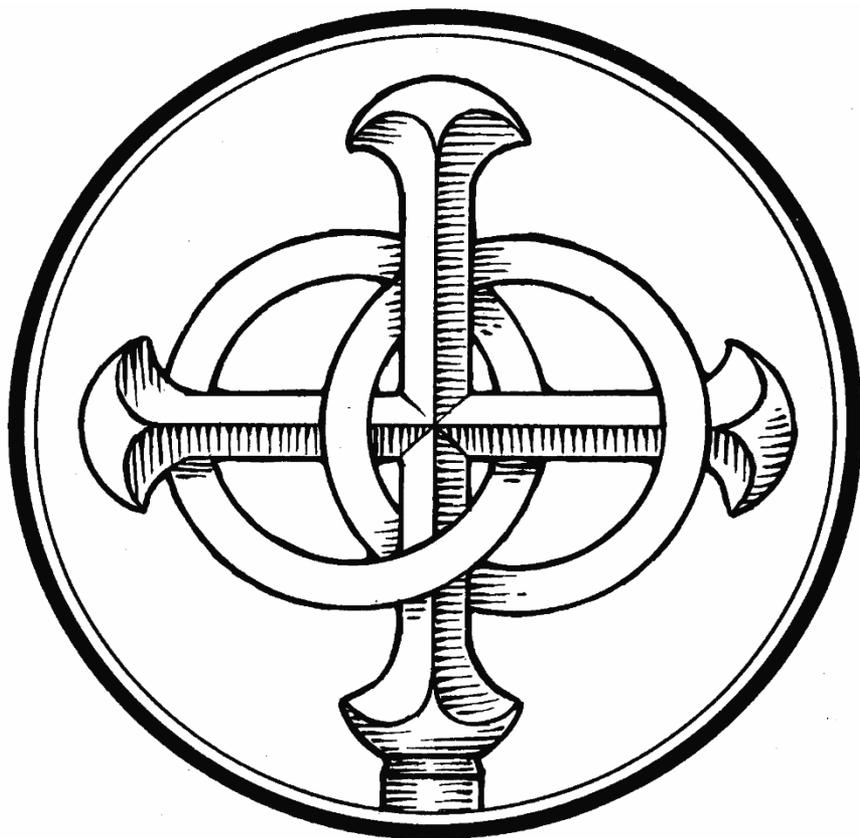


Your
Marriage
Preparation



Committing to One Another out of Reverence for Christ

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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
U.A.C.
1305 Broadway / P.O. Box 1199
Imperial, NE 69033
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www.zionimperial.com

Office Hours:

Tuesday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Wednesday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Thursday 9:00am – Noon

Office Manager:

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Officiating Pastor:

The Rev. David A Kahle

(308) 883-5655; pastorkahle@gpcom.net

Wedding Coordinator:

Mary Haarberg

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Joel Grosbach

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Preparing for Marriage
At
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
U.A.C.

Zion sees marriage as an institution created by God. We have a strong commitment to keeping marriage in accord with the Scripture and the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

In our commitment to blessing this institution of the Lord we hold value in the preparation for this event. This preparation is designed to support marriage and families as well as give orientation toward what this gift is and how God wants us to view it.

Through the encouragement of one another the church is kept in balance and the body of Christ, the church, is strengthened. With this in mind Zion has set up guidelines leading to marriage with the purpose of supporting the couple while keeping in accord with the Word of God.

Since marriage is a public institution created by God in paradise we do have a responsibility toward the union that you are about to embark upon. Our prayer is that through the encouragement of the Word of God and with our support you will have a blessed marriage and household filled with the gift of God's Spirit.

Our Wedding Guidelines

As you prepare to marry:

1. No one should set a date for their wedding before having a consultation with the pastor.
2. Our marriage preparation takes a minimum of 6 months in addition to any time needed as required.
3. The wedding couple will demonstrate an adoration for the 3rd Commandment with regular church attendance at an LCMS congregation.
4. The Rev. David Kahle will conduct weddings only for members Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.
5. Only members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church may use the church building for weddings.
 - a. If the building needs to be used for more than the wedding the couple is responsible for arranging this. They must ensure proper clean up or expect fees for services provided.
 - b. For members who are college students or other members that live away from Imperial, special arrangements can be made with Pastor.
6. If you are not a member of Zion??
 - a. We desire to help you prepare thoroughly for your marriage and are committed to your success.
 - b. If you desire to become a member, please contact Pastor Kahle and go through the membership process.
 - c. If you do not desire to become a member, but would like to participate in our pre-marriage program, then we would be happy to assist you.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Process

- Contact Pastor Kahle for wedding approval.
 - o When approved by Pastor, your wedding date will be placed on the church calendar.
- Receive “Your Marriage Preparation” booklet and application.
 - o Please read through the booklet thoroughly.
- Complete the application and turn it in to Cyndi.
- Contact our organist immediately after receiving your wedding approval.
 - o Get your wedding on his calendar.
 - o Get all music approved ASAP.
- Contact the Wedding Coordinator after receiving your wedding approval.
 - o Arrange for a first meeting.
 - o Be sure to understand policies and procedures.
- Complete the ZOE process.
- Complete the Pre-Marriage counseling sessions with Pastor.
- Turn in your wedding bulletin to the church office 1 month prior to the service. This will ensure it is complete 2 weeks prior.
- Deliver your marriage license to the church office the week prior to your wedding service.
 - o This will ensure it is present at the service.

What is ZOE?? (It is pronounced zoh-eh; Greek word meaning life)

Zoe is a comprehensive approach to helping couples identify their relationship strengths and weaknesses and to develop and practice the skills needed to increase marital satisfaction. Think of Zoe as a 3D CAT scan of a couple's relationship. Their responses to the Zoe Questions are compared to leading marriage research to create a picture that highlights both the strengths and weaknesses of their relationship. You will complete this tool online by answering a series of questions.

Why should we go through such a process in preparation for our marriage?

Facts!

Each year a million children are born to unmarried parents. Another million annually see their parent's divorce. Some 15.8 million children are now living with single parents.

60% of second marriages fail. Second marriages break apart more quickly than first marriages. About 40% of children will see their parent's divorce by age eight, and half will see a second pair of parent's divorce by age eighteen.

In only 10% of couples do both husband and wife reconstruct happier, fuller lives 10 years after divorce.

Children suffer financially, emotionally, intellectually, physically, and spiritually from divorce. Often these effects are long term and impair a child's ability to form lasting attachments to the opposite sex.

Is there a way to break a divorce culture? Yes, there it!

Part of breaking the divorce culture is good preparation.

We care about you and your marriage!

Ten Ways to Increase the Success of Your Marriage to over 95%

1. Both are committed to believers in Jesus Christ.
2. Over 20 years old.
3. Dating for 18 months or more, at least 4 months as a friendship level.
4. At least 6 month engagement.
5. Limit your time alone together, with clear boundaries for physical contact.
6. Commit to chastity.
7. Live in separate households.
8. Use a relationship inventory.
9. Go on and engaged encounter or enrichment.
10. Follow-up after your marriage with marriage encounter, marriage enrichment and family life experiences.

If you are living together...

We recognize that many couples choose to live together before marriage. Our concern is for you to build a strong and fulfilling marriage. Many studies have shown that cohabitation prior to marriage increases unhappiness in the relationship and an increase in divorce rates. We have a hard time allowing good Christian friends to put themselves at this risk. We welcome the opportunity to look at your living arrangement with you and strive, together with you, to reach your goal of a joy-filled relationship.

Officiating Pastor

The pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church must officiate at your wedding ceremony. Please call the church office or pastor's cell to speak with him. After meeting with him, he will approve your wedding and you will need to discuss with him the marriage preparation requirements.

Wedding Service Music/Organist

Musician/Soloist arrangements are to be made by the wedding party. The fees are to be paid directly to the musicians unless other arrangements have been made. Give them to the Wedding Coordinator at the rehearsal.

The service in which your wedding takes place is a public worship service of this congregation. This time during your wedding day is an occasion for you to share with your family and friends the love which Christ has for each of you individually and his love which unites you as husband and wife. All that takes place during this service – words, music, actions, should underscore and support this particular theme. Certain songs or music may be important to your relationship, but may not carry the central message of the service. Such songs or music may be better reserved for the reception or another time of the day.

Oversight of music in the service the responsibility of Zion's organist Joel Grosbach. Early in your planning you should contact him and schedule a meeting to discuss the music for your wedding. Ordinarily, he serves as the organist. He can also assist you in planning for and securing vocal soloists and instrumentalist should you wish to use them.

Wedding Coordinator

You will need to contact Mary as soon as possible after you have begun your meetings with Pastor. She will assist you in questions concerning church usage, acceptable traditions and other needs as agreed to.

Photographer/videographer arrangements are go be made by the wedding party.

Photographer

If pictures are taken prior to the service then must be complete no less than ½ hour prior to the beginning of the wedding service. The wedding party is responsible for informing those people who need to present for pictures. If pictures are taken after services they must start after the congregation has been dismissed from the church campus.

There will be no flash pictures taken during the service. The service begins with the invocation and ends with the benediction. If the photographer has question about these times they may speak to the pastor prior to the service. This means that the photographer may...

1. Take pictures of the wedding party as they enter.
 - a. They may stand anywhere in the sanctuary EXCEPT on the chancel.
2. Take pictures of the wedding party as they depart the sanctuary.
3. Take pictures during the service from the back of the church or in the balcony during the service WITHOUT FLASH.

Guests are not allowed to take pictures or videos during the service.

Videographer

Video may be taken of the service provided the following takes place...

1. Videographer must remain out of sight of those participating in the service. I.e. in the balcony or back of the church.
2. Video equipment in the front of the sanctuary must be hidden and set prior to service and not moved until after the service.
3. The videographer and/or wedding party will be responsible for copyright licensing/infringement.

The wedding party is responsible for informing these people.

Care of Property

The Wedding Coordinator will inform you of what decorations are appropriate for the worship space. She will also let you know things are provided by Zion: i.e. isle candles.

The church will be open before your wedding for your convenience. You are allowed to set up decorations the evening prior. If the kitchen is going to be used left over food and drink must be removed before Sunday morning.

The church needs to be cleaned and put back in order within 1 hour after the conclusion of your wedding. You are responsible for making these arrangements. You may do this through the Wedding Coordinator or arrange through her if you are going to have someone else come and clean up. The wedding party is responsible for any charges related to this.

Things to know...

- Our church seats 300 comfortably. More seating is available with prior request.
- Wedding bulletins are provided at no cost to the couple. These must be done no less than 2 weeks prior to the service. The wedding party is responsible for corrections/misspellings.
- Guests are asked to refrain from taking pictures/video during the service.
- Rice and bird seed are not allowed to be used to throw at the couple as they leave. Anything used must not need to be cleaned up.
- Rose petals, real or imitation, must be cleaned up after service.
- Everything done in the sanctuary must reflect that fact that we believe Christ is there present with us. While we desire for people to “party” at this great event it should not be done in the Lord’s House.
- NO: alcohol, running, dirty shoes, tobacco of any kind, are to be present in the church for rehearsal or the wedding service.

Summary of Fees

Immediately:

ZOE Pre-Marriage Process \$40

- You will make this payment online.
- See the pastor if you do not have the means to do this.

Due the night of the rehearsal:

Building Rental gift at couple's discretion

Pastor gift at couple's discretion

Organist \$100.00

Wedding Coordinator \$100.00

Sound operator \$25.00

Cleanup as arranged

Total **\$265.00+**

Fees Explained

ZoeScore helps engaged couples prepare for marriage, married couples find guidance on improving their marriage and Advisors work more effectively with both engaged and married couples.

Organist fee includes meeting to choose music/musicians, rehearsal time and playing the day of the wedding.

The coordinator fees include initial meeting, time at rehearsal and time at wedding service.

The sound operator fee is for that person who turns on the sound the day of your wedding.

A Simple Service Order

Prelude

Processional

 Wedding party

 Bride

Invocation

Address to those gathered

Service of the Word

 Readings

 Sermon

The Rite of Marriage

 Intent of individuals

 Vows of couple

 Blessing of rings

 Exchange of rings

 Pronouncement of marriage

Candle or Sand Ceremony

 “Two individual candles are lit to symbolize their separate lives. They will then light the single wedding candle and extinguish their own separate ones, to symbolize that their lives are now united into one as husband and wife.”

 -or-

 “Two vials of sands are poured into one container. Just as the sands would be impossible to separate, so should be the lives of two who are now one with God’s blessing. They are one flesh as husband and wife.”

The Prayers

Benediction

Recessional

 “Please refrain from taking pictures after the invocation. You may again take pictures after the benediction. Thank you!”

Music/Song may take place in various places in the service. For guidance ask Pastor.

