

## CONGRATULATIONS!

This folder is made available to you so that you might better plan for your wedding at St. Peter Lutheran Church. Please read all the information and if you have further questions, call the church office at 986-3077 or our Wedding Coordinator, Paige Herbsleb at 986-9359.

Weddings are highpoints for families and congregations. We are here to help you design a joyful and meaningful wedding service.

### **Steps for Planning the Wedding**

- 1. Check wedding date availability and fill out the contact information sheet.**
- 2. Initial Meeting with the Wedding Coordinator . . .** The Wedding Coordinator will contact you after you have filled out the contact information form. The initial meeting with the Wedding Coordinator will review the church policies and general information about the wedding rehearsal and ceremony. At the initial meeting, the Wedding Coordinator will discuss the pre-marriage counseling options and officially reserve the date on the church calendar.
- 3. Pre-marriage Counseling . . .** Pre-marriage counseling is required of all persons to be married at St. Peter Lutheran Church. Talk with Pastor or Wedding Coordinator about options.
- 4. Counseling with the Pastor . . .** In addition to the pre-marriage counseling, time should be set aside to meet with the Pastor to design the wedding service. In the Lutheran tradition, the celebration of marriage is a service of worship designed to bring honor and praise to God. It is not a show. The service is not centered around you, but to thank God for the gift of love which brings two people, their families, and friends together. Because a wedding is a Christian worship service, our congregation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have given the responsibilities for conducting the worship service to the Pastor. Having said that, we do want to personalize each service to reflect the couple getting married. All scripture, music, readings, and other details of the wedding service must be approved by the Pastor.
- 5. Plan time for rehearsals for the organist and other musicians . .** The soloist and organist must plan their rehearsal time other than the wedding rehearsal time.

- 6. Final Meeting with the Wedding Coordinator . . .** The Wedding Coordinator will meet with the bride as often as necessary, but no less than twice during the planning process. One final meeting will take place two weeks before the ceremony to discuss the order of service and to plan for the rehearsal. The Wedding Coordinator will be responsible for opening and closing the church as necessary. Arrangements should be made for floral and other deliveries as needed.
- 7. Rehearsal . . .** The time for the rehearsal is to be arranged by the Bride, Groom, Wedding Coordinator, and Pastor. The license and gratuities should be presented to the Wedding Coordinator at this time. The Wedding Coordinator will take responsibility for distributing them to the proper people. The church office will be responsible for completing and mailing the license to the county courthouse following the wedding ceremony. If everyone is available and on time, the rehearsal should last no longer than 45 minutes.