

Last Revised: December 2021

Wedding Policy For Memorial Lutheran Church

Congratulations! You and your beloved have made that huge decision to join your lives together in a legal and/or religiously significant way. My heartfelt congratulations and well wishes to you both. This is an exciting and unforgettable time in your lives.

Here's a bit of information about who I am and how I officiate weddings.

I am an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). As such, I am licensed by the state of Iowa (and other states, depending on their laws and procedures) to perform services of matrimony.

As a potential officiant in your wedding festivities, here's what I offer:

- Up to 3 pre-marital conversation sessions (around an hour each) between you and your partner before the big day.
- Availability via phone/email leading up to the wedding for personalizing your ceremony and vows (if applicable).
- An order of worship for you to utilize in designing a program/bulletin. We would be happy to offer our printing services for an additional charge that can be discussed.
- A rehearsal before the ceremony (day of/day before) to corral the wedding party and give clarity on how the ceremony will go.
- A personal, meaningful, service of worship which reflects your spirituality and thoughts/feelings on the covenant into which you are entering.

And as a potential professional in your wedding festivities, here's what I require:

- At least 1 session of in-person/Zoom/phone conferencing with both parties for pre-marital conversation to discuss communication styles, conflict and ceremony-planning. Other topics of interest to the couple are also appropriate.
- Completion of pre-marriage worksheets and homework to aid in the above discussions
- A rehearsal of some sort within one week of the ceremony
(can be as simple as the couple with me to go over who will do what when)

What Memorial charges:

As a pastor called to serve the specific worshipping community of Memorial Lutheran, meeting with couples and officiating at weddings are an important part of not only my call, but also our congregation's call and shared ministry together here in Nevada. For Memorial members a wedding at Memorial costs \$240 This includes the use of the worship space, all premarital conversations with the pastor, and it includes the \$35 that will go directly to the online inventory through the Prepare/Enrich program that you and your partner will take to facilitate our premarital conversations. For non-members a wedding at Memorial costs \$350. This includes the use of the worship space, all premarital conversations with the pastor, and it includes the \$35 that will go directly to the online inventory through the Prepare/Enrich program that will facilitate our mandatory premarital conversations.

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Honorariums are very much appreciated. In the case of any honorarium given to myself as a pastor this is then designated to the Pastoral Discretionary Fund here at Memorial Lutheran Church.

Off-site wedding ceremonies

I would be delighted to serve as the officiant at your wedding ceremony whether it's held at Memorial or somewhere else. The premarital conversation(s) would still be required, which would be facilitated by you and your partner taking the online inventory through Prepare/Enrich which is \$35. If your wedding is more than 3 hours' drive from Nevada, IA and other arrangements haven't been made, you are responsible for my travel and accommodations to your event, unless otherwise specified. Please consider with your partner what an appropriate amount for an honorarium would be for me to meet with you both prior to your ceremony as well as officiate at your wedding.

If your wedding is outside the state of Iowa you and your partner are responsible for determining what fees and forms are applicable for ensuring that your union is a legal one. My ordination in the ELCA is more than sufficient for your locale's standards, but how the state determines that is for you to find out and follow up.

By contracting with me to perform your wedding, you are agreeing that the wedding and rehearsal will be directed under the guidance of the Pastor (me) and in accordance with the procedures and tradition of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Know that I am honored by your request to be part of your special day. If you should choose to make other arrangements for your officiant, I will not be offended and joyfully celebrate with you in whatever way is appropriate.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the above information. I can best be reached at (515) 382-6509 or pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org.