

A Guide for Weddings at
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



*Serving Christ by Spreading His Word
and Sharing His Love with All People*

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So you are planning a wedding!

The joining of a loving couple is certainly one of the peak experiences of life. It is a life-long commitment, to be entered into thoughtfully and prayerfully.

You are contemplating such a commitment, and may have a number of questions concerning marriage and the wedding service.

To help you with the answers to these questions, this guide has been prepared. If there are any additional questions or further details you desire, please ask.



Some Questions You Might Have ...



When should I contact the church about getting married?

Scheduling of a wedding is done through our Pastor. A date should be requested as far ahead as possible. Six months notice is advisable to be sure that your date is clear. All plans for the wedding service must be made in consultation with our Pastor.

What scheduling issues should I be concerned about?

A wedding may be held any date when it does not compete with a regularly scheduled liturgy of the church or festival of the Church Year.

Who will help me with musical choices?

Our Music Director in consultation with the Pastor will advise you regarding appropriateness music for your wedding. Remember that the wedding is a religious service when considering music. Some choices may be more appropriate for the wedding reception after the service.

Music is also not required for a wedding if that should be your desire. Contact the Music Director as soon as the wedding is scheduled to begin consulting about music choices. All musical decisions, including those related to other musicians, will be made by the Music Director and you plan your wedding together.



Any soloists, instrumentalists, or choral groups must arrange to rehearse with the Music Director prior to the service.

If you would like more information on our Music Director, please visit our website at: http://goodshepherdmtampa.org/?page_id=29

When may photographs be taken?

Posed photographs may be taken before or after the wedding service. Flash photographs are not permitted during the service itself. Professional photographers should be advised to use available light for pictures during the ceremony and taken in such a way as not to interrupt the service or be visible during the service. Photographers are

advised to consult with our Pastor 30 minutes prior to the wedding about positioning of cameras and equipment.

Can I make a video of the wedding?

Yes, the taping of the wedding ceremony is permitted, as long as the video camera is stationary, has a position in the nave and not the chancel, and does not detract from the service or the view of wedding guests. Photographers and video operators are advised to consult with our Pastor 30 minutes prior to the wedding about positioning of cameras and equipment.

What flowers are appropriate?

Flowers are not required. Flower vases are recommended. Other flowers and greens may be used. Flowers are not permitted on the altar. Flower orders should be placed directly with a florist. The florist should make arrangements through the Church Office to obtain the altar vases and schedule delivery and placement.



What about candles?

The two altar candles and the two candles at the lectern will be lit for the service. The church's additional candelabra, which are not always in the chancel, may be used as may be desired. A unity candle may also be used, in which case the wedding couple is asked to provide the candles. Aisle candles may also be used if rented from your florist.

Is an aisle runner allowed?

Aisle runners are not permitted because of the danger of bunching and tripping.

Is there somewhere to dress?

The bride and her attendants may use the Hazel Carroll Room. Privacy and full length mirrors are available. The groom and his attendants may

use in the Vestry to the left of the chancel as well as the men's room to the right of the entry way.

What about a Marriage License?

Florida law requires a marriage license. It can be obtained from the County Courthouse of any Florida County and is valid anywhere in the state. The license should be given to the Pastor well in advance of the service in order for him to fill out the appropriate sections. The license is signed by our Pastor, and two witnesses, and returned to the county courthouse by the couple. The county then provides you with your completed license.

What information does the church need?

The church will furnish an information form at the time the inquiry is made about the wedding. It should be filled out as fully as possible as part of an intake interview with the Pastor.

What do the Consultants do?

Our wedding consultants assists with the details at the wedding, such as seeing that the church is open and lighted properly, arranging the chancel if flowers or additional candelabra are wanted, pinning flowers on participants, guiding the procession, and assisting wherever needed to enable the event to run smoothly. The consultants can answer questions when the Pastor is not present.

Is there pre-marital counseling?

Premarital counseling is provided by our Pastor prior to a wedding as an assist in addressing issues that a couple will face in a marriage. These sessions will also include a look at the wedding service and planning of the various elements in it. The Pastor will be happy to answer any questions about this and to schedule your first meeting.

Is there a rehearsal?

Ordinarily a wedding rehearsal is held the day before the wedding, particularly if it includes many participants. It can be held another day. For smaller weddings in which there are few participants beyond the joining couple, a rehearsal may not be necessary. Consult with the Pastor about this.

What service is used for a wedding?

The marriage service found in the approved worship book of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is used at each wedding. The Pastor will advise the couple regarding many options that are available within this basic rite.

May other Clergy participate?

Yes, other Clergy who may be significant to you are welcome to assist our Pastor, who serves as the Presiding Minister at the wedding. A couple should mention the desire to have other Clergy when they meet with the Pastor for premarital counseling. They can plan together how best to divide the leadership portions of the ceremony with other Clergy.

Can receptions be held at the church?

Yes, Driscoll Hall, which can accommodate approximately 130 people, may be used for receptions. See the Fee Schedule at the end of this brochure for use of the hall. It will be important to reserve the hall well in advance of the wedding, and to mark out time before the wedding for set up and after the wedding for tear down. After a wedding, it is expected that the hall will be returned to the clean and uncluttered way in which it was found. Any decorations, boxes, and wrappings shall be removed, and litter placed in the church dumpster on the north of the building. If the use of the kitchen is desired for receptions, the Wedding Consultants will connect you with the Receptions Committee. If there is any breakage or damage, replacement costs will be expected.



Other items:

- **Smoking is not permitted in the church or in Driscoll Hall.**
- **Please do not throw rice, birdseed or confetti inside any of our buildings.**
- **Please do not bring food, beverages or alcohol into the church.**
- **Use of decorative scattered petals, etc. may be used in consultation with the Wedding Coordinators, who may have other suggestions they can offer.**
- **Alcohol use on church property will be limited to beer and wine for member events or for outside groups with member participation. Alcohol is not permitted for outside groups without member participation or for non-member events. Notification must be given to the Church Council for each event in which alcohol use is planned. A \$400 fee will be required to cover an additional insurance rider for the event.**





Fee Schedule

All fees are payable at or by the rehearsal

Fees for current members* of our congregation:

- Use of buildings: no charge
- Pastor: \$150
- Wedding Consultant: \$200 (cash please)
- Music Director: \$100
- Sound Technician: \$100
- Janitorial service: \$100 w/o reception. \$250 with reception.
- Additional rehearsals, sound checks, or meetings will incur additional fees. \$400 for insurance for the event if alcohol is used.

** A member of our congregation is a person who is listed in the current Parish Register.*

Fees for non-members (for a one hour service):

- Church: \$300 payable at scheduling
- Pastor: \$150
- Wedding Consultant (service only): \$300 each – Add \$100 for each additional hour of service or church reception
- Music Director: \$175
- Sound Technician: \$100
- Janitorial service: \$100 w/o reception. \$250 with reception.
- Use of Driscoll Hall for reception: \$300 deposit at scheduling plus \$400 check payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at rehearsal. Alcohol is not permitted on the premises.
- Additional rehearsals, sound checks, or meetings will incur additional fees.

All fees must be paid in advance in cash or by check, unless otherwise noted. Checks shall be made payable to the staff members listed below and presented to the Wedding Consultant at the rehearsal. The fee schedule is subject to change at any time.

Staff:

Pastor:	The Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel
Organist:	Jonathan Hehn
Wedding Consultant Team	Pat Zwick & Janet Jones
Sexton (Janitorial service)	James Mims

5/2014

Also for your planning consideration...

Tahitian Inn & Good Shepherd: Wedding Planning Partners

Tahitian Inn and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church have joined hands in an exciting new partnership that is sure to give happy couples the wedding of their dreams.



Two of Tampa's historic and most respected establishments are joining together to offer a picture-perfect wedding — from A to Z! Book your wedding ceremony and reception with the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and the Tahitian Inn for a

one of a kind wedding experience.

Our gorgeous and legendary Inn can host any kind of wedding celebration, whether it's an elegant, formal affair or an easy, breezy casual event - our restaurant, patio, and Torch Tiki bar are sure to delight any wedding couple and their guests.

The Tahitian Inn has thought of it all when it comes to your big day. The bride and her bridesmaids will await the ceremony in comfort and style - with in-room massage, make-up and hair; while the groom and groomsmen can unwind at the Torch Tiki bar, or even pamper themselves with a relaxing pre-ceremony massage.

When the bells begin to ring, the wedding party has a short journey across the street for a beautiful ceremony at Good Shepherd. After the ceremony, the wedding party and their guests can head right back to the Tahitian Inn for a thoughtfully, tastefully catered wedding extravaganza.



Call the Tahitian Inn at 813-877-6721 to make an appointment with our wedding planner! Or go online to TahitianInn.com for more information.