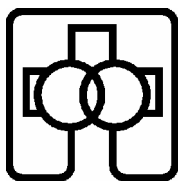


# Weddings At Ascension



7601 York Rd. Towson 21204

phone 410.825.1725 fax 410.825.9013

[www.ascensiontowson.org](http://www.ascensiontowson.org)

[info@ascensiontowson.org](mailto:info@ascensiontowson.org)

## Introduction

As you approach the day of your wedding, there are many details to which you must attend. This booklet contains information to help you plan the wedding ceremony and the rehearsal at Ascension Lutheran Church. A fee list is found on the back page of this booklet.

**PLEASE NOTE** that the current wedding policy of Ascension Lutheran Church is to perform marriage services for those couples at least one of which is a member, or related to a member, of Ascension Lutheran Church. Couples who are active participants in Lutheran Campus Ministry may also be married at Ascension Lutheran Church.

## Church Etiquette

- ❖ Your wedding is a worship service
- ❖ Flash pictures may be taken before or after the service. No flash pictures are allowed during the ceremony.
- ❖ A champagne or wine toast during a church reception is the only allowed use of alcoholic beverages in the church building.
- ❖ No smoking is allowed anywhere in the building.

**STEP 1:** Call the church and talk to a pastor. Ask is the:  
pastor available?  
church available?  
wedding date & time?  
rehearsal date & time?

### The Pastors

You may request either pastor. Speak to them directly about dates. If a visiting pastor is to take part in the service, it should be arranged at the invitation of the Ascension pastor.

**STEP 2:** Set up pastoral meeting  
You must contact the Officiating Pastor to arrange a series of marriage conferences as soon as you pick a date. You may be asked to attend a marriage seminar.

### **STEP 3:** The Wedding

Coordinator will contact you after your first meeting with a pastor.

All weddings at Ascension are coordinated by a Wedding Coordinator to assist with the many details of the church ceremony, the rehearsal and the wedding day. The following items are managed through the Wedding Coordinator: the church decorations, wedding flowers, candles, wedding kneeler, and reception at the church. More information on each of these is explained late in the brochure. He or she will arrange a meeting with you to discuss your wedding, be available by phone to answer questions as needed, and will be present at the rehearsal and on the day of your wedding.

**STEP 4:** Contact Music Minister  
Contact the Minister of Music as soon as you begin planning the specifics of your wedding service. The Minister of Music is available to you as organist and as a consultant for all your wedding music. If you have a different organist play at your wedding, you still must contact the Minister of Music at Ascension Lutheran Church.

Note:

All music must be selected and available to the organist no later than 4 weeks prior to the wedding date. The organist does not typically attend rehearsals.

STEP 5: The Marriage License

Your marriage license from the State of Maryland, Baltimore County, is due to the pastor by the wedding rehearsal. In Baltimore County, you should contact the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Marriage License Bureau, at Towson Court House. Their phone number is 410.887.2607.



The Order of the Christian  
Wedding Service

The Officiating Pastor will guide you in planning your wedding service. The basic order for the service is found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship on pages 286-291. Music can be placed at a number of different points in the service. The service of Holy Communion may be used within the wedding service if desired. Family and friends may read scripture.

## PRELUDE MUSIC

During the prelude music, the wedding guests and family of the couple are seated and the altar candles are lit. The mother of the bride and mother of the groom may be seated.

## PROCESSIONAL

Many couples want a regal processional, but it can also be a quiet, more meditative piece.

Some common processionals:

Trumpet Voluntary	Jeremiah Clarke
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	J.S. Bach
Canon in D	Pachelbel

## INVOCATION

The invocation acknowledges and invites the presence of the Triune God.

## PRAYER

God's presence is recognized at this time as it will be throughout the marriage.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Appropriate scriptures, selected in conjunction with the pastor, are read. See the section on Scripture readings for suggestions. Consider inviting individuals to be readers.

## MEDITATION OR REFLECTION

The pastor gives a short message.

## SONGS

Hymns, solos or instrumental music to the praise of God may be inserted at many points in the service.

## EXCHANGE OF VOWS AND RINGS

The bride and groom exchange vows.

## BLESSINGS

God's blessings are asked for all present.

## UNITY CANDLE LIGHTING

If used, is supplied by the couple.

## PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God is called upon to supply the newly married couple with the spiritual gifts needed for marriage.

## COMMUNION

Consult with the pastor about the sacrament.

## BENEDICTION

A final blessing is given.

## RECESSIONAL

This, like the processional, is usually an instrumental piece during which the wedding party exits the sanctuary.

### Scripture Possibilities:

#### OLD TESTAMENT SUGGESTIONS

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

Genesis 2:4-11, 15-24

Genesis 2:18-24

Song of Songs 8:6-7

Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

Ruth 1:16-18

Psalms 5, 23, 34, 37, 67, 100, 112, 127,  
128

## NEW TESTAMENT SUGGESTIONS

Romans 8:31b, 35, 37-39

Romans 12:1-2, 9, 18

I Corinthians 6:13c, 15a, 17-20

I Corinthians 12:31, 13:4-8a

Ephesians 3:14-19

Ephesians 5:2a, 21-23

Colossians 3:12-17

I John 3:18-24

I John 4:7-12

Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

## GOSPEL SUGGESTIONS

Matthew 5:1-12

Matthew 5:13-16

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

Matthew 19:3-6

Matthew 22:35-40

Mark 10:6-9

John 2:1-11

John 15:9-12

John 15:12-16

John 17:20-26

## Music for the Service

At Ascension, the church contains a pipe organ and an electronic keyboard.

While most people usually hire an organist/keyboardist, you are free to hire other instrumentalists, such as trumpet, strings, flute, etc. if you wish. These can be in addition to or instead of an organist. You may also consider hiring a soloist. The Minister of Music

will be happy to recommend a soloist or other instrumentalists. The Minister of Music has audio tapes of a broad selection of vocal and instrumental wedding music to assist you in making selections.

**MUSIC DURING LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE:** This is a very short space of time that is most conveniently filled in by the organist or instrumentalists with something that can end as soon as the action is over, to eliminate waiting time. If something special is desired, please let all the musicians know.

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:**  
A congregational hymn is a nice choice here, or you may decide to have a solo sung, or an instrumental piece played.

The purpose of music in the wedding service is to help people worship God. The more appropriate place for secular love songs is at the wedding reception. If you want your guests to join in congregational singing, you might choose some of the following commonly known hymns from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	#543
The Church's One Foundation	#369
O Perfect Love	#287
Blest Be the Tie that Binds	#370

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee #551  
O Master, Let Me Walk w/ You #492  
Let All Things Now Living #557

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC is also appropriate for your wedding service and can be used instead of, or in addition to, traditional organ music and hymns. Contact the Minister of Music for assistance if you are interested in this style of music for your wedding.

#### Wedding Bulletins

It is helpful to have wedding bulletins for the order of service and the names of the participants in your wedding. You may provide your own bulletin of your wedding service or you may request one through the church office for a fee that covers production and copying.

#### Church Decorations

Be sure that after the wedding service and after any photos are taken you or your attendants remove any decorations that you may wish to keep. All decorations left behind will be discarded after the wedding unless other arrangements are made with the Wedding Coordinator.

## Seating and Aisle Information

Ascension's nave seats 300, including the balcony. There are 21 pews on the right side of the nave and 19 pews on the left. The length of the center aisle of the nave is 65 feet. Your florist can provide an aisle runner (75 feet) if you wish. There is one step leading up to the chancel.

## Wedding Flowers

You may contact a florist of your own choosing to provide any type of flower arrangements for your wedding. Your arrangements may sit on the floor or on the plant stands the church can provide, in the eight windowsills (8" deep), hang on the pews or candelabras, etc. If you plan to use the chancel flower vases on the organ case, and you use a florist other than Ascension's florist (Marlow, McCrystle & Jones, 10921 Falls Road in Lutherville, 410.825.4900) your florist must provide the containers or disposable liners for the brass chancel vases. You need to tell the Wedding Coordinator if you are leaving any flowers following your wedding for Sunday worship. You may wish to take your altar flowers to your reception. You should ask a responsible friend to transport the flowers at the conclusion of your service and pictures.

## Candles

You may choose to use only the oil altar candles during the service. Also available are 2 table top candleabras and 2 floor candelabras that hold seven candles each. Candles for the candelabras will be provided by the church for a fee, and will be given to you following the wedding.

## Altar Paraments

The color of the altar paraments may only be determined by the current liturgical season.

## Wedding Kneeler

A wedding kneeler is available if requested.

## Exiting the Church

Bubbles may be blown outside the building. No rice, birdseed, flower petals, or balloon releases are allowed.

## Photography

The photographer is usually scheduled for before or after the wedding. Please conclude pictures within an hour of the guests' exit. No flash pictures are allowed during the wedding.

Videographer needs to be stationary.  
Videographer needs to check with the pastor.

## Receptions

If you wish to use either the Great Hall or the Luther Room for a reception following your wedding, you need to schedule it through the Wedding Coordinator.

The Luther Room fee is \$80. For a seated reception, the capacity is 60; for a standing reception the capacity is 100.

The Great Hall and kitchen fee is \$100. For a seated reception, the capacity is 150; for a standing reception the capacity is 200.

Wedding receptions must be finished by 9:30pm, as the church needs to be set for the following day. The sexton must be contracted for cleaning up trash and floors, and to lock up.

Setup and cleanup are usually the responsibility of the couple. Consult the pastor and coordinator in advance.

## Church Planning Timeline

### BEFORE ANY WEDDING PLANS ARE MADE:

- ❖ Contact the Church and Pastor!
- ❖ The Wedding Coordinator will contact you initially.
- ❖ Contact the Minister of Music to secure an organist and/or other musicians for your wedding.
- ❖ Contact the Pastor to begin pre-marriage counseling and service planning.

### 2 MONTHS BEFORE WEDDING

- ❖ Contact the Wedding Coordinator to set up a meeting in the church. The wedding coordinator is available to answer your questions at any time during your planning!
- ❖ Contact the church office if you plan to have bulletins done at the church.

### 2 to 4 WEEKS BEFORE WEDDING

- ❖ Meet with the Wedding Coordinator to discuss the last details for your wedding and rehearsal.

### THE WEEK OF YOUR WEDDING

- ❖ Relax! Your wedding will be fine!
- ❖ A rehearsal will go over final details and give everyone a chance to practice.

## Wedding Coordinator Checklist

Bride:

Groom:

Names of Bridesmaids:

Names of Groomsmen:

Ushers:

Flower girl?

Ring Bearer?

Readers:

Soloist? Musician?

Organist:

Pastor(s):

Florist:

Time of arrival?

Photographer:

Time of arrival?

Pictures Before / After / Both

Bride Arrival time?

Groom Arrival time?

Mother of Bride:

Father of Bride:

Mother of Groom:

Father of Groom:

## Church Wedding Fees

Checks are to be written directly to the provider. One check for candles and any church-ordered flowers should be written to Ascension Lutheran Church. All checks should be given to the Wedding Coordinator at the wedding rehearsal. All fees are subject to change.

PASTOR (made out to Ascension)	discretionary
WEDDING COORDINATOR (includes custodial work)	\$150.00
ORGANIST (does not typically attend rehearsals)	\$200.00
SOLOIST & MUSICIANS	private agreement
CUSTODIAN FOR RECEPTION (if needed)	\$100.00
BULLETIN PROCESSING	\$25.00
Two seven candle Candelabras	\$24.00

The Reverend Judith A. Cobb, Pastor  
The Reverend James G. Cobb, Pastor  
Joy Bauer, Minister of Music