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## 6. WEDDING PROCEDURES

### 6.1 Marriage Counseling Sessions

Our pastors request the privilege of counseling the bride and groom together at a convenient time prior to the wedding. It is your responsibility to set the appointment with a pastor. This should be done at the time when the wedding date is selected.

While the sanctuary may be reserved long in advance, the pastor will agree to perform the marriage only after these sessions have been completed.

### 6.2 The Wedding Service

The Order of Marriage is a religious rite at which time two individuals pledge their lives to each other and ask God's blessing upon their future together.

Everything pertaining to the service must be supportive of this holy event. Some thoughts to keep in mind as you begin to plan the service together:

Flower girls and ring bearers – Such a role in a wedding can be a very emotional and pressure-filled experience for a small child. Consequently, it can become a very embarrassing moment as well – for the children and their parents if something should go amiss. For these reasons, we strongly suggest that if you are considering have a flower girl and/or ring bearer, they should be **at least five years of age**.

Forms of the service – There are several forms of service and alternate wedding vows which may be used. They include either the traditional or a more contemporary service. In consultation with the pastor you will be given an opportunity to select the type of service and vows you wish to use.

### 6.3 Pastoral Participants

All weddings are under the direct supervision of the presiding pastor. Under certain circumstances, such as a close friend or relative, another minister may, at the discretion of the Senior Pastor, as a matter of courtesy, participate in the ceremony. Such requests should always be made of the Senior Pastor before any plans are made.

### 6.4 Wedding Music

The music used for the church wedding should create and sustain a worshipful mood. A church wedding is a religious worship service and should include either traditional or contemporary Christian music which contributes to the beauty and sanctity of this significant moment of your lives. Therefore, your music should be carefully chosen so that it is appropriate for this reverent occasion. Many selections which may be favorites of all of us are more properly used at the reception. The texts of vocal solos or duets should be Christian in nature. Such music as accompanies the service should direct attention to the God who sanctifies marriage. Special care should be taken to assure the music is not of a merely sentimental or romantic nature.

The actual selection of music should be made in consultation with the organist and pastor at least four weeks in advance of the wedding. Rehearsal time and coordination of musicians takes time, and a month is usually necessary to make all the proper arrangements.

You are invited to select music from this list or request the use of other music. Both traditional and contemporary music and organ and/or other musical instruments are acceptable. The one criterion which will be used by the pastor and/or organist in evaluating both music and instruments is this: Does this support the Christian understanding of marriage?



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Our policy is that the organists at Mount Olive normally serve as the organists at weddings. Our main consideration is to make your wedding a beautiful and worshipful experience. Our organists are very familiar with our service and our organ. Their musical ability is excellent. To ask a “friend” to play at your service may be a meaningful gesture, but consider the demands on him or her having to play an unfamiliar service on an unfamiliar organ.

Soloists will be provided if requested well in advance so the soloist and organist can have adequate time to be well prepared.

If the family has a friend they want to have as the soloist, it is the family’s responsibility to make arrangements for rehearsal with the organist.

## **6.5 Flowers**

You are expected to make all the arrangements for flowers in church and for the bridal party. The arrangements would include the aisle runner if you wish to use one. The aisle is 62 feet long. The church does not provide an aisle runner.

Flowers may not be placed on the altar at any time. Your florist can provide flower stands that may be placed next to the altar.

Arrangements will be made to open the church two hours prior to the service. The florist may deliver the flowers during this time. Flowers and runners should be in place thirty minutes before the service. Please inform your florist of these arrangements. Bows may be used on pews but must be fastened with a covered wire. NO TAPE is allowed.

Wedding flowers may be taken to the reception or remain in the chancel for Sunday Services.

There is to be **NO** throwing of rice, bird seed, or confetti inside or outside the church buildings.

## **6.6 Photographs**

Flash pictures are not to be taken during the ceremony, with the exception of pictures of the processional and recessional by your photographer. Please advise your guests and photographer of this rule.

Video may be taken of the ceremony, but the camera must remain in one place.

Appropriately posed pictures may be discreetly taken in the chancel after the service. Photographers will have no difficulty taking all the pictures you desire.

If the wedding party desires to have the pastor included in the pictures at the conclusion of the service, they are asked to inform him and to take the pictures first in which they would like him to appear.

## **6.7 Additional Wedding Notes**

The congregation provides a kneeler and pillow for kneeling.

We recommend simplicity in the use of decorations in the sanctuary. Decorations shall be arranged to direct attention to the altar. No decorations shall be put up before the day of the wedding. Care must be taken in the placement and mounting of decorations to avoid damage to church furniture or building. If candles are used in the aisle, chimney lamps must be provided.

The Christian wedding ceremony is a joyous and happy occasion. The conduct of all participants, however, should be in keeping with the solemnity of the service in God’s house.

No one under the influence of intoxicants will be allowed in the sanctuary, and no alcoholic beverages are to be brought into the sanctuary, narthex or dressing rooms.



It is the responsibility of the principals in the wedding to inform the wedding party of all the regulations in this booklet.

### 6.8 Suggestions for the Bride

Make the arrangements for flowers, photographer, caterer and reception as far in advance as possible.

Make arrangements with the organist for music and for a soloist and/or instrumentalist.

Delegate a friend to take charge of the Guest Book.

Delegate a friend to receive any wedding gifts that may be brought to the church and to care for them after the ceremony. It is suggested that this person be equipped with scotch tape to tape each card to the proper package.

Delegate a friend to take extra clothing and flowers home from the church after the wedding.

### 6.9 Day of the Wedding

Bride and attendants should be at the church **one hour** before the ceremony if they are going to dress at the church. The bride and her attendants may dress in the Library. The groom and his attendants have the use of the Bell Room.

Groom, best man and ushers should be at the church at least **45 minutes** before the ceremony.

Bring along needles, thread, pins, etc. for emergencies.

Please impress upon everyone the importance of promptness for both the rehearsal and the wedding.

### 6.10 Wedding Fees

Weddings can become very expensive. The fees at Mount Olive are very reasonable. Private or informal weddings can be arranged directly with the pastor. When the services and talents of others are requested, such as florist, organist, photographer, soloist, etc., charges must be expected. There is a fee for the use of the church from non-members. All fees due to the Church, Organist, Custodian, Soloist, Wedding Coordinator, and/or Pastors should be made payable to Mount Olive Lutheran Church with a note designating their purpose.

Fees are as follows:

Item	Cost	Notes
Sanctuary	\$500	Fee waived for church members
Pastor	\$135	Includes counseling, rehearsal and wedding
	\$75	Counseling services only
Organist	\$95	Includes wedding, rehearsal and one rehearsal with a soloist
	\$75	Includes wedding with no rehearsal
	\$15	Additional per hour cost
Soloist	\$60	
Custodian	\$75	
Wedding Coordinator	\$100	

### 6.11 Reception

The Fellowship Hall is not generally available for receptions unless arranged through the Operations Manager.