

*The following is specific to weddings conducted by Pastor Rohlfs. The information about fees found on page two applies to all weddings conducted at Christ Lutheran.

Wedding Services at Christ Lutheran Church, Orland Park Rev. Ray Rohlfs, May 2015

Weddings are a time to publicly share marital promises. Wedding *services* are more. In a wedding service, a couple seeks God's blessing upon their relationship and join with family and friends in prayer. Wedding services have their root in God's gift of marriage found in Genesis 2, especially verse 24: *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.* Because God gave marriage, the wedding service is a time of worship and joy. Additionally, weddings celebrate the unity which God provides in the closest of relationships. All the elements of the service should emphasize giftedness, thankfulness and unity.

Weddings need to be scheduled with Pastor Rohlfs well in advance of date (708-349-0431).

The Order of Service is usually as follows:

Pre-service Music and Lighting of Candles

Carillon Bells (Pulling of runner)

Entrance of Parents (preceded by grandparents if preferred)

Attendants and Bridal Processionals (Doors are closed as Bride lines up/opened before her entrance)

Invocation, Welcome to the Wedding, and Prayer

Scripture Lessons (One Old Testament and one Epistle lesson chosen by couple)

Possible Old Testament: Genesis 2: 18-24; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Ruth 1: 16-17;
Song of Solomon 2: 10-13

Epistle readings: I Corinthians 13: 4-8a and 13; Colossians 3:12-17, and
I John 4: 7-16. These lessons are usually read by volunteer readers.

Gospel Matthew 19: 4-6 (usually read by clergy)

Homily

Music/Solo

Giving of Bride and/or Blessing by Parents (Bride's parents- Giving / All parents- Blessing)

The "**I do**" **promise:** *Name*, do you take *name* to be your wife/husband? Do you promise to live with her in holy marriage according to the Word of God and to love her, comfort her, honor her, and keep her in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be husband to her as long as you both shall live?

The **Repeated Vow:** I, *full name*, take you, *full name*, to be my wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death parts us, and I pledge you my faithfulness

Exchange of Rings (Best Man gives to clergy for exchange)

Pronouncement of Wedding (Couple kneels)

Unity Candle/Sand/Other (Presentation of Maternal Roses)

Music

Prayers (Couple kneels)

Blessing, Kiss (with peal of bells), and Introduction of Couple

Recessional

The officiating pastor is Pastor Raymond Rohlfs, 708-349-0431, c341-0431 and rrohlfs@christlutheranorland.com. Premarital discussions include three or four sessions that are designed to review the relationship in light of God's word and to plan the ceremony. All couples are encouraged to

attend worship at Christ prior to the wedding service. On the Sunday prior to the wedding a special altar prayer will be offered for the couple.

Rehearsals are normally scheduled for the eve of the wedding at **6:30 p.m.**

Music is arranged through Music Director Sandra Knopp at 349-0431. The couple must phone Sandy at least 3 months prior to the wedding. Music in the service should be sacred / Christian in character. Guest instrumentalists and soloists are very welcome but must be coordinated through our Music Director. Sandy's fee is \$175 and should be remitted directly to her.

The Marriage License is secured through Cook County Clerk and brought to the church office by the Wednesday prior to the wedding. Licenses are valid for 60 days after issuance. License should be delivered to the church office one week prior to wedding service.

The couple is to provide their own Unity Candle (or Sand) with matching side candles. If an aisle runner is desired, it may be rented from the church for \$35.

The sanctuary suggested donation for *non-members* is \$300 payable to Christ Lutheran Church. There is no sanctuary fee for members of the congregation. A \$75 cleaning fee is required for all weddings. Gratuities for all other worship servants should be arranged with them. No alcohol is allowed on church property.

A bulletin can be printed for the couple. The couple is to provide their own bulletin paper and coordinate information with Pastor Rohlf. Blank graphic bulletins are available through Concordia Publishing House at **cph.org**.

Additions to the service that are sometimes included are: memorial candles/flowers, roses presented to the mothers and recessional ushering by the couple.

Often mothers are asked to light the side candles of the unity candles.

Fresh rose petals stain the carpet, so they may not be scattered by flower girls. Alternatives include dried or artificial petals.

Welcoming ushers should be designated as they serve to distribute worship folders and close/open the doors for the Bride.

For the sendoff, **rice or seed may not be thrown**; alternatives include bubbles, balloons, and petals.

Revised 05-15 RR