



# The Beloved Community of Episcopal Church of the Intercession and Redeemer Lutheran

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## God's Blessing on Your Wedding and Your Marriage

The Redeemer Lutheran Church building is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and home to The Episcopal Church of the Intercession. Both churches allow pastors to bless same-sex unions and, where legal, preside at same-sex marriages. The Beloved Community of Redeemer Lutheran Church and The Episcopal Church of the Intercession do not discriminate against couples based on race, socioeconomics, religious background, previous marriages or relationships, having children from previous relationships, desire to have or not to have children, or cohabitation before marriage. All couples are received with welcome and grace, and expected to put serious work not only into preparing for the wedding, but into preparation for married life together.

### Pre-Marriage Preparations

Pre-marriage preparation consists of the following items to help make both your marriage and your wedding a success:

#### **At least five in-person meetings with the pastor focusing on the following areas:**

1. An initial "getting to know you" meeting includes time for you to ask the pastor any questions you might have regarding the wedding procedures and/or ceremony. This meeting with the pastor will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes.
2. Family of Origin: discussions on family dynamics, relationships and histories. This session will also involve dealing with conflict and health.
3. Finances and Faith: This third discussion will revolve around some of the issues that may be more intimate and can cause both joy and struggle in a lifelong commitment: faith, money, and sex. A discussion with the pastor about joining either congregation (Redeemer Lutheran or Episcopal Church of the Intercession), what that includes, expectations of both the church and the couple may occur during this meeting.
4. Covenantal relationships: What does it mean to be committed for a lifetime to another person? What does the Church have to say about marriage? What are our expectations of one another?
5. Planning the Ceremony: Putting it all together for the big day.

During this time of preparation, we ask that you make a commitment to attending worship together weekly (either Sunday or Wednesday evenings). This is the beginning of your life together as a Christian couple, and worship is central to who we are as Christians.

### Responsibility of the Couple For Wedding Ceremony

Your wedding involves several events promising life-long faithfulness. Since you have decided to have a Christian wedding, God will be worshipped, and the commands and promises of God's Word will be spoken.

- You will need to arrange for your own musician(s) and vocalists. When you do so, please discuss fees with them. You will pay them directly.
- If you decide to have a bulletin/program it is your responsibility to provide it. We can provide a simple bulletin (black and white only). The fee is \$25 for every 100 bulletins requested.
- If you choose to have a Unity Candle as part of the ceremony, it is your responsibility to make arrangements as well as providing the tapers and their holders. If you wish to have a sand ceremony or other variations, please provide all the items necessary for that, and have it approved by the Pastor.
- A rehearsal is required if the Pastor is officiating at the ceremony. Please let all individuals involved in the ceremony know the time of the rehearsal and stress the importance of being on time. Rehearsals last one hour and allow for any specific questions you might have regarding the ceremony.

### **Items Prohibited At/In the Building**

The following are prohibited at or during your ceremony:

- Throwing rice, confetti, glitter, birdseed, soap flakes or any other small particles inside the building or outside of the building. Consider bubbles outside the building; they are more environmentally friendly and make for great pictures.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the church, the parking lot, and on church property. \* Wine consumed as part of communion during the ceremony is allowed.
- Smoking in the building, in the parking lot, or on church property is prohibited.
- Drinking alcohol prior to the rehearsal or the wedding ceremony by the wedding party, the couple, attendants, and ushers is not allowed. If any of the wedding party come to the rehearsal or the ceremony intoxicated the Pastor will cancel the wedding.

### **Wedding Fees**

#### **Member Fees:**

- Members of the Beloved Community of Redeemer Lutheran Church and The Episcopal Church of the Intercession are not required to pay a building use fee, however any free-will donation for using the building is appreciated.
- Members are encouraged to give the pastor an honorarium, but it is not required.

#### **Non Member Fees:**

- For non-members, the pastor's fee is \$50 for the wedding rehearsal and \$150 for the wedding.
- There is a building use fee of \$100, which covers both the rehearsal and wedding ceremony.
- If the couple wishes to hold the a wedding reception in the multi-purpose room or other location in the building, please see the Building Use Policy for the fee schedule.

*In thanksgiving to God for all the joys of your wedding ceremony and your marriage, couples are encouraged to consider gifting at least 1% of your wedding budget to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Episcopal Relief and Development, Redeemer Lutheran Church, the Episcopal Church of the Intercession or to any charity of your choosing.*

