the service. If she is not available to play for your wedding, she can suggest other organists for you to contact. Also, Lucille is willing to help you arrange for a soloist. You may reach her at: (614) 777-9692 (home), (614) 210-5178 (work), or lucille.gill@bcdtravel.com (e-mail).
- No flash photography is allowed during the service. Please inform your photographer. He or she should have equipment that will allow him/her to use existing light. You can plan to take posed photographs before or after the service. Opportunity for re-enactments of parts of the service can be provided.
- Many couples now desire to have the ceremony video-taped. The videographer cannot walk around the sanctuary during the service. He/she should speak to the pastor in order to find a position on the side of the sanctuary from which to photograph the ceremony.
- Please tell your bridesmaids and ushers that confetti, rice, balloons and birdseed are not to be thrown inside or outside the church.
- Please secure all of your belongings while at the church. Prince of Peace is not responsible for the theft or loss of any personal belongings.
- Because of the penitential nature of the season, weddings are usually not held during the season of Lent and never during Holy Week.
- Please bring the marriage license to the rehearsal. According to the laws of the State of Ohio, the wedding cannot take place unless the pastor has possession of the license. All wedding fees are also given at this time.

## ***Other Valuable Information***

Our sanctuary will seat about 350 people comfortably.

We have standing flower vases that can be used for “altar” flowers. In addition, flowers can be attached to the aisle candle stands. If you plan to have other floral arrangements, the pastor can advise you in this area. Normally, the church building is open 1 ½ hours before the start of the wedding. The florist should arrange to deliver at that time.

If the wedding party is going to dress at the church, you will need to allow plenty of time for those preparations. If you will want to arrive more than 1 ½ hours prior to the service, the pastors will need to be informed of what time to open the building.

Someone from the wedding party should be assigned the task of clearing the classrooms and restrooms of personal effects after the service. This will prevent purses, cameras, clothing, etc. from being left behind.

Our church fellowship hall, which can seat 240 people for dinner, can be used for your wedding reception. Please see the “Facilities Use Guide” for more information.

All smoking is prohibited throughout our church building and grounds.

Everyone in the wedding party and parents should plan to be present for the rehearsal. Expect the rehearsal to last an hour. Please be on time for the rehearsal as there is occasionally more than one rehearsal in an evening and/or the church staff may have additional plans for that evening.

If you wish the pastor and pastor’s spouse to join you for the rehearsal dinner and/or the reception after the wedding, please invite them to these functions when you send out your invitations. They may have other prior commitments, but it will make communication and planning for everyone easier. Please let the pastor know if you would like him/her to say the table grace at the reception and/or rehearsal dinner.

Weddings by their nature involve costs. Here are the costs associated with your wedding at Prince of Peace:

Wedding Deposit      \$100.00

    This non-refundable deposit reserves your wedding date.

Engaged Encounter    \$100.00 – optional

Organist                \$200.00

    It is your responsibility to make arrangements and discuss fees with other soloists and musicians.

Custodial Services    \$200.00

Use of Fellowship Hall

    \$200.00

    This non-refundable deposit reserves the fellowship hall for your wedding.

All checks should be made payable to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. All fees may be waived if there are special needs or circumstances. Contact one of our pastors for any fee reductions. All fees are due at the wedding rehearsal.

## ***Options You May Want to Consider***

### *Other Worship Leaders*

It is possible for more than one pastor to conduct the service. If the other pastor you want to include is not from Prince of Peace, the invitation to that other pastor would be offered by the pastor from our church who will be officiating at the service.

You may want to ask a family member or someone from the wedding party to read one or more of the Scripture lessons.

### *Candles*

The candles on the altar regularly used for worship will be lit for the service. The candles can be lit by an usher from the wedding party. You may also choose to use the candelabras behind the altar and/or the aisle candles.

You can also plan to have a unity candle present for the service. Three candles are used; two are lit at the beginning of the service and one is lit by the two of you during the service. You can purchase a set from your florist, greeting card stores, candle shops, or create your own. Prince of Peace has a candle stand for unity candles.

### *Bulletins*

You are responsible for the creation and duplication of any bulletins. Orders of worship and/or examples of bulletins can be shared with you by the pastors.

# Wedding Form

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
**5475 Brand Road**  
**Dublin, OH 43017**  
**Phone: 614/766-6377 – Fax: 614/336-8639**

Place, Date and Time of Rehearsal: \_\_\_\_\_

Place, Date and Time of Wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Guests at Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Place, Date and Time of Reception: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bride:** Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Birthplace and Date \_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Marriage \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

Date Divorce Finalized (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**Groom:** Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Birthplace and Date \_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Marriage \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

Date Divorce Finalized (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Future Residence \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this to the church office. Retain a copy for your information.  
Your wedding is only reserved once the church has this form and your deposit of \$100.00  
and has checked the master calendar for availability.*