

Weddings at Halfway Creek Lutheran

What is a Christian Wedding?

A Christian Wedding is a worship service in which we give thanks to God for the love God gives us. It is a time when the community gathers to witness two people promising themselves to one another. In the Christian wedding, scriptures are read, prayers are offered, and at times, the sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated. The proclamation of the Gospel is central to all Christian weddings.

Selecting a Date

Weddings are arranged through the pastor. Please check with the pastor immediately to be sure that the date you wish is available. You are encouraged to avoid picking a date during Lent, due to the penitential spirit of the season.

Pre-Marriage Counseling

Couples to be married at Halfway Creek are required to meet with the pastor two or three times for pre-marriage counseling. The counseling material that we use is called Prepare-Enrich, and it involves a fee of \$35 (check to be made out to Prepare-Enrich and brought to the first counseling session). The first session needs to be about four months prior to the wedding.

Choosing a Location for Your Wedding

Halfway Creek has two locations for weddings. Weddings may be held in the church or in Whispering Pines outdoor worship center. The pastor is willing to consider requests to officiate at weddings at other suitable locations.

The Rehearsal

Set the date and time of the rehearsal with the pastor when you arrange the date of your wedding. It is not necessary to have the musicians present. Please note that the rehearsal is not the time for the musicians to practice the musical selections.

The Pastor

Usually the pastor of the congregation is the presiding minister at all weddings within the congregation. Other pastors may be a part of the service along with the pastor of Halfway Creek.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is an appropriate addition to Christian weddings. Couples may choose to include Holy Communion in their wedding worship service, provided that the sacrament is celebrated by the whole community in accordance with the practices of the Lutheran Church.

Candles and Unity Candles

The church has two liquid oil candelabra for the altar. Unity candles are a welcomed addition to the service. Couples wishing to include unity candles in their service may use the church's unity candle set, or provide their own. Because the three candles used in the church's unity candle set are lit with liquid wax, they remain on the property of Halfway Creek Lutheran after the service. Other candles cannot be used in HCLC's unity candle set. The unity candle stand can be decorated with greenery and/or flowers.

Bulletin

If you choose to have a wedding bulletin, the fee for preparing the bulletin is \$25 plus the cost of the bulletin stock you choose. The bulletin will be prepared in the office.

Music/Musicians

When organ music is desired in the wedding, it is customary that the church organist be asked to play the organ at all events in the church, including weddings. It is possible to make other arrangements in some situations.

It is important to have a meeting with the organist early in your planning to help arrange the music for your wedding and to make certain that the organist is free on your wedding date. Arranging an organist and any other musicians is your responsibility. **The organist's fee is to be negotiated with the organist and is to be paid at the rehearsal. When using HCLC's organist, this fee must not be lower than \$100.**

Soloists and special music add beauty to the wedding. Couples may make these arrangements at their own discretion. All music needs to be approved by either the pastor or music director.

The Marriage License

Wisconsin Law requires a license to marry. Laws differ from county to county so please contact your local county for details. Arranging the license is your responsibility. The marriage license should be given to the pastor at the rehearsal. In Wisconsin there is a six-day waiting period between the time the license is applied for and received, so be sure to plan ahead.

The Custodian

We expect the church to be left in relatively clean condition. Couples must arrange to have somebody remove decorations from the sanctuary/Whispering Pines prior to leaving our facilities. The custodian fee is \$75 and is to be paid at the rehearsal via check, payable to Rich Pedretti. If couples intend to show hospitality to guests in the fellowship hall, there is an additional \$50 custodial fee.

The Paraments

The colored fabrics that drape the fronts of the altar and pulpit are chosen according to the church season. They are not changed for a wedding. If you wish to know the color for your wedding day, please check with the pastor. The color scheme of the dresses and flowers, of course, are entirely up to you.

The Flowers

If you plan to leave your altar flowers for Sunday, let us know so that we may make note of that in our Sunday bulletin. It is liturgically inappropriate to have flowers decorating the altar during Lent. Live green plants are an appropriate alternative to flowering plants.

Photographs

A wedding is a worship service in the church. We try to make this setting as intimate and worshipful as possible. Thus, we ask that no flash pictures be taken during the ceremony, although the procession and recession may be photographed with a flash. Video taping is possible but only if it is discreet and out of sight so as not to disturb the focus of the worship. You may have the bridal party photographed either before or after the ceremony.

Rice

Rice and bird seed can be slippery and dangerous for people and birds. A better alternative is to use bubbles. If you use rice, please have the ushers sweep it up immediately after the wedding.

The Reception

You may have your reception downstairs in the church basement, if you wish. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the church building. Please pay the custodian an additional \$50 if you have a church reception.

No Alcohol

We do not allow alcohol in the church, the church basement, or the grounds. If members of the wedding party appear to have been drinking, they will not be allowed to participate.

Fees

The following fees are set for weddings at Halfway Creek. All fees are due no later than the rehearsal. Couples must pay by check and not cash. Checks should be written payable as listed below. Please do not write one check to cover the entire cost. The check for Prepare-Enrich is to be brought with couples to their first counseling session. Couples must negotiate and pay musician fees with the musicians as per arrangements made with them. *Fees are subject to change without notice. Fees in effect on the date of the wedding are the fees which are to be paid. Couples are responsible for paying fees at the wedding rehearsal, according to the fee schedule in place at the time of the wedding.*

	Fees for Members	Fees for Non-Members
Facility/Property¹	\$75 + \$25 Non-refundable deposit fee, to be paid within 2 weeks of booking wedding date.	\$175 + \$50 Non-refundable deposit fee, to be paid within 2 weeks of booking wedding date.
Pastor²	\$75	\$150
Premarital Sessions³	Cost of Materials	Cost of Materials
Bulletins⁴	Cost of Materials, plus \$25	Cost of Materials, plus \$25
Custodian⁵	\$75	\$75
Organist⁶	\$100-\$300 (Dependent upon whether the organist sings as well as plays and how much time she spends preparing for the wedding.)	\$100-\$300 (Dependent upon whether the organist sings as well as plays and how much time she spends preparing for the wedding.)

¹ Payable to Halfway Creek Lutheran, at the wedding rehearsal

² Payable to The Rev. Jean Pagliaro, at the wedding rehearsal

³ Currently \$35, payable to Prepare-Enrich

⁴ Payable to Halfway Creek Lutheran, at the wedding rehearsal.

⁵ Payable to Rich Pedretti, at the wedding rehearsal. \$125 if fellowship hall is used to show hospitality to guests.

⁶ The \$100 fee is a minimum fee when couples use HCLC's organist. It will vary depending on the amount of music and/or other factors. This fee is payable to Lynn Wegner and is due at the wedding rehearsal.