## About Weddings

A wedding is a time to publicly declare love for each other. When this declaration is done through a church community and its minister, there is special focus given to the presence of Spirit which helps to raise up the sacredness of this beautiful commitment. We are delighted that you are considering St. Luke's in your wedding plans. We are happy to provide our sanctuary for these special services for all couples.

It is important to meet with our minister to discuss your service particulars and to book the date well in advance. As it is a service of Christian worship, there are many ways to add beauty and meaning, such as prayers, music, scripture and anything else that will make this day more memorable for you.

For more information, please contact office@stlukesunited.ca

## Wedding Policy

## The Covenant of Marriage

At St. Luke's, we believe that marriage is a gift of God through which two people covenant with one another and with God. We affirm that in Christian marriage, two people give themselves to each other in the full intention of a lifelong commitment.

We affirm that this unity is a creation of God and is greater than the two individuals. It is entirely appropriate that the ritual act of entering the covenant of marriage should take place in a public gathering emphasizing that blessing and support for the union come from God, family, friends, and community. The setting for your marriage may be the church sanctuary or another location of your choice.

Here at St. Luke's, the Covenant of Marriage is open to all people regardless of colour, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and cultural background.

In addition to meeting with the minister regarding ceremony details as your special day approaches, it is important to meet with the minister long in advance for what is often called "marriage preparation". This a chance for the minister to get to know you as a couple, share together why marriage is important to you, and to think through some of the blessings and challenges that come with marital life. The minister will work with you to find the best timing for these conversations.

Each marriage that is done through St. Luke's must first be brought to our Worship Team for approval. This is done as soon as possible after you submit your request for marriage with us.

While the information below provides the practical information that you need in planning your marriage, we do not want you to feel that these are either the only, or the most important aspects of marriage. Please feel free to contact the office directly with further inquiries.

## The Ceremony

If you desire another Minister to assist or officiate at your wedding, permission must be granted from St. Luke's before the invitation to the other Minister is extended.

Music is an integral part of the wedding service. St. Luke's has a Director of Music who may be available to lead the musical aspects of your service. Special musical requests (both repertoire and use of soloists and musicians) must be approved by the Minister and Director of Music. Any pianist performing at the marriage ceremony must see the Piano Policy with respect to care and maintenance of the piano.

The date of the wedding should be at least 3 months after you have contacted our office unless otherwise agreed upon. Please note a rehearsal is required a day or two in advance of the ceremony.

Photography is often a very special way of capturing precious memories. Share with the minister your hopes for how and when pictures and/or video would be taken.

No confetti or rice is permitted on church property.

Couples sometimes like to invite the minister to the reception. Feel free to do so, though the minister may choose to send best wishes and focus solely on the ceremony part of your celebrations.

If you would like to hold your reception in our Church Hall, rental costs will apply. Please contact our church office for more information.

If we at St. Luke's can assist you in any way at this meaningful time in your life, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Fees & Deposit Minister: \$200.00 Mileage if service is offsite: +\$0.50 per km Music Director \$150.00 If extra rehearsal is needed: +\$50 Custodian: \$50.00 Lights & Sound: \$50.00 Sanctuary Use: \$200.00

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