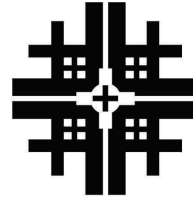


st Luke's  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



*A church for all people*

*God is love  
And where true love is  
God himself is there*

A Manual for Weddings  
And Holy Unions

Barbara Montemayor, Wedding Coordinator  
Kevin D. Pearson, Rector

## **The Celebration and Blessing of Marriage and Holy Union**

At St. Luke's Episcopal Church the marriage of two people is a holy union. It begins with your desire to form a lasting, life-long partnership with another in God's love, and continues throughout your lives as a process of intentional living and growing together. In a marriage, each of you as an individual, and together as a couple, gradually transform and mature in God's presence and image.

A wedding, then, is a rite of passage, a sacred ritual that celebrates your desire to enter into a life-long relationship. It symbolizes the ending of former ways of life and other future possibilities, and establishes a particular pathway into the future – one that you promise to travel together.

By uniting within the context of a faith community, you recognize that God is active in the love you feel for one another, and you place your relationship in God's care. Your individual stories – and your story as a couple – are celebrated in the context of the story of God and God's ways with the human community, as understood within a particular community of faith.

Through a wedding, you as a couple enter into a life-long commitment. You make your vows before God and the gathered community of family, friends and the Church, and receive the grace and blessing of God to help you fulfill your vows. Your marriage is

a sacrament – an outward and visible expression of God’s grace in bringing you together and nurturing your love.

In order to support you in this commitment and life together, we expect solemnize the unions of those who are active participants in the life of our congregation.

## **About St. Luke’s and the Episcopal Church**

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church seeks to be a place in which the living God is encountered by all people. We strive to be a church for all people and thrive on the rich diversity of people and gifts that come our way. People at every stage of their spiritual journey find themselves at home at St. Luke’s.

The Celebration and Blessing of Marriage takes place within the context of the church community along with baptisms, confirmations, weekly celebrations of the Eucharist and other pastoral offices. The worship customs of the Church community reflect the breadth and depth of the Episcopal tradition.

St. Luke’s Church is home to a vibrant faith community with an active and diverse congregation. We are honored and delighted that you are considering – or have already chosen – the church as the setting for one of your life’s most significant events.

## **Weddings in the Episcopal Church**

A wedding in the Episcopal Church is governed by The Book of Common Prayer, Canon Law and the laws of the State. The Book of Common Prayer is the foundation for all Episcopal worship services – referred to as liturgies in the Episcopal Church – and provides the liturgical framework by which a wedding is celebrated.

While the Episcopal Church has not yet developed a liturgy for same-sex unions, the Church recognizes that in many of its dioceses, such celebrations and blessings are a usual part of the life of the community. For these liturgies, St. Luke's uses an adaptation of the Office of The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage found in The Book of Common Prayer. Depending upon your situation, the appropriate rite will be provided for you as you plan your service.

To be united in the Episcopal Church, it is required that:

- at least one of the couple be a baptized Christian,
- the ceremony be attested to by at least two witnesses,
- and for a man and a woman, the marriage must conform to the laws of the State and the Canons of the Church.

### **Prior Marriage**

Please inform the Wedding coordinator in the event that either member of the couple has previously been married. In such instances, the officiating priest must meet with you at least 90 days prior to the wedding date to discuss the previous relationship. For heterosexual couples, Canon law requires the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese for a new marriage to be made. In making such decisions, the Bishop will consider:

- the depth of understanding of the individual as to why the previous relationship did not endure,
- the continuing care of and consideration for the former spouse or partner and for any children involved in the relationship, and
- faithfulness to the dissolution of the previous marriage.

### **Scheduling**

Weddings are normally scheduled on Saturdays. Marriage liturgies are not customarily scheduled during Lent or Holy Week. In addition, they are not scheduled on any major holiday weekend.

Scheduling your wedding date at least six months in advance is advisable. This allows plenty of time to plan your liturgy, complete your series of counseling sessions, meet with the priest who will officiate at your wedding, and – if you are not already a member – become familiar with the St. Luke’s community. In addition, it increases the chance that your chosen date will be available given the Church’s schedule of activities. Please refer to the back of this booklet for a typical planning schedule.

Church weddings may be scheduled only by the wedding coordinator. Please contact the wedding coordinator at (253-631-2334) for more information and to ensure that

your desired date is available. While you may re-schedule your date if necessary, deposits are non-refundable if you choose to cancel.

### **For Those from Out of Town**

Accommodations may be made for couples who currently live out of town, provided that they have a connection to St. Luke's Church through active participation in the life of the parish. Because church weddings may only be scheduled by the wedding coordinator, please contact the wedding coordinator for more information and to ensure that your desired date is available.

### **Getting to Know St. Luke's**

If you are not already a member of the St. Luke's congregation, we invite you to become an active participant in our life together. After coming to know you and you the congregation for some time (several months, at least), we would be happy to explore your marriage intentions as a part of this faith community. Abundant opportunities exist for involvement, expression, reflection and growth and we expect that you will make St. Luke's your church home.

### **Your Wedding and Marriage Preparation**

From your first meeting with the wedding coordinator to the day of your wedding, various people may be involved in helping you with your wedding and marriage preparation. The primary people with whom you will work includes the wedding coordinator, the priest who will officiate at your wedding, the church's music staff, and your premarital counselor.

## **The Wedding Coordinator**

Distinct from the role of a secular wedding planner, St. Luke's wedding coordinator is responsible for Church's wedding ministry as part of the sacramental life of the Church. The wedding coordinator serves as your primary point of contact throughout your wedding and marriage preparation process.

The Wedding Coordinator is responsible for:

- Receiving, evaluating requests for and scheduling weddings.
- Providing you with resources and answers to your questions, and serving as an ongoing source of information, guidance and support.
- Connecting you with music staff, your officiating priest, and the pre-marital counselor.
- Facilitating the wedding rehearsal and working with clergy, parish administration, musicians, sextons, altar guild and photographers to ensure a smooth-flowing ceremony.
- Maintaining parish records.

Because church weddings may be scheduled only by the wedding coordinator, the wedding coordinator is your first point of contact when you are interested in having your wedding at St. Luke's.

## **Counseling**

While your wedding ceremony itself is very important, the development of a solid foundation for your ongoing marital relationship is of greater significance. Because we want to support your living into your wedding vows in an intentional and faithful way, St. Luke's requires pre-marital preparation of all couples. We strongly encourage you to obtain your

pre-marriage preparation through the counseling resources we provide you. Pre-marriage preparation normally consists of about three, one-hour sessions with a professional therapist over a one to two month time period. The cost and financial arrangement of this service is covered by the couple and arranged independently.

Topics addressed in pre-marital counseling include:

- Your relationship history: present strengths and challenges as a couple.
- Your faith journey as an individual and as a couple.
- Interpersonal communication.
- Family of origin patterns relating to present day belief and relationship dynamics.
- Children.
- Career expectations and role adjustment.
- Finances.
- Conflict resolution.
- Sexuality and intimacy.
- Re-marriage and blending families.

Please note we require that your counselor write a report for your officiating priest that addresses the topics listed above, pre-marital counseling should be completed at least 90 days prior to your wedding day.

### **In Case of a Previous Marriage**

If one or both of you has previously been married, an additional set of topics will need to be addressed by your counselor in order to provide the priest with sufficient information to effectively request permission to marry you from the Bishop of the Diocese. Please inform the wedding coordinator, and you will be provided with this list of topics.

Please note that if you have already completed or plan to complete your pre-marital counseling with another counseling service, your counselor will be required to write a report for your officiating priest that addresses the topics listed above. This report should be completed and delivered to your officiating priest at least 90 days prior to your wedding.

If you choose to use another counseling service, please share the counseling section of this booklet with your counselor before you begin your sessions, so that the report he or she prepares for the officiating priest may provide the officiating priest with sufficient information. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask the wedding coordinator.

### **Clergy**

St. Luke's rector officiates at weddings except under unusual circumstances. Visiting clergy may request to participate by a letter to the rector sent in care of the wedding coordinator. Please do not invite clergy other than the rector to participate in your wedding until you have spoken with the wedding coordinator and received permission from the rector.

### **Music**

The St. Luke's director of music will work closely with you and serve as a valuable resource as you select your music. You will be provided with assistance to ensure that music is appropriately planned and fitting for you as a couple. Because a wedding is a service of worship, the liturgical guidelines for music are subject to the same standards as music for any other worship service.

The church's director of music plays at all weddings at which organ or piano music is desired unless other arrangements have been approved. In addition to the organ, other instruments – such as harp, strings or flute – also may be included. Additional instrumentalists are secured by the music staff. Please note that only sacred music suitable for St. Luke's worship services may be played in the Church. Music with secular or commercial associations, whether textual or musical, is not appropriate. All musicians and music must be approved by the music staff.

Please contact the St. Luke's director of music after your first planning meeting with the wedding coordinator.

### **Flowers**

Flowers bring a fresh liveliness to worship. The placement of flowers is to be in line with the customs of St. Luke's Church.

### **Florists**

You are free to use the florist of your choice to provide and arrange flowers for your wedding. Flowers are to be placed according to the guidelines provided by the wedding coordinator.

Any flowers that you provide for the worship space remain in the Church in thanksgiving for your wedding. An acknowledgement of your wedding is listed in that Sunday's service bulletin.

Recommended florist:

- Michael Thomas, Fantasia Floral-tel 206-300-5379, [www.fantasiafloral.net](http://www.fantasiafloral.net), [fantasiafloral@comcast.net](mailto:fantasiafloral@comcast.net)

## **Candles**

Altar candles may be lit for your wedding. We have a set of candelabras that may be used (see fee schedule for additional candles), as well as globed candles that attach to the ends of the pews (see fee schedule for candles and cleaning). Other candles, including Unity candles are not a part of Episcopal wedding liturgies.

## **Runners**

Runners are not used as they distract from the elegant simplicity of the church's worship space, and present a danger on our wood floors. There are no exceptions.

## **Your Service Bulletin**

Because of the participative nature of The Celebration and Blessing of Marriage in the Episcopal Church, your service bulletin is a very important part of your wedding preparation process. The service bulletin contains information that guides those in attendance at your wedding through your marriage liturgy, and helps them actively participate as a community supporting and witnessing your marriage. A draft working form of the appropriate marriage liturgy will be provided to you at the beginning of the planning process. Production assistance for the final bulletin, the accuracy of which is paramount to a

smooth-flowing service and a fully-engaged congregation, may be secured through the wedding coordinator.

## **Still Photography**

### **Photos by Professionals**

Professional photos are usually taken starting at least one hour before the service begins and must be completed 30 minutes prior to the wedding. Photos may be taken anywhere in the worship spaces and on Church grounds. No flash photography is allowed during the service, with the exception of the processional and recessional. The photographer must stay behind the pews at all times so as not to distract from the liturgy. Any special arrangements must be made prior to the rehearsal.

If you plan on having a photographer, please inform the wedding coordinator. The appropriate information will be mailed to him or her to ensure he or she understands and is prepared for the regulations surrounding the taking of photos at a church worship service. Ultimately the couple is responsible to ensure that hired professionals abide by St. Luke's policies.

### **Photos by Guests**

A Celebration of Marriage is a sacred event. Flash photography distracts all in attendance from participating in a focused manner. Please inform your guests that no photography of any kind is not allowed during your wedding liturgy. The liturgical portion of your service leaflet will include the following: "Because our wedding is a holy service of

worship and we want you to be fully present with us and to God during this time, we ask that you refrain from taking photos or shooting video during the worship service. Also, please remember to turn off all cell phones and audible pagers. Thank you.”

### **Videography**

Videotaping of your wedding is permitted in the nave of the church, however, special lighting may not be used, and the videographer must remain stationed, unobtrusively, at the back of the church or within the side chapel through the entire service. You may wish to invite him or her to your rehearsal so he or she may be better prepared on the day of the service. If an audio feed is desired, please ask the videographer to talk with the wedding coordinator about what arrangements may be made. All such arrangements must be in place prior to the rehearsal.

### **Facilities**

The church nave comfortably seats 100 guests. Additional seating may be added with a maximum capacity of 150.

Confetti, rice, birdseed, rose petals, balloons or other such items are not permitted inside the church or on the grounds. Bubbles are an acceptable alternative and may be used outside the Church as you exit the worship space following your service.

### **The Rehearsal**

The purpose of a rehearsal is to help make you and your party – the people you have honored with an im-

portant role in your service – more comfortable with their roles in your liturgy. Attentive participation in the rehearsal helps every person, regardless of his or her role, become more familiar and comfortable with the worship space and the liturgy itself – thereby helping everyone to be more fully present to you and to God on the day of your wedding. Video-taping at the rehearsal is not permitted. Normally the rehearsal is scheduled the day prior to your wedding. It is important that the entire wedding party is present for the rehearsal. **Note that rehearsals will begin at their scheduled time.**

### **The Day of the Service**

In addition to the one-hour rehearsal, the standard St. Luke's wedding fee includes use of the church for a maximum of three hours on the day of your service, including photography. Liturgies without a Eucharist usually take about 40 minutes; liturgies with a Eucharist last about an hour. Weddings customarily must be completed by 6:00 p.m. A private room with a full-length mirror and other accommodations is provided for final preparations. Check with the wedding coordinator regarding space that may be available for personal preparation prior to the service.

### **The Reception**

St. Luke's has reception space available in the Guild Hall in the lower level of the church. 100 people can comfortably be seated at rectangular tables.

## **Children in the Wedding Party**

Children must be supervised by a designated adult. It is requested that children participating in the wedding be at least five years old, in consideration of their comfort with and enjoyment of their participation.

## **Fees**

St. Luke's wedding fee includes:

- Use of the church nave for an hour-long rehearsal and up to three hours on the day of the wedding.
- Utilities, parking, dressing/preparation rooms and parking.
- Services of clergy, church organist, wedding coordinator, altar guild, in-house production of service bulletin, and custodial staff.

Additional fees may include:

- Use of candelabra or globed torches.
- Cost of additional musicians, if desired
- Musician rehearsal fee, if required
- Reception rental of Guild Hall.
- Overtime charges accrue at the rate of \$100 per half-hour for using church space for more than the allotted time. Overtime space use charges apply to both the rehearsal and the wedding itself.
- Overtime charge of custodial services applies over four hours including set up, service, and clean up.

Weddings are scheduled when a non-refundable de-

posit is received by the church as well as the form included in this booklet affirming your understanding St. Luke's wedding policy. The deposit is applied toward your total fee and the remainder is collected at the final meeting with the wedding coordinator approximately two weeks before your wedding date. Payments may be made with a check made out to St. Luke's Church.

Please contact the wedding coordinator to receive a fee schedule for your wedding.

## **Welcome**

For those who are not already a part of our faith community, we look forward to your active participation. We hope we are a community of support to you as you begin to join your lives together. After 6 months or a year of active participation, we invite you to inquire about a marriage date with our Wedding Coordinator.

For more information about the many ministries of St. Luke's, and ways in which you may learn more about and connect with the St. Luke's community, please check out our webpage at [www.stlukesrenton.org](http://www.stlukesrenton.org)

## **To Get Started**

To learn more about weddings at St. Luke's, or to begin your planning process, please contact the Wedding coordinator at 253-631-2334.

## Wedding Preparation Timeline for:

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**If you are not an active participant at St. Luke's Church ...**

**A year or longer prior to your marriage**

- Become actively engaged in worship and life at St. Luke's, including newcomer orientation classes.

**At six months \_\_\_\_\_**

- Determine and reserve date and time with wedding coordinator.
- Pay deposit.
- Arrange initial planning meeting with wedding coordinator.
- Schedule counseling sessions.
- Begin work on music.
- Communicate wedding plans with relatives and friends; begin securing witnesses, attendants and other wedding party members.

*Prior marriage: Arrange first meeting with priest as soon as possible.*

**At three months \_\_\_\_\_**

- Counseling is complete.
- Witnesses, attendants and other wedding party members have been confirmed.
- Florist, photographer and other services have been secured.
- Order marriage license/consider legal arrangements.

- Check in with wedding coordinator.
- Arrange first meeting with officiating priest.
- Work is underway with music staff.

*Prior marriage: First meeting with priest has been completed.*

**At two months \_\_\_\_\_**

- Music selections are complete.
- Scripture readings have been chosen.
- First meeting with officiating priest has taken place.
- Arrange second meeting with priest.
- Begin work on service leaflet with wedding coordinator.
- Marriage license secured/legal planning underway.

*Prior marriage: Last of meetings with priest has been completed.*

**At one month \_\_\_\_\_**

- Last of meetings with priest has taken place.
- Service leaflet is complete or nearing completion.
- Marriage license has arrived/legal arrangements finalized.

**At two weeks \_\_\_\_\_**

- Last of meetings with wedding coordinator takes place.
- Final balance paid and all final details reviewed.



Enclosed you will find:

- An application for marriage at St. Luke's Church  
This is to be turned in with your deposit check in order to reserve a date on St. Luke's wedding calendar.
- Instructions for photographers
- Schedule of fees

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*Welcome to St. Luke's. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here. God knows no outsiders and we strive to be a church for all people.*

#### Service and Program Schedule

##### Sunday

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:30 AM Godly Play

10:30 Holy Eucharist

Childcare 9—Noon

##### Tuesday

5:30 PM Centering Prayer

##### Wednesday

6 PM Vesper Mass

#### Parish Staff

The Rev. Kevin D. Pearson, Rector

Richard Pellegrin, Director of Music

German Vergara, Property Manager

Lucia Baptista, Childcare Attendant

Barbara Montemayor, Wedding Coordinator

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30 am—5 pm.

Fr. Pearson available by appointment Tuesday—Thursday

99 Wells Ave. S. Renton WA 98057

tel.425.255.3323 Wedding Coordinator tel. 253-631-2334

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