



St. Armands Key
LUTHERAN CHURCH

40 North Adams Drive † Sarasota † Florida 34236
† 941-388-1234 † www.saklc.com

WEDDING GUIDELINES



We are delighted that you are interested in holding your wedding at St. Armands Key Lutheran Church (SAKLC). Our aim is to help make your wedding day as beautiful and meaningful as possible.

Reserving Your Wedding Date

While initial inquiries regarding available dates are first made with SAKLC's Administrative Assistant, who shall "penciled in" your ceremony on the church calendar, the date is only formally secured after meeting with the pastor and the payment of a deposit.

Pastors and Pre-Marital Preparation

Weddings at SAKLC are conducted by one of the pastors of our congregation. Pr. Blyth must approve any exception to this practice. Pre-marital counseling is available upon request.

Wedding Service

The pastor will provide you with a copy of the wedding liturgy, and invite you to select your vows, etc. from the options available. Broadly speaking, the marriage service at St. Armands Key consists of the entrance of the wedding party, prayer, scripture readings, the rite of marriage (including vows and exchange of rings), and a blessing. The service may also include a celebration of Holy Communion.

Some couples wish to symbolically light a candle to emphasize that their new-found *unity* has begun. Couples choosing the *unity candle* option will be asked to provide the necessary candles and holders. Other culturally specific options are also possible, and the pastor can discuss these with you.

Musicians and Wedding Music

If your wedding includes music you will need to contact our Minister of Music, who will guide you in making appropriate selections. Please make this contact as soon as possible after meeting with the pastor. The use of a non-SAKLC organist/pianist will not alter the fee described in this booklet. Additional SAKLC musicians (soloists, instrumentalists, choir, etc.) or Sound Technician are available for an additional fee.

Please keep in mind that the wedding ceremony is a profound and public exchange of vows before God. Therefore, music should be sacred and not secular (which is best saved for the rehearsal dinner or reception). Again, our Minister of Music will assist and guide you in your selection.

The Rehearsal

The pastor will help you decide if a rehearsal is needed, which is normally held the evening before the wedding. All members of the bridal party must be present and on time. Those outside the wedding party are not required at the rehearsal but are welcome to attend. Rehearsals typically take about 45 minutes. The Minister of Music will be on hand to provide musical cues, etc.

Marriage License

The marriage license, obtained through the Clerk of Courts, must be given to the pastor at least one day prior to the wedding ceremony (normally at the rehearsal).

Building Use on the Wedding Day

Church facilities will be open ninety minutes prior to your wedding and will remain open one hour after the end of the ceremony. While there is ample gathering space for both the bridal party and groom's party, couples are encouraged to arrive mostly ready for the ceremony in order to maintain their privacy.

Matters of Good Taste: Decoration, Florist, and Photographer

Our sanctuary is worshipful and attractive, and so excessive decorations are not necessary.

If you would like to have flowers at the altar, the church has two flower stands positioned there. Given that the church is often decorated with flowers on Sunday morning, and weddings are frequently held on a Saturday, you may ask the church to supply two altar arrangements at cost, with the flowers remaining at the altar after the wedding ceremony. The Administrative Assistant will be glad to help with these arrangements.

If you choose to use a florist, you should inform them that flower deliveries must be made ninety minutes before the wedding, to avoid interrupting the arrival of your guests.

Please inform any photographer and/or videographer that they must speak with the pastor prior to the wedding about the use of flash photography, placement of equipment, and movement during the ceremony. The intention here is that nothing distract you or your guests during the ceremony. All eyes should be on you, and not on your photographer.



Fees

Deposit: \$300.00 (non-refundable; to secure the date of the wedding; deducted from final cost).

Sanctuary Wedding: \$600.00 (balance payable seven days prior to the wedding; includes Pastor, Organist and Custodian Fees).

Meditation Garden Wedding: \$600 (balance payable seven days prior to the wedding).

These payments cover all fees and honoraria associated with your wedding service. Please make checks payable to "St. Armands Key Lutheran Church."

Contact Information for Weddings

SAKLC Office

941-388-1234

office@saklc.com

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth, Pastor

941-388-1234 (church)

941-724-0449 (cell)

pastor@saklc.com

Michael Bodnyk, Minister of Music

941-388-1234 (church)

646-620-7456 (cell)

michael@saklc.com



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