



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

3108 Sterrettania Rd, Erie, PA 16506 | 814.833.1761 | @stpaulserie

Wedding Policy

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! We are so excited you have chosen to have this sacred day at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Marriage is a gift from God, intended for the joy and mutual strength of those who enter it. 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 vows publicly witnessed. The church, in worship, surrounds these promises with the gathering of God's people, the witnesses of the word of God and prayers of blessing. Therefore, all that is said and done during the wedding worship services is to the glory of God.

We are so excited to share that with you at St. Paul's! It is our intent that your wedding be a meaningful, inspiring ceremony, blessed by God, for you and your guests.

Fees:

Facility rental	\$300
Pastor	\$225 (non-members; no fee for members)
Director of Music & Worship Ministries	\$150
Other musicians (e.g. soloist)	Negotiated with Director of Music & Worship
Bulletins	\$25/100 bulletins

Steps to planning your wedding worship service:

Please stay away from planning a wedding worship service during Lent, Holy Week, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

1. Contact the Director of Administration for availability of the facility at Office@stpaulserie.org.
2. Contact the pastor for availability at Pastor@stpaulserie.org. The called pastor will officiate the wedding. If you would like another pastor to assist, please talk with the pastor at St. Paul's.
3. Contact the Director of Music & Worship Ministries for availability at MusicDirector@stpaulserie.org. Selection, arrangement, and rehearsal of all music

and musicians are coordinated by the Director of Music & Worship Ministries. If you desire to use another musician (other than our Director of Music & Worship) for your wedding day, please let us know. As a wedding is a worship service, appropriate music that praises God and the gift of marriage is an expectation.

4. Schedule one-hour wedding prep session with the pastor at 814-833-1761, ext. 103 or Pastor@stpaulserie.org.

Things to consider while planning your wedding worship service:

1. St. Paul's sanctuary can seat 250 people.
2. Do you want bulletins made by the church or would you like to make your own?
3. How do you want to enter the church in the processional?
4. Which scriptures do you wish read?
5. Who should read the scriptures?
6. Do you want the congregation to sing one or more hymns?
7. Do you want to write your own vows or have them prewritten?
8. Do you want to use a unity candle? Do you want music while you light the candle?
9. Do you want to present a rose or flowers to your parents?
10. Do you want to celebrate Holy Communion?
11. Do you want everyone to partake in the meal or just the wedding party?
12. Would you like a receiving line?

Pennsylvania Marriage License

The clerk of the Orphan's Court issues the marriage license. There is a three-day period of waiting between the application and the granting of the license. The license is good for 60 days. Bring your Marriage License to the officiating pastor the night of the rehearsal. It is the pastor's responsibility to fill out the lower portion of the license and return it to the Probate Court.

Bulletins

Bulletins which list the participants and the order of service are available for a fee, prepared by the church office. In order to do so, **all information (participants, music, scripture, etc.) must be provided to the church office no later than two weeks prior to the wedding worship service.**

Flowers

Flowers are the responsibility of the couple getting married. Typically, one arrangement is placed on the stand below the main cross behind the altar.

Decorations

The paraments (colored banners & altar cloths) of the church season will be used and *will not be changed for a wedding*. Decorative bows or ribbon may be used on the pews provided that no tacks, pins, staples or tape are used that could mark or mar the finish. Please leave the facility the way you found it.



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Rehearsal

A rehearsal is usually done the day before the wedding date. All participants in the wedding are expected to attend the rehearsal. Please be ON TIME. The pastor will conduct the rehearsal, including specific instructions for all participants in the service. **All fees (e.g. facility, musicians & bulletins) and the marriage license are due at the rehearsal.**

Photographers

Non-flash photographs are permitted; photographers must be discrete and not interrupt the worship service. Video may be taken during the service, keeping in mind that it is a worshipful time.

Preparation Rooms

Rooms are available for members of the bridal party who wish to dress and prepare at St Paul's. Please coordinate with the Director of Music & Worship and/or the pastor.

Outdoor Celebratory Objects

The throwing of confetti, using confetti canons, & releasing balloons are prohibited.

Reception

St. Paul's gym (non-smoking & alcohol-free) is available for receptions. The use of this space falls under a separate rental policy. It is \$50/ hour with a \$50 deposit required. Check with the church office for availability.