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| **Wedding Guidelines**  [https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/_/rsrc/1370451194204/home/wedding-guidelines/Wedding.jpg](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/Wedding.jpg?attredirects=0)  St. Paul Lutheran Church PO Box 99 405 2nd St. NW Hinckley, MN 55037 Phone: (320) 384-6267  Draft: 07/31/2012  Revised 09/09/2019  **Table of Contents**  [I. Introduction](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/i-introduction)  [II. The Pastor](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/ii-the-pastor)  [III. Five Basic Understandings About a Christian Wedding](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/iii-five-basic-understandings-about-a-christian-wedding)  [IV. Things To Do in Advance](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/iv-things-to-do-in-advance)  [V. 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There are many items which are your sole responsibility. You are encouraged to write notes in this document as you read through it to remind yourselves of the various items you will have to do.  Also remember that your wedding here at St. Paul Lutheran Church is a privilege. The guidelines set out in this handbook are here to explain how weddings are done in this church. If you feel you would like to have items in your wedding which will not comply with the principles provided here, the congregation and pastor will in no way be offended if you choose to have your wedding elsewhere. Weddings conducted at St. Paul Lutheran Church are first and foremost a worship service. As such, all components, music, and words must be focused on the joy of salvation we receive through the work of Jesus Christ. You can ask for anything, but please realize that the pastor must have the final rule on what can, and cannot, be present in a Christian wedding service of worship.  With that said....  **Congratulations on your engagement and your forthcoming wedding!!** You as a Christian man and woman will want your wedding to be characterized not only by dignity, reverence, and joy, but most of all, by the very presence of Jesus Christ Himself. The wedding service in which you, as a Christian couple, will be joined in marriage should be a joyful act of God-directed, Christ-centered worship. This imposes certain responsibilities, just as it offers certain blessings, upon both you and your church. This manual is provided as an aid to planning your wedding in this church, and having it centered around Jesus, rather than yourselves, as it should be.  Before you continue reading this document with your fiancé, please stop for a moment and reflect on the wonderful promise from God, that He will be your guide in your marriage. A Christian marriage should be filled with prayer. As you continue in prayer together, you will find life, and life's tensions more easily dealt with. If you are not accustom to praying together, this might be a prayer you could pray together right now:  ***Dear Lord Jesus, we want You to come to our wedding and be a guest in our home throughout the coming years. Take the place of honor in our home and our hearts. Let all we do reflect Your will for us. Give us Your gifts that will be for our good. Come Lord Jesus, be our guest. Amen.***  I pray that God's richest blessings would rest upon you as you plan your wedding, and most importantly upon your marriage and life together as one, as God designed and prescribes.  **II. The Pastor**  The pastor will officiate over all weddings that take place at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weddings will be conducted only for couples where one or both are members, in good standing, of this congregation. The service will take place in the sanctuary since a Christian wedding is a worship service. Another pastor may perform a wedding in our sanctuary only if permission is first obtained by the pastor, and then the church council here at St. Paul Lutheran Church, and the guest pastor is a member, in good standing, with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Clergy from outside the LC–MS may not conduct a wedding at our building. Clergy from outside the LC–MS may participate in the service only as a layperson. In such a case they may not be dressed in any way that would designate them as clergy.[1](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines" \l "sdfootnote1sym)  **III. Five Basic Understandings About a Christian Wedding**   1. ***A Christian wedding is a worship service.***   A Christian service of worship always insists that God alone be placed at the center of worship, and that we direct primary attention to Him. In the wedding service the bride is not the center. Neither is the flower girl, or anyone else. **God** is the center of everything that happens in the worship service. Anything that shifts the focus away from God violates this principle and cannot be a part of the service. Everything in the Christian wedding service must give witness to the fact that we are at worship in God's House the Church, bringing our willing commitment to the Lord for His blessings.   1. ***A Christian wedding is a public service.***   This means that weddings are a part of the congregation's act of worship and praise. Even when the wedding is attended by only the pastor, bride, groom, and two witnesses, it is still called a “public” worship service because it is a service that belongs to all of the people of God. Any service held in the church is, and must be, a service of worship that allows the entire congregation to proudly express its faith to Christ. All aspects of the service must therefore be appropriate for any public worship service.   1. ***A Christian wedding is a corporate service.***   This means that all those present are linking spiritual hands and uniting in one singular act of worship. Everyone present has an important role in the worship service whether they are listening, speaking, singing, or praying. A Christian wedding service is not a performance for the audience to observe. All are present to worship. All are present to witness. All are present to acknowledge that marriage, and God's design for marriage, are God's idea, and in this wedding the bride and groom are accepting humble submission to God and God's plan, as prescribed in His Word. Therefore planning a Christian wedding required that all those present have a part to play, and effort should be made to allow all who are present to express their worship and praise with you.   1. ***A Christian wedding is a time of clear proclamation.***   In the wedding we want to say some very important things about life, love, grace, peace, forgiveness, and sacrifice found in Christ's birth, life, death, resurrection, and return. These things should be proclaimed with open boldness and assurance of their truths. This worship service is to the glory of God, and you have elected to have your wedding here to proudly proclaim that important part of your life and faith. Let everyone know that. If the service is to proclaim Christ as an invited and treasured guest, then let that be heard by everyone present.   1. ***A Christian wedding is a time of celebration.***   Christians celebrate a lot of things in life, and we want to celebrate God's goodness to you in finding each other. We can all celebrate this delightful relationship called marriage, which God, in His wisdom and love, has established according to His design. Each of you will have the opportunity to celebrate the promise of the Lord that He will never abandon His children. This is the most important thing we have to celebrate as we come together in joy to make this union in a fitting and proper way before God.  **IV. Things to Do in Advance**   * 1. Schedule a meeting with the pastor to choose a date to reserve the church and facilities you would like to use, and to schedule the required counseling sessions. There will be a nominal charge (the cost required to have the per-marital inventory sent out for evaluation. Usually from $25-$50.) Counseling at St. Paul Lutheran Church has been designed to comply with Minnesota requirements to allow the bride and groom to take advantage of the significantly reduced marriage license fee. St. Paul Lutheran Church will not do “photo-op” weddings. No wedding will be done without completing all of the premarital counseling sessions.   2. Get premarital counseling. You would not buy a car or a house without proper information and preparation. A wedding is far more important, and as such St. Paul Lutheran Church requires premarital counseling. Wedding will not be conducted without some kind counseling. If you choose to take premarital counseling from someone other than the pastor you will need to get that approved first. A wedding in the Church is a sacred act, and God is an integral and important part of that wedding. As such we will require counseling that includes a Christian foundation and Christian principles for what a biblical marriage is supposed to be.   3. A valid marriage license is to be provided to the pastor no later than one week before the wedding. A wedding will not be conducted without a marriage license. Although God does not require such a written document, there are certain protections and rights that are afforded to you by the state in a legally recognized marriage. As such, St. Paul Lutheran Church will require a marriage license be obtained. (**NOTE:** In Pine County there is a **5 business** **day** delay to receive the license. Both parties must be present to apply for the license and both must provide a valid picture ID, along with Social Security Numbers. Questions concerning obtaining a valid marriage license should be directed to the Pine County Court House.)   4. You are responsible for obtaining the services of a photographer, florist, and musicians. This should be done as soon as possible. Each of these service providers must comply with the guidelines provide later in this handbook.   **V. Required Elements of Christian Wedding Worship Service**  **Procession:**  The purpose of the procession is to get everyone to their places in an orderly manner. There are many variants of processionals. Caution needs to be taken that the procession does not become a grand display. Normal walking, tasteful attire, and a reasonable number of attendants are appropriate for a Christian wedding service of worship.  **Invocation:**  The invocation sets the tone of the worship service, and expresses God's presence and primary importance to the service. It is an acknowledgement that we obediently desire God's attention, presence, and blessing upon the wedding, as well as the public proclamation of His Holy Word.  **Scripture Readings:**  Scripture readings can be selected by you, or the pastor can select them for you. The Scripture readings selected should reflect your obedience to God, and your desire for His presence in your marriage. Usually there are three readings. An Old Testament, an Epistle[2](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines" \l "sdfootnote2sym), and a Gospel[3](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines" \l "sdfootnote3sym) reading. You may also add a reading from the Psalms. Some suggestions are provided here for you. If you would like to select a reading other than those provided here be sure to get the pastor's approval. The Bible readings are always read by the pastor, during the worship service.  Old Testament:       Genesis 1:26-28      Genesis 2:7, 18-24      Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9-10      Song of Songs/Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7      Isaiah 61:7-11      Hosea 2:18-23  Epistle:       Romans 12:1-2      1 Corinthians 6:12-20; 7:4-5      1 Corinthians 13:1-13      Ephesians 5:1-2; 22-33      Philippians 4:4-7      Colossians 3:12-17      1 Thessalonians 4:1-8      Hebrews 13:1-8      1 John 4:7-12      Revelation 19:6-9      Revelation 21:1-5  Gospel:       Matthew 19:4-6      Mark 10:1-16      John 2:1-11      John 15:9-12  Psalms:      Psalm 45:13-17     Psalm 67     Psalm 100     Psalm 117     Psalm 127     Psalm 128  **The Sermon:**  The sermon provides an opportunity for you as a couple, and all those in attendance to be taught from God's Word, and to hear His desire for your lives as well as their own. It is a time to learn how to apply God's Word to your lives. The pastor will write the sermon. If there are any thoughts you would like to have included in the sermon you should provide those to the pastor, in writing, as soon as possible.  **The Vows:**  The vows you take are shaped by the Word of God, and your commitment to each other. In the vows, the bride and groom promise to act toward each other in a manner that God has designed and specified. The vows you take are provided in the Lutheran Hymnal resources. The pastor can show them to you before-hand. We do not allow the couple to write their own vows, or to changing the vows as they are provided to you. If there are some personal sentiments that you would like to speak publicly to each other, the wedding reception may be a good place to do that.  **Prayers:**  The prayers gather up the thoughts of the service and commend the couple to God's care. The prayers are provided by the pastor.  **Blessing:**  The final blessing that is most often used is something called the Aaronic Blessing. These are Words prescribed by God, and first given to Arron, Moses' brother, to speak over the people. These words of blessing have been spoken over God's people for well over 3,000 years.  **VI. Optional elements for a Christian Wedding Worship Service**  **The Lord's Supper:**  The Lord's Super can be included in a wedding service, however, the same restrictions that apply to a regular Sunday worship service also apply to a wedding worship service. Those from outside of confessions of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod may not come to the altar to receive this holy and sacred meal.[4](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines" \l "sdfootnote4sym) Because families these days are so often filled with people of many denominations Holy Communion is rarely included simply to avoid confusion and distraction from the wedding worship service.  **Congregational Responses:**  Additions that lend to the atmosphere of celebration, assist in worship, or encourage congregational participation in the wedding worship service may be included in the wedding. These can include hymns, responsive readings, prayers, litanies, and the like. Any additions beyond those prescribed in the wedding worship service must be approved by the pastor.  **Wedding Service Bulletins:**  Wedding service bulletins are a useful mean of assisting the entire congregation in following the worship service. By printing out the various components of the worship service, as well as the words to prayers, and Scripture readings, you can encourage the congregation to have a more active and meaningful time joining you in worship of God.  *You are responsible for the purchase and printing of service bulletins.* The church secretary can assist in typing and copying, but understand that there will be a fee for that service. Usually ranging at about 5-cents per page, per side. The bride and groom must proof-read a copy of the bulletin no less than one week before the wedding and provide final approval before printing can begin. The church is not responsible for any typographical errors or omission after the final approval is provided.  **Expressions of Gratitude:**  Some couples choose to add a component to the worship service expressing thanks to their parents, or some other special person who has been influential in bringing them up in the Christian Church and mentoring them to this point in life, as well as for the love and care they have received from them. One such expression of the giving of a rose, or some other flower, to that individual can be included.  **Unity Candle:**  The unity candle is a visual display of the bonds into which you are entering under God's watch and care. The process includes taking two individual candles that are lit from the Christ Candle. This signifies that your life, and all you have, comes from the life Jesus Christ has given to you. The two candles are then brought to the altar where the two will light a larger single candle. The two individual candles are then extinguished. This symbolizes your unity with each other. The Unity Candle is placed on the altar of God representing His presence in your lives. You are responsible for the purchase of these candles. The church can provide a stand for them, or you can bring your own.  **Altar Flowers:**  Flowers are often a very visible item at weddings. You may place your flowers in the vases provided or bring your own. If you wish to leave your flowers for the Sunday worship service, you may either sign up on the Flower Calendar (see the church secretary) or leave your own vases in church through Sunday morning.  **Other Items:**  There may be other elements you would like to include in your wedding. Be certain to get the pastor's approval for every aspect you wish to include in your wedding. Please also understand that some requests may not be approved for various reasons. You must comply with the pastor's assessment and opinion in these matters. Be sure to get your requests in early so that an answer can be provided to you in adequate time.  **VII. Items of Concern for a Christian Wedding Worship Service**  **Flower Girl / Ring Bearer:**  Including small children in the worship service does run the risk of being disruptive. Care should be taken to select children who you know will behave well. Also, care should be taken to provide opportunity for the children to sit down, rather than expect them to stand for the entire service. Flower girls may drop petals along the aisle as they walk forward. It is very unwise to allow the ring bearers to carry the actual rings. Ring Bearers should be given token rings to carry.  **The rings:**  The rings should be given to the pastor before the service. He will place them on the altar at the beginning of the service. This ensures that the rings are readily available, and present, at the appropriate time in the worship service.  **Pictures:**  Only the official wedding photographer is allowed to take pictures during the wedding service provided the photographer is not using a flash, and the camera is silent, no shutter clicking, or beeping. In addition, the photographer must not become a distraction to anyone during the worship service by moving around or blocking people's view. Photos should be taken from the back of church. Any scene the bride and groom would like to have captured in picture can be reproduced before or after the worship service. The pastor can be available for these pictures if you schedule that time in advance so that he is aware that he needs to be present.  Members of the assembly in attendance are not allowed to take any photos during the service.  Camcorders are allowed so long as they are unmanned, mounted on a tripod, and off to the side of the church or in some other way out of sight. No extra lighting may be used during the worship service. Directions, which you are required to give to the photographer, are found later in this handbook.  **Special attention to property:**  Although it is rare, items can be stolen at church. Weddings tend to be publicly announced events, and as such unscrupulous individuals may see that as an opportunity to steal items of value. Please do not leave anything valuable in the rooms at the church. Place these items in the care of a trusted individual who can ensure they are returned to you. St. Paul Lutheran Church cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items.    **VIII. Items Which Cannot Appear in a Christian Wedding Worship**  **Service**  **The “Bridal Chorus” and the “Wedding March”**  The “Bridal Chorus” and the “Wedding March” although popular in many secular weddings, are not appropriate for a Christian worship service because of the context in which they have been used in popular theater including Shakespeare's '*A Midsummers Night's Dream*.' In this context marriage is not respected or revered, but rather mocked and degraded.  Since music in a wedding worship service is to glorify God, and provide opportunity for you and the congregation to worship, the music you select should contribute to the atmosphere of respect we should offer to God in all things. Additional information about proper music selection will be provided later in this handbook.  **Rice and Bird Seed:**  You may not throw rice or birdseed on the church property. There a number of reasons for this. First the practice is tied to pagan worship rituals which should not be present in a Christian wedding. Secondly for insurance reasons. Such material can cause someone to lose their footing and fall. It also creates a mess which must be cleaned up before Sunday morning service so that it is not tracked back into the church on people's feet. Please ensure that your guests are all aware of this point. Bubbles have become a popular alternative.  **Smoking:**  St. Paul Lutheran Church does not allow any smoking within the building. Smoking is permitted outside, but cigarette butts should be discarded properly, not left on the ground.  **Alcohol:**  There is to be no drinking alcoholic beverages (with the exception of Holy Communion) anywhere on the church grounds. This includes the parking lot or the grassy areas. The wedding party will not consume any alcohol prior to the wedding. If anyone in the wedding party appears to be under the influence of alcohol, or any other substance, they will not be allowed to participate, or the wedding will be canceled.    **IX. Music for the Wedding Service**  The marriage service is a worship service. As in any worship service, the music should be chosen with care and proper discrimination. All the music should reflect the mood and meaning of the service, and direct the congregation's thoughts toward God, and God's place in this marriage. Both the words, (whether sung or not) and the music itself, should contribute to the atmosphere of a worship service, showing respect and reverence for God, and our humble state under His loving and forgiving care.  There is a wealth of Christian wedding music available. The pastor can assist you in selecting appropriate music. The musicians in the church may also have suggestions for you. Remember that the selections must be Christian, and the words to the songs (whether they are sung or not) must reflect a Christian theme, and not teach something contrary to the confessions of the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod. *Popular secular music generally is not suitable for a worship service.* Those items may best be used at a wedding reception.  Music should be selected as soon as possible, so that you can get approval, and the musicians can practice. You are responsible for contacting and arranging musicians. Be certain that the musicians you select have the technical ability to play the instruments well. At the rehearsal, which is generally the night before the wedding, all musician must be present, and prepared to play all of the music selected. **Finally all music must be approved by the pastor before it can be included in a wedding service.**  Some additional notes on selecting Christian Contemporary Music (CCM) for your wedding service. The biggest problem with most CCM, over the last few years, is that it really isn't Christian. Although the artist may be a faithful Christian, the words to the songs make no mention of Jesus Christ, and no mention of His sacrifice and/or resurrection for our salvation. Many songs labeled as CCM over the last few years make no mention of God at all. When selecting music for your wedding service the lyrics (whether they are sung or not) must have a message that is a truly sound statement of the Christian faith. If you are selecting CCM for your wedding be certain you get the lyrics to the songs, and a recording of the music if possible, to the pastor as early as possible.  You should know that nearly all CCM proposed here over the last few years for weddings has not been something that we could use. We all want your wedding to be something special and wonderful for you, but here at St. Paul Lutheran Church we also must require that all worship services are just that, worship services. For that reason love songs to each other, and similar music, generally will not be acceptable. (Also, keep in mind that this is, in general, a fairly conservative congregation, so there is also a limit to how far we can go in terms of the style and beat of the music.)  Music options to consider including would be**:**   1. Hymns for the congregation to sing. 2. Soloists 3. Instrumentalists 4. The church choir may also be willing to attend and sing at your wedding.   Recommended organ music for processionals and recessionals.   * Arioso – Thanks be To God, G.F. Handel * Largo in G, G.F. Handel * Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, J.S. Bach * Psalm XIX, B. Marcello * The Price of Denmark March, J. Clark * Trumpet Tune, J. Clark * Trumpet Voluntary, J. Stanley * Hornpipe, G.F. Handel * Trumpet in B Flat Major, J. Melby * Prelude and Fugue #1, J.S. Bach * Arioso – Thanks be To God, G.F. Handel * Prelude in Classic Style, G. Young * Air, From Water Music Suite, G.F. Handel * Prelude and Fugue in F Major, J.S. Bach * Canon in D, J. Pachelbel * Fanfar, Lemmens   From the hymnal**:**   * LSB-547 The Lamb * LSB-685 Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus * LSB-700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling * LSB-718 Jesus, Lead Thou On * LSB-727 Eagles Wings * LSB-805 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow * LSB-818 In Thee Is Gladness * LSB-850 God of Grace and God of Glory * LSB-858 O Father All Creating * LSB-859 Lord When you Came as Welcome Guest * LSB-860 Gracious Savior, Grant You Blessing * LSB-790 Praise to the Lord the Almighty * LSB-895 Now Thank We All Our God   **X. Where music is placed in the worship service.**  **The Basic structure of a wedding worship service**  Prelude/Entrance music  Invocation/Introduction  Psalm Reading *(Optional)*  Old Testament Reading:  Hymn/Solo/Special music *(Optional)*  Epistle Reading:  Hymn/Solo/Special music *(Optional)*  Gospel Reading:  Sermon *Hymn/Solo/Special music (Optional)*  Sermon  Sermon *Hymn/Solo/Special music (Optional)*  Vows  Exchange of rings  Pronouncement of Marriage  Hymn/Solo/Special music *(Optional)*  Light the unity candle *(Optional)*  Prayers  Blessing  Presentation of the couple  Recessional/Exit Music  *More music can be added if you wish. Talk with the pastor about where it might best fit*  **XI. Church Fees and Wedding Reception**  Please remember that your wedding day is, as it most certainly should be, a very special and exciting day for you. It is for the church staff however an extra day of work. Although our congregation shares in your joy and excitement at this wonderful time in your life, please remember that some financial appreciation gift for all those who contribute to your wedding is appropriate. Consult a wedding planning guide to determine what is proper appreciation gift for all those working at your wedding.  If you desire to have a wedding reception in the church fellowship hall after the service, you must make plans to do that with the church secretary. Be sure to schedule this as soon as possible to ensure that the fellowship hall is available on the date you need it. The wedding party must provide all food, beverages, and disposable materials such as napkins. The dishes, cups, glasses, and silverware in the kitchen may be used, but it is your responsibility ensure all these items are cleaned and returned to their proper location after the reception. All setup, food service, and clean up is the responsibility of the wedding party. All food must be taken home by the wedding party. No food is to be left in the church after the reception.  Most weddings occur on Saturday and a church service, Sunday school, Bible Studies, and fellowship time will occur on Sunday morning. It is the responsibility of the wedding party to clean up, and return all rooms to the condition they were in when you arrived.  Refundable Fees:  If there is reception an additional $50.00 deposit is required to cover potential damage of kitchen items, spills, and other issues.  These fees must be sent to the church at least one week prior to the wedding service. Assuming no damage occurs the full amount of the deposits will be refunded the week following the wedding.    **XII. Directions for the Ushers**  **(Please give this page to the ushers.)**  The service the ushers provide can lead to a stress free time for the bridal party. Ushers are in charge of making last minute arrangements in the church, getting people seated promptly before that start of the worship service, and getting them out in an orderly fashion after the service has ended. Ushers should arrive at least 1 full hour before that start of the service.  **Duties of Ushers include**:   * 1. Check with the bride and groom to determine who is to light the candles. Candles should be lit about 15 minutes before the start of the worship service. Check with the Pastor to determine which candles are to be lit for the service.   2. See that people are seated when they arrive. Help avoid crowding in the church entrance area by encouraging guests to be seated as they arrive. If everyone is seated promptly the service can start in a timely fashion.   3. You may ask which side of the church they wish to be seated. The bride's family is on the left, as you face the altar, and the groom's family is on the right, as you face the altar. Check with the bride and groom to determine if they would like to follow this tradition.   4. Determine who is to usher in the bride's mother, and the groom's parents. Just before the service begins the groom's parents are ushered in first and seated on the right, as you face the altar. The bride's mother is ushered in immediately following the groom's parents. Also check to determine if there is special seating for certain family members like grandparents, or special guests. Reserve the front-center rows for the bride and groom's family.   5. Always offer your left arm and walk on the right of the lady to be ushered. Remain at the end of the pew (bench) until the guests have taken their seats. This is particularly important when ushering mothers and grandmothers.   6. After the parents have been seated the aisle runner (if one is being used) should be unrolled and secured in the back of the church.   7. No guests are to be seated while the bridal party is processing in. Guest who come late should wait to be seated until after the entire bridal party is at the altar. Late guest should be ushered in from the side aisles.   8. After the recessional, the ushers should walk up to the front of the church and usher the parents out. The bride's parents are ushered out first and then the groom's parents.   9. After the parents, grandparents and/or special guests have been ushered out the ushers should again proceed to the front of the church and direct the rest of the congregation to leave in an orderly fashion, from the front of the church to the back. Control the flow of people so that there is not a long line standing waiting for the reception line.   10. Taking ***any*** pictures during the worship service is strictly prohibited. Please inform guests with phones/cameras of this policy. ***Non-flash*** photos can be taken during the processional and recessional **only**. No photos of any kind are to be taken during the worship service by the assembly in the pews. If guests are using their phones to take photos, please have them turn their ringers/sound off.   **XIII. Directions for the Photographer**  ***(Please give this sheet to the photographer.)***  Policies of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hinckley, MN   * 1. Pictures may be taken before or after the service anywhere on the church premises.   2. You may enter the area in and around the altar, but show respect especially in this part of the church.   3. The photographer should not interfere with the flow of guests in or out of the church.   4. Do not delay the beginning of the worship service with extensive pictures in the church entrance prior to the ceremony.   5. No flash photographs, or cameras that make any kind of clicking or beeping will be allowed during the worship service.   6. The photographer may take one or two pictures of the bride as she begins to proceed down the aisle.   7. The photographer should not be moving around or obstructing people's view during the worship service.   8. Flash pictures of the processional and recessional are allowed, but do not obstruct the bridal party as the proceed.   9. The photographer may reproduce any scene from the wedding, after the service. The pastor will be available as much as possible before and after the wedding for pictures.   10. Video cameras without lights can be set up in the church including in the chancel (front by the altar) of the church so long as they are out of sight. These cameras are not to have anyone operating them during the service. They should be turned on and left alone. Consult with the pastor for appropriate placement of cameras.     **XIV. Lots of Rules**  There are a lot of rules in this manual, and most of them are to explain what you cannot do. This is primarily because documents like this one are compiled by pastors who have had to deny various requests for certain reasons, or because of problems that have occurred during wedding worship services. These rules are necessary to maintain an adherence to the confessions, doctrine, and teachings of the Church, and the traditions of this congregation. Care must be taken to respect the congregation's wishes for what is, and is not, acceptable in this sanctuary.  We must adhere to the concepts reflected in, among other places, 1 Corinthians 8, where we are taught that although some things may be acceptable in God's eyes, they might offend some, and so such things are avoided. The pastor, in determining what can and cannot be allowed, has to consider not only you and your wedding, but also his whole congregation and what effect it may have on those whose souls that are in his care. For that reason the pastor must have the final say when it comes to matter dealing with events taking place in this church.  Although there are a lot of thou-shalt-not's in this document we as a congregation, and I personally as your pastor, want this to be a wonderful, and memorable, time in your life. It is our prayer that your marriage would be the God designed lasting bond that will benefit you and all those around you. I pray that the Church will be an important and regular part of your life for as long as God graces you with life on this Earth.  My prayer for you is:  ***O Lord Jesus, Your mercies are new every day. I give thanks to You for this man and woman, whom You have brought together under Your care. Open their hearts to receive Your love more and more each day. Through Your grace, may their love for each other never grow weary, but rather increase and prosper through every joy and sorrow they share. This we pray in Your name, who with the Father, and the Holy spirit live and reign eternally, one God, now and forever. Amen.***  Footnotes:  [1](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines" \l "sdfootnote1anc)For more information on why this is necessary please speak with the pastor.  [2](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines" \l "sdfootnote2anc)'*Epistle'* is a Greek word that simply means a 'letter.' These are letters written by apostles to congregations.  [3](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines" \l "sdfootnote3anc)'*Gospel*' is a Greek word that means 'Good News.' These record the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.  [4](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines" \l "sdfootnote4anc)For more information on why this is necessary please speak with the pastor. |

Subpages (14): [III. Five Basic Understandings About a Christian Wedding](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/iii-five-basic-understandings-about-a-christian-wedding) [I. Introduction](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/i-introduction) [II. The Pastor](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/ii-the-pastor) [IV. Things To Do in Advance](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/iv-things-to-do-in-advance) [IX. Music for the Wedding Service](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/ix-music-for-the-wedding-service) [VIII. Items Which Cannot Appear in a Christian Wedding Worship Service](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/viii-items-which-cannot-appear-in-a-christian-wedding-worship-service) [VII. Items of Concern for a Christian Wedding Worship Service](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/vii-items-of-concern-for-a-christian-wedding-worship-service) [VI. Optional elements for a Christian Wedding Worship Service](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/vi-optional-elements-for-a-christian-wedding-worship-service) [V. Required Elements of Christian Wedding Worship Service](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/v-required-elements-of-christian-wedding-worship-service) [XI. Church Fees and Wedding Reception](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/xi-church-fees-and-wedding-reception) [XII. Directions for the Ushers](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/xii-directions-for-the-ushers) [XIII. Directions for the Photographer](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/xiii-directions-for-the-photographer) [XIV. Lots of Rules](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/xiv-lots-of-rules) [X. Where music is placed in the worship service](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulhinckleymn/home/wedding-guidelines/x-where-music-is-placed-in-the-worship-service)