

## Reservations

You may schedule your wedding on a "first-come" basis, by calling the church office and checking the availability of your date and time. The office administrator will provide you with an application form. The form must be returned with a \$150 non-refundable deposit to secure the date on the church calendar.

After the date has been scheduled, you will be contacted to arrange for your first of three pre-wedding visits with our pastor.

### \*What Will it Cost?

The cost of a wedding at Bethany Church includes:

- Use of the building
- One musician
- Sound technician
- Custodial services
- Pastor
- Wedding Coordinator

## Wedding Contribution

Total Required: \$750

\*This fee covers all costs **except receptions**. Please make check payable to "Bethany Presbyterian Church." Funds will be distributed as necessary.

\*A \$150 non-refundable deposit is required to secure the date on the church calendar.

\*All fees are due two months prior to the rehearsal.

\*A late fee of \$100 will apply to payment received within 30 days of wedding date.

\* If fees are not received within 30 days of wedding, the date will be re-opened to host other events.

## How Do I Get Married at Bethany Church?

- First** Contact Bethany as soon as possible to see if the church is available.
- Second** The office staff will send you an application and policies for your wedding ceremony.
- Third** You will be required to meet with the pastor for three pre-wedding visits and attend a premarital counseling service. (We have recommendations for you.)
- Fourth** Be prepared to take the plunge!

*For information on getting your marriage license go to:*

*[www.winnebago-county-clerk.com](http://www.winnebago-county-clerk.com)*



### Bethany Church

5403 N. Second Street  
Loves Park, IL 61111  
Office: Mon-Fri 8am 12pm  
(815) 877-8001 ~ [www.bethpc.org](http://www.bethpc.org)

# Celebration of Marriage

## Bethany Church



For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

Ephesians 5:31

# THE JOY OF MARRIAGE!

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## Congratulations!

You're engaged! Call all your friends! Get the wedding dress, get fitted for a tux, pick out your bridesmaids, find some groomsmen, go cake tasting, Oh yeah! Find a church and a minister!

## The First Marriage

Marriage is a gift from our Creator. Not everyone is meant to be married. But no one is meant to be alone.

After God created Adam (another word for mankind) He said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." (Genesis 2:18)

So God created woman to be an equal partner and a helper to Adam. Adam named her Eve because she would be the mother of all children. (Eve is another word for "life" or "living.")

Both Adam and Eve were created in the image of God and God blessed them. (Genesis 1:27)

## Marriage Today

Today we continue the practice of marriage between a man and a woman.

Marriage requires commitment and maturity. A husband and wife care for each other and commit to encouraging each other as equal partners for the rest of their lives.

## Christian Marriage

We believe that marriage is a gift from God. God gave us marriage so that a husband and wife may help and comfort each other, living faithfully together in joy and sorrow, sickness and health throughout their days.

Marriage is given for the full expression of love between a man and a woman. In marriage, the husband and wife belong to each other and freely give themselves to each other.

In a Christian marriage, God is invited to enter into the relationship and be the glue that binds the man and woman together. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the two remain united in their union. As the feeling of love ebbs and flows and times of hardship enter, it is the Holy Spirit that will maintain the bond of matrimony.

This is a new way of life, created, ordered, and blessed by God, that a couple enters into. This way of life should not be entered into carelessly, but responsibly and prayerfully.

We rejoice that marriage is given by God, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and sustained by the Holy Spirit!

## Wedding Coordinator

Bethany provides a wedding coordinator who will be available at the rehearsal and the wedding day to assist in the details of your service. Your coordinator will open the facilities two hours prior to the time of the wedding. The coordinator does not assist in planning the wedding reception.

## Music

Music used during the ceremony must be in keeping with a worship service and tasteful in nature.

Only Bethany staff or members may use the church's instruments.

## Decorations

Decorations shall be kept within the bounds of simplicity and good taste. All equipment such as candelabras, baskets, etc. may be supplied by your florist. For safety reasons aisle runners are discouraged.

Adequate clear plastic mats or cloth must be placed beneath all candelabras and only dripless candles may be used.

**This information form is an overview of our wedding policy for your benefit. To secure a wedding date with Bethany, please return a signed application along with a non-refundable deposit. More information at [www.bethpc.org](http://www.bethpc.org)**