



**The Wedding Booklet for
Calvary Lutheran Church**

16151 Old Frederick Road

Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Welcome!

Congratulations on your engagement. May God bless you and your relationship in the years to come.

Please contact the church office as soon as possible when you are considering a date. Calvary Lutheran Church is a busy place, and the sooner you let us know when you would like to be married, the bigger your chances of getting your desired date.

Preparation:

The pastor will meet with each couple four to six times for wedding preparation sessions. The purpose of these sessions is two-fold:

1. To prepare the wedding service: choose readings and vows, plan the service, etc.
2. To prepare your relationship for married life. With the help of a counseling tool, the pastor will go over the strengths and weaknesses of your relationship and help you to become stronger and healthier in your life together.

These counseling sessions will be scheduled at the convenience of the pastor and the couple a few months prior to the wedding.

The Wedding Service:

Location:

A wedding service is a worship service. Therefore, the appropriate place for conducting the service is the church.

Music:

The wedding service being a worship service, please select music appropriate for the worship setting. Our organist will review a selection of suitable music with you.

Musician:

Calvary Lutheran Church's organist is the assumed musician for all wedding services in this congregation. If you desire another musician, the congregation council needs to approve the switch and our organist needs to approve the musician and musical selections.

Soloists:

The performance of soloists is a wonderful addition to the wedding service. If you need the accompaniment of our organist, please contact him as soon as possible and discuss details with him.

Photography:

The photographer is welcome to take as many pictures as wanted before and after the service. However, during the worship service itself, only still photography without flash from the rear of the sanctuary is permitted. Still videography from the side is permitted, as well. These rules help to preserve the devotional character of the service. The last picture prior to the service will be the bride escorted down the aisle; the first picture after the ceremony will be bride and groom exiting via the center aisle.

Following the ceremony, the pastor is ready to recreate any scenes from the service. Please take picture including the pastor first, so that he/she is then free to attend to other matters.

Decorations:

You are welcome to decorate the sanctuary for your wedding. However, we ask that you do so in a way that doesn't leave marks or holes in walls or furniture. Do not tape or tack anything to pews, furnishings, window and door frames, or walls.

Please refrain from using an aisle runner; it is a tripping hazard.

Please refrain from throwing birdseed, rice, or the like; it is a tripping hazard and a threat to birds and other wildlife.

License:

It is the couple's responsibility to obtain a legal marriage license from the local authorities. Without a license, the wedding service cannot proceed.

Kimberlin Hall Rental:

You are welcome to rent Kimberlin Hall for your reception, either for the rehearsal or the wedding or both. Please obtain the papers for facility rental from the church office.

Wedding Rehearsal:

The wedding rehearsal traditionally takes place the night before the wedding service; however, other arrangements can be made. The purpose of a wedding rehearsal is to let the active participants in the service know when to come in and where to stand, so that everyone can be more comfortable and relaxed during the service. All those with an active part in the wedding should be there: bride and groom, best man and maid of honor, brides maids and grooms men, parents of bride and groom, flower girls and ring bearers, and soloists if they are offering music during the procession or recession.

Please show respect to the pastor's and organist's time and arrive at the rehearsal as scheduled. Experience has shown that a rehearsal dinner following the rehearsal makes it easier to be on time.

Flowers:

Flowers add a beautiful touch to the joyful atmosphere of wedding services.

During special church seasons such as Easter or Christmas, there may already be special flowers and decorations in the sanctuary. Please keep this in mind as you plan your arrangements.

No decorations, flowers, or objects may be placed on the altar, the piano, or the organ. The only exception is the unity candle on the altar (if used).

Please be careful with fresh cut flowers and protect carpets and floors from spills.

You are welcome to leave some flowers in the church, to share your joy with the worshipping congregation on Sunday morning.

Unity Candle:

Many couples desire to express the joining of their lives through lighting a unity candle. You are welcome to include this ritual in your wedding service. The church has a unity candle set you may use. You may also bring your own set of two small and one large candle; this would allow you to keep the candles to light on anniversaries at home.

Bulletins:

The church will be glad to run off plain bulletins on white paper for you. If you want to use special paper, please bring it to the church office at least a week prior to the wedding. If you want to order special bulletin covers through the church, we will be glad to show you catalogs from which you can order. You are also welcome to design and print your own bulletins. The pastor will be glad to assist you with the order of worship, if you want to include it in your bulletins.

Candelabra:

The church has a set of candelabras with five candles each. You are welcome to use them in your wedding service. Please handle them with care, as they are old and somewhat fragile. You have the choice of using whatever candles are left in the candelabras, or of bringing your own set of candles.

Fees:

Service

Non-Member

Church-Member

Use of sanctuary

\$200

Free

Use of Kimberlin Hall

\$200

Free

Pastoral services

\$250

Free

Organist services

\$200*

\$200*

(*More if work with a soloist is required.)

Building Attendant

\$75

\$75