



Marriage

Resurrection Lutheran Church

The logo for Resurrection Lutheran Church features the word "Resurrection" in a large, elegant serif font. Above the letter "i" in "Resurrection", there is a stylized graphic of a cross with a dove, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. Below "Resurrection", the words "LUTHERAN CHURCH" are written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font.

Resurrection

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome in the name of Christ! We at Resurrection Lutheran Church rejoice with you and look forward to helping you plan for a beautiful and special wedding day. We invite you to consider these words from the marriage liturgy in Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Marriage is a gift of God, intended for the joy and mutual strength of those who enter it and for the well-being of the whole human family. God blessed humankind with the gifts of companionship, the capacity to love, and the care and nurture of children. Jesus affirmed the covenant of marriage and revealed God's own self-giving love on the cross. The Holy Spirit helps those who are united in marriage to be living signs of God's grace, love, and faithfulness.

Marriage is also a human estate, with legal implications and vows publicly witnessed. The church in worship surrounds these promises with the gathering of God's people, the witness of the word of God, and prayers of blessing and intercession.

These words remind us that a Christian wedding is the occasion for friends and family to gather not merely to be spectators at a ceremony, but to assemble in God's name to pray for you and bless you. Your wedding is a worship service of praise and thanksgiving to God for the love that exists between the two of you, and a time for you and the people gathered to ask for God's presence and blessing in your lives. We have no membership requirements to hold a wedding at Resurrection; however, in requesting a wedding here, we assume such an understanding of the wedding service is clear at the outset of your planning. This same understanding applies to locations other than Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Your planning, then, will be done in partnership with one of the pastors. While we hope this booklet will prove useful and informative in planning for details of the day itself, the pastors and all of us at Resurrection are glad to offer ourselves to you in the name of Christ for assistance both in these days of preparation as well as the years to come. God's richest blessings to you!

FIRST STEPS

THE DATE & TIME

It is best to set the date and hour for your wedding as far in advance as possible. You may “pencil” in dates with the church Parish Administrator (office@rlcindy.org, (317) 881-7854), but your wedding date will not be confirmed until after your first counseling session has been completed with the pastor. All plans prior to this initial counseling session should be seen as tentative; therefore, we would advise that you first finalize your plans with the church before making any financial commitment for reception halls, photographers, florists, etc.

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

In addition to your initial meeting for scheduling arrangements, you will meet again with the pastor for three to four counseling sessions of approximately an hour. Beyond simple planning for the *wedding*, the purpose of these sessions is to provide a helpful setting to plan for *marriage*. Friendly and open discussions may address marriage, communication and personality issues, finances and budgeting, sexuality and family issues. The pastor will make use of several excellent assessment instruments that will help you become more aware of your strength and growth areas in order to provide a healthy start to building a lasting relationship – the kind of relationship every couple wants.

Another purpose of these sessions is to simply have fun together, developing a warm relationship between you and the pastor. Our hope is that this will not only make your wedding day a more intimate and meaningful experience, but also that you will have a chance to fully explore the place of Christian faith in your marriage. *It is assumed, therefore, that any couple seeking to be married at Resurrection will worship together on a regular basis from now until the date of the wedding.* We do not require membership before or after the wedding, but we do insist that in this time of preparation you embrace God’s commitment to you, and establish healthy, faithful practices that will enrich your marriage. If you are unable or unwilling to fulfill this promise regarding worship attendance, the pastor will address this in the counseling sessions and reserves the right to either postpone or cancel the wedding at Resurrection.

THE REHEARSAL

Ordinarily a rehearsal is recommended and is usually scheduled the evening before the service. Lasting about 30-45 minutes, the focus is not on “rehearsing” a performance or ceremony but is an intimate and informal pre-wedding gathering where we make sure all participants understand and are comfortable with their roles in the worship service. Members of the wedding party, parents, and other participants (ushers, lectors, soloists, etc.) should be present and **on time, arriving at least 10 minutes before the scheduled time.**

The soloist, organist, or any other musicians need not be present at the rehearsal unless it is your desire to invite them to any dinner or gathering following. Music rehearsals are held in conjunction with the planning of the organist (see **Music** section on the next page).

No smoking is allowed anywhere in the church, and it is expected that all members of the wedding party, prior to both the rehearsal and the wedding, will refrain from alcoholic beverages. **Please make these expectations very clear to all your participants:** promptness, the emphasis on the worship nature of the wedding, no smoking, and no prior alcoholic consumption.

If you are planning a rehearsal dinner, it should follow the rehearsal. The pastor is glad to fellowship with the wedding parties and family at either the rehearsal or reception. However, since the pastor’s time is a valuable asset to the entire congregation, if invitations are not extended well in advance, prior commitments may take your pastor elsewhere.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Indiana law requires a license to marry. The application is made in the office of the County Clerk in the county of either applicant’s residence, and once issued, is valid for 60 days. Out of state residents must obtain the marriage license in the county in which the marriage will be performed (Marion County if the wedding is at the church). We strongly recommend you apply earlier than the few weeks prior to the wedding and ask that it be brought into the church office along with any fees due the church at least ONE WEEK before the wedding day.

WEDDING SERVICE DETAILS

MUSIC

A Christian marriage is a witness to God's love in Christ and recognizes God as the one who establishes and blesses the home. The marriage service, therefore, becomes an opportunity to witness to the Christian faith. It becomes a celebration of the Gospel for all who attend. Every part of the service can reflect this witness and celebration.

Accordingly, music – organ, other contemporary instruments, solo or congregational songs – can be a marvelous part of your service and should reflect the joy and dignity of this worship service. It follows, then, that popular tunes or favorite secular love songs sometimes may be more appropriately enjoyed at your reception. After your first counseling appointment, we will assign you an organist who will do the music planning with you.

DECORATIONS

Many couples, of course, wish to have beautiful flowers or other decorations to enhance the beauty and atmosphere of the wedding. We would encourage both good taste and wise stewardship of your resources, as expenses can mount very quickly. There is much beauty in simplicity as well!

If you are working with a florist, please note that any decorative arrangements may not be fastened to the church furniture with tacks, nails, tape, or any adhesive that will mar the finish of the wood. In addition, no decoration shall be used which will hide from view the primary worship symbols of the sanctuary – cross, altar, font, pulpit, etc. The altar table may not be used for decorations. If a unity candle is used, there is a separate stand available. Paraments/banners remain in accordance with the season of the church year and are not changed for the color scheme of a wedding. Traditionally the church has discouraged wedding dates during the Lenten season.

FLOWERS We have two stands available for flowers and/or unity candle, though you may wish to have your florist provide these. It will be your responsibility to remove all flowers and decorations after the wedding. Please inform the church office ahead of time if you wish to leave the flowers for Sunday worship.

UNITY CANDLE We have a small brass unity candle stand which you are welcome to use. You will need to purchase the unity candle itself, as well as the two individual lighting candles. These are found in many greeting card gift shops or online.

CANDLES The two altar candles are always lit for weddings and are provided by the church. If you wish to use additional candles, they must be non-drip candles, with clear plastic placed under any candelabra stands, which you also must provide.

PHOTOGRAPHERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

We know you will want to preserve the special moments of this day, yet we also do not want anything to detract from the beauty of your ceremony. We recommend that you engage an experienced photographer and/or videographer. Resurrection has built-in video recording capability - check with the pastor for available technicians. Flash photography is permitted only during the procession and recession. During the ceremony itself, we ask the photographers to remain in a discreet stationary location.

As a courtesy to your guests and as a favor to yourselves, it is strongly urged that you and your wedding party take as many pictures before the wedding as possible. Some may choose to take all of their photographs before the wedding. Please advise your photographer, however, that this work *must* be completed a minimum of 15 minutes before the wedding, or else will be completed afterwards. We don't want to rush you or delay the start of the wedding.

BULLETINS

While not necessary, you may wish to have a printed bulletin to inform guests about the order of the service and names of participants. Please have the pastor approve the order of service before printing. You may wish to produce and print these yourselves, or the church Parish Administrator will do the layout and printing for a \$75 fee.

NURSERY

A nursery for infants and small children is available for the convenience of wedding guests. If there are children in the nursery during the wedding and/or reception, there must be a responsible adult present in the room with the children.

USHERS

We recommend at least two ushers to help with seating and other details. They should be present at the rehearsal and may also be groomsmen or bridesmaids.

RICE/BIRDSEED/CONFETTI, ETC.

We ask that you do not use rice, bird seed, confetti, etc. at the door or parking lot of the church as this is very difficult to clean.

MARRIAGE FEES AND HONORARIUMS

	<u>Non-members</u>	<u>Members of RLC</u>
Custodian	\$75	\$75
Organist	\$200	\$200
Church Usage	\$200	(Gift as desired)
Pastor	\$275	(Honorarium as desired)

ADDITIONAL FEES FOR OPTIONAL SERVICES

Program layout/printing	\$75	\$75
Vocalist/Instrumentalist/AV tech arranged through RLC	\$75	\$75
Organist rehearsal/prep for additional vocalist or instrumentalist	\$75	\$75
Custodian for reception	\$75	\$75
Fellowship Hall	\$200	\$25

All fees and honorariums may be covered with a single check written to "Resurrection Lutheran Church" and must be brought into the church office along with the marriage license one week prior to the wedding. Please attach a note with a breakdown of the fees. If you have arranged for vocalists or musicians outside of Resurrection, please compensate them directly and do not include them in the check made to Resurrection. If you wish to hold a reception at Resurrection using our Fellowship Hall, please request the additional User Agreement from the church office.



Resurrection
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Ryan Bailey