

**WEDDING GUIDELINES FOR  
AUGUSTANA/TUSTIN ZION/LE ROY**

**A. *A MARRIAGE CEREMONY AT AUGUSTANA/ZION LUTHERAN PARISH***

Augustana/Zion Lutheran Parish is a community of people whose focus is upon Jesus Christ. We believe that his life and ministry, his Cross and Resurrection, direct our life and hope. By seeking marriage here, you declare this to be your belief as well.

A wedding at Augustana/Zion Lutheran Parish is worship. This is to say that we place God at the center of the covenant you make on your wedding day. People, music, text and vows, and the shape of worship itself find their focus in Jesus. The dignity of marriage comes from the fact that you gather among friends to seek God's blessing on your new life as husband and wife.

A wedding at Augustana/Zion Lutheran Parish is corporate. There are no observers at your wedding, only participants. We listen, speak, sing and pray. Your wedding is not a performance; it is family and friends gathered to praise God for his blessing, and hear you speak promises of fidelity to one another. In truth, God is the audience, and we are the worshipers.

A wedding at Augustana/Zion Lutheran Parish is a time of proclamation. Our message is the Gospel news that God showers forgiveness, love and grace upon our lives through the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Whenever the community gathers, it hears that Word, and it belongs to you as husband and wife.

A wedding at Augustana/Zion Lutheran Parrish is a time of celebration. We gather to celebrate for you, with you, because of you, that Jesus Christ has blessed marriage with possibilities of lived-out grace and forgiveness. We rejoice in worship at God's goodness to you and us and the joy you find in each other.

## **B. MAKING ARRANGEMENTS**

- 1. Contact the pastor of Augustana/Zion Lutheran Parish as far ahead as possible, at least 4 months in advance so that the desired date may be obtained, and the pastor may plan his schedule.**
- 2. No date will be given to any couple unless they have called and met with the pastor beforehand.**
- 3. The Building Use Guidelines will be followed by the couple and the pastor. Each couple will complete the Application for Use of Building at their first meeting with the pastor. The pastor goes with the building.**

## **C. WEDDING SERVICE**

- 1. Each couple is required to take a counseling survey entitled PREPARE/ENRICH at a cost of \$25.00 per couple. 4 or 5 counseling sessions are also required for each couple.**
- 2. The pastor of Augustana/Zion Lutheran Parish officiates as presiding minister of all weddings. Should the couple desire to have a guest pastor participate in the wedding worship, the officiating pastor will contact the proposed guest pastor to determine what role the guest pastor will have in worship.**
- 3. The officiating pastor will conduct the wedding rehearsal.**
- 4. The wedding fees and license should be brought to the officiating pastor's office one week prior to the wedding.**
- 5. The couple is responsible for obtaining their own organist.**
- 6. The music, soloist and instrumentalist must be approved by the officiating pastor.**
- 7. The consumption of alcoholic beverages, either before the rehearsal or before the marriage worship is prohibited. Alcohol may not be served on the church premises.**

**8. Photographers are expected to be properly attired in the sanctuary. Preservice photography must be completed thirty minutes before the service. No photographs are to be taken during the wedding service except for time exposures taken from the rear of the church or from the balcony (at Zion).**

**9. The worship service may be videotaped from the rear of the church or from the balcony at (Zion). Such taping is to be discussed in advance with the pastor.**

**10. Throwing of rice or bird seed is not permitted inside the church.**

**11. The Marriage Worship from the Lutheran Book of Worship is the prescribed form and will be discussed during the counseling sessions with the officiating pastor.**

**12. The paraments prescribed for the church season are to remain in place.**

**13. It is expected that the wedding rehearsal and ceremony will begin at the appointed hour.**