

## **MARRIAGE IS A COVENANT**

Central wants to help you build a Christian marriage and craft your marriage to make it last. The most important question that needs to be asked is – *WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?* If indeed it is the will of God for you to join together as husband and wife, we will do all we can to make your marriage healthy and Christ-centered. A Christian marriage is a total and timeless commitment of a man and woman to the person of Jesus Christ and one another. Remember...a wedding is a day, a marriage is for a lifetime.

### **WE ASK THAT YOU...**

- Pray and read God's word each day.
- Regularly participate in worship.
- Be involved in a group that fosters spiritual growth, i.e.. a Bible study, prayer group, etcetera.
- Participate in a meaningful pre-marriage course, conference, retreat or seminar.
- Meet with the officiating pastor for prayer, planning and preparation.
- Meet with the wedding coordinator to plan and organize the wedding.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Married men and women can expect to live longer than their unmarried counterparts.
- Married people are twice as likely as those who are single of reporting that they are "very happy." Some 40 percent of married couples say they are very happy compared to 15 percent of those who are separated, 18 percent of those who are divorced, 22 percent of those who have never married, and 22 percent of those who are currently cohabitating reporting that they are very happy.
- A married man earns 30 percent more than a single man with the same education, and the happier his marriage, the larger the increased earnings reported.
- A Gallup Poll found that 57 percent of marriages fail due to poor communication and conflict resolution skills; in 30 percent of those divorces, couples say they were aware of those problems when they married or soon thereafter.
- Seventy percent of divorces involve low conflict marriages that harm children much more than if the couple stayed together..."Future generations would be well served if parents remained together until children are grown."
- Those who live together before marriage have higher separation and divorce rates. Yale sociologist, Neil Bennett, found that cohabitating women are 80 percent more likely to separate or divorce than those who did not live together before marriage.

## **WEDDING EXPENSES**

Central does not conduct wedding services for a profit. Proper Christian stewardship requires that certain expenses be covered.

	<i>MEMBER</i>	<i>NON-MEMBER</i>
Sanctuary	No Charge	\$200
Family Life Center	\$ 50	\$175
Kitchen	\$ 50	\$125
Per Guest Reception Fee	\$ 2	\$ 2
Pastor	Honorarium	\$150
Wedding Coordinator	\$250	\$250
Kitchen/Reception Coordinator	\$150	\$150
Custodian (wedding only)	\$125	\$125
Custodian (wedding & reception)	\$200	\$200
Candelabra	No Charge	\$ 15
Sound Technician	\$ 75	\$ 75
Organist/Pianist	Determined by Musician	
Vocalist/Instrumentalist	Determined by Musician	
Marriage Seminar	\$ 75	\$ 75

All expenses are to be paid in full prior to the rehearsal. A non-refundable \$50.00 is required to reserve the date. Non-member weddings are scheduled six months prior to the wedding as a courtesy to our members.

The marriage license must be given to the church office the week prior to the wedding.

The use of alcoholic beverages on Central's property will not be tolerated. There is a no smoking policy in the building.

## What About....

### MUSIC

All music is expected to be Christ-centered. The wedding coordinator and organist will assist you in selecting the music.

### FLOWERS

Flowers are symbols of the resurrected Christ and as such, need to be in good taste. The florist will be responsible for the delivery of flowers on the day of the wedding. The church cannot be responsible for the arranging of any bouquets.

### REHEARSAL

Rehearsal time and date will be set with the wedding coordinator or pastor and will start on time. If convenient, this will be the afternoon or evening before the wedding. It is preferable that all members of the wedding party be in attendance. Please plan forty-five minutes to an hour for your wedding rehearsal.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

We ask that people refrain from photography during the worship. Pictures may be taken during the processional and recessional. If you have a professional photographer, please make sure he/she consults with the wedding coordinator.

Videotaping will be permitted with the available lighting.

*Further information will be given to you when you meet with the wedding coordinator.*

## Marriage is a gift from God!

People in every culture and nation enter into marriage! Much more than a promise to love each other, marriage is understood as a "covenant of fidelity," a faithful commitment to share in all that life brings to us! Research has shown that marriage is good for us!

Central is privileged to be part of your marriage ceremony. We want to help you build a strong foundation so your marriage will last for a lifetime. Please do not hesitate to contact the church office for additional assistance or information.

### CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## So, You Plan to Get Married...



“...Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

— Matthew 19:4-6