

First Evangelical Lutheran Church



Wedding Packet

First Evangelical Lutheran Church is one of the oldest and most respected churches in Houston. Because of our central location and in the interest of serving the community, the congregation has decided to offer the nave to those persons who, for reasons of their own, choose not to marry in their home church. We are sharing this wonderful resource with you so that you may commit your vows in a truly holy setting. Unlike wedding chapels, First Evangelical Lutheran Church is an ecumenical gem in the heart of town, where services are held every Sunday, and the sacraments ring true. Therefore, weddings are generally limited to those of Christian background who are planning a true Christian wedding ceremony.

Included in this packet you will find:

- ★ Frequently Asked Questions & Other Information
- ★ Wedding Application (*Please complete both sides of the page*)
- ★ Recommended Pastor and Organist List
- ★ Wedding Text Suggestions
- ★ Directions and Map of Available Parking

Rental Costs

Refundable Security Deposit.....	\$250.00
Down Payment Due with Application.....	\$600.00
Balance Due (<i>Due 1 month before ceremony</i>).....	\$500.00
Total Rental Cost.....	\$1350.00

Balance is due one month before the wedding date. If not received in time, the down payment will be returned, minus a \$50 cancellation fee. If you cancel at any time, the down payment will be returned, minus the cancellation fee. Under this agreement, the church may also cancel at any time, due to unforeseen circumstances, with full refund of all fees paid.

Frequently Asked Questions and Other Useful Information

(Please read all frequently asked questions, prior to application submission.)

- Does the Church have a CD Player/Sound System we can use?
 - ★ Yes. The First Evangelical Lutheran Church wedding facilitator is responsible for operation of the system.
- May we use the piano or organ?
 - ★ Yes. However, you must provide your own musician.
- Does the Church have microphones for our use?
 - ★ Yes, we have 1 fixed lectern microphone, and 2 wireless microphones.
- May we use the pulpit?
 - ★ No. The pulpit is only to be used by an ordained minister.
- May we place flowers on the altar?
 - ★ Yes, however you must place something under the flowers to protect the altar.
- How early may we access the building to set up/decorate?
 - ★ You may access the building no earlier than 2 hours prior to the ceremony time, unless you have purchased the extra hour.
- May we decorate the night before?
 - ★ No.
- May we ring the Church bell? Who rings them?
 - ★ The wedding facilitator can ring the bell for you. Wedding parties are not permitted to ring the bell.
- What furniture/fixtures may we move in the church?
 - ★ Please inform us in a timely manner of items you wish to have moved. If the item can be moved, the church will move it. The kneelers in the chancel may be moved, only if they are going to be used for the ceremony. Other small tables, music stands, displays, and chairs may be moved. The water cooler, benches, plant stands, or continuo organ, may not be moved.
 - ★ No furniture may be moved in the chancel area without permission and supervision of the church staff. **No furniture may be moved by the wedding party!**
- May we throw flower petals during the ceremony? May we throw rice after?
 - ★ Natural flower petals may **not** be strewn inside the nave. Rice may **not** be thrown anywhere; however birdseed is and so are bubbles and confetti but only outside the church.

Frequently Asked Questions and Other Useful Information

- Do you supply a pastor and/or organist? Does the \$1100 include the pastor/organist?
 - ★ You are responsible for arranging a pastor or organist. If you have difficulty finding someone, we have a list of names we recommend. The \$1100 does not include a pastor or organist.
 - ★ The Worship and Music staff at First Evangelical Lutheran Church is small. Therefore, we do not supply a wedding coordinator for non-member weddings. If you are unable to secure your own pastor or organist, please refer to the enclosed list.
 - ★ The historic church organ is over 100 years old, and is delicate. For this reason, approval is required for all prospective organ players. The organist or bride/groom must contact the church to obtain approval.

- What does the building rental entail?
 - ★ Building Rental includes:
 - Two hours for rehearsal
 - Three hours for wedding day, two hours prior to the ceremony, and one hour from ceremony time
 - *(an extra hour may be purchased at the rate of \$225)*
 - Piano and/or church organ
 - Audio system, wireless mikes and CD player--subject to approval of church staff
 - The Beutel Room and Conference Room for the bride's preparation
 - The upstairs lounge for the groom's preparation

- How is parking handled?
 - ★ We have included a map showing the parking areas in this packet. You may copy it and send it with your invitations. Signs will be posted by the parking lots.

- May we have our reception at the Church?
 - ★ No.

- How wide/long is the aisle?
 - ★ The aisle is 4 foot 9.5 inches wide and 57 feet long.

- How many pews are in the church?
 - ★ 19 on each side of the aisle.

Frequently Asked Questions and Other Useful Information

- May we have snacks in the bride/groom dressing room? May we have a champagne toast?
 - ★ Yes. You may bring snacks; however, you are responsible for them. You may have a champagne toast; however, you are responsible for the items, and moderation is expected.
- There are linens on the lectern and pulpit. Can those be removed for a wedding?
 - ★ No, the linens, called paraments, may not be removed.
- We want to use a unity candle. Do you provide one? Do you provide a table/stand for the candle?
 - ★ We do not provide a unity candle for you. You may purchase one at any number of craft stores. We do have a stand for the candles and a table. If you want a unity candle, please inform us so we may have the stand ready for you.
- By signing this application, the wedding party acknowledges responsibility for any damage to the facility, and for missing items belonging to the church. **A refundable check for a \$250 security deposit is required at time of application.** An inspection will be conducted after each ceremony, and the check returned on condition of no observable damage to, or missing items from, church property.
- The approval of the church staff is required before wedding date is permanently recorded on the calendar. All weddings are to be conducted in good taste, commensurate with Christian norms.
- To assure a mutual understanding regarding the above mentioned provision, the prospective bride and groom are required to attend a one-hour meeting with Pastor Peterman before final approval is given. The bride and groom are asked to call Pastor Peterman, and will be given his contact information upon application.
- The bridal party is allowed three meetings prior to the wedding. It is advised that all persons involved in the wedding planning be at one or all of the meetings. (i.e. the wedding coordinator, the florist, musicians, photographer, parents of the bride and groom, etc.)
- No weddings are scheduled during Lent, on certain Holy days or on holiday weekends.
- First Evangelical Lutheran Church assumes no liability for lost, misplaced, or damaged articles of clothing, jewelry, heirlooms or other articles.
- Animals are not allowed in any of the church buildings. Exceptions are service dogs, with prior knowledge of church staff.

Frequently Asked Questions and Other Useful Information

- Children must be at least five years of age to participate in a wedding.
- Please notify the church staff of address or telephone number changes, so communication may occur in a timely fashion.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wedding Application

(Please print clearly, complete, and return with down payment and security deposit checks.)

Date of Application

Rehearsal: _____ **Wedding:** _____
Date Time Date Time

No. of anticipated guests: _____

Bride's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, & Zip: _____

Telephone (____) _____ (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Post-Wedding address: _____

City, State, & Zip: _____

Religious Affiliation/Congregation: _____

Groom's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, & Zip: _____

Telephone (____) _____ (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Post-Wedding address: _____

City, State, & Zip: _____

Religious Affiliation/Congregation: _____

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wedding Application

(Please print clearly, complete, and return with down payment and security deposit checks.)

Do you have a wedding coordinator? Yes () No ()

Name: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

In Case of Emergency:

Name: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Relationship to Couple: _____

Additional Services Available:

Candelabras (up to 4, each holding 7 candles) Yes () No () TBD ()

Single Torch Candles (2 candles) Yes () No () TBD ()

Number of candles (\$1.00 each) _____

We need help to find a pastor: Yes () No ()

We need help to find an organist: Yes () No ()

We accept the terms of the proposed wedding, and have read the wedding packet:

Bride _____

Date _____

Groom _____

Date _____

Planner _____

Date _____

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Office Use Only

Approved: _____
Pastor

_____ Date

Application Received: ____/____/____

Total Amount due: _____

Down Payment Amount: _____

Damage Deposit paid: ____/____/____

Date deposit paid: ____/____/____

Balance Amount: _____

Date balance due: ____/____/____

Date paid in full: ____/____/____

**Pastors and Organists
Available for Non-Member Weddings**

Pastors

Housewright, Grant W.
11610 Sagepark Lane
Houston, TX 77089
281-481-8232
Cell: 713-305-7133
Redeemer Lutheran Church: 713-921-4986

Ackerman, H. Eldon (Cliff)
5100 San Felipe #74-E
Houston, TX 77056
713-443-0822
Heacliff1@aol.com

Hardy, Theodora (Teddy)
United Campus Ministry
HCC Central Campus
713-805-1727
teddyhardy@hotmail.com

Organists & Musicians

DeVany, Kelly
713-789-7850

Housewright, Nancy
281-481-8232

Lindsey, Barbara
Willow Meadow Baptist
832-495-5608

Tracy Gray (singer)
713-723-2870

Wedding Text Suggestions

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

[St. Paul writes:] If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends; as for prophecy, it will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood.

So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 John 4:7-12

[St. John writes:] Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and whoever loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God; for God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 Peter 3: 1-8

Likewise you wives, be submissive to your husbands, so that some, though they do not obey the word, may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, when they see your reverent and chaste behavior. Let not yours be the outward adorning with braiding of hair, decoration of gold, and wearing of robes, but let it be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. So once the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves and were submissive to their husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are now her children if you do right and let nothing terrify you.

Likewise you husbands, live considerately with your wives, bestowing honor on the woman as the weaker sex, since you are joint heirs of the grace of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered.

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Ephesians 5: 21-31

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

Genesis 1:26-31

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:15-25 [King James Version]

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

And the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave

names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof. And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:15-25 [Revised Standard Version]

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a partner for him." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field, but for the man there was not found a partner fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; and the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Isaiah 40:25-31

To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these stars?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength, mighty in power,
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary,
his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

John 15: 9-10

[Jesus said:] As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you.

John 17:20-26

In his prayer the night before he was crucified, Jesus said:

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them, and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Mark 12: 28-34

One of the scribes came up and asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?"

Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that he is one, and there is no other but he; and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

Matthew 19:4-6

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "In the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one.' So they are no longer two, but one. No one must separate, then, what God has joined together."

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord is God!

It is he that made us, and not we ourselves;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him, bless his name!

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 127

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Lo, sons are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth.

Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them!

He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate

Psalm 139:1-18

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them--they are more than the sand;
I come to the end--I am still with you.

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

My beloved speaks and says to me:

"Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;
for lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the
turtledove is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Parking & Directions

First Evangelical Lutheran Church is accessible from all directions:

1. From the north:
 - a. On 59, exit at McGowen/Tuam, continue on service road to Elgin. Turn right, then left on Caroline. Church will be on the left side as you approach Holman.
 - b. On 45, exit Dallas/Pierce follow ramp down to Pierce. On Pierce turn right on Caroline.
2. From the west:
 - a. On I-10, exit onto 45 south, then Dallas/Pierce.
 - b. On 59, exit Travis, then right turn onto Holman.
3. From south and southeast:
 - a. On 45, exit Downtown, then left on Caroline
 - b. On 288, exit Blodgett, left to Almeda, right to Holman, left to Church.
4. From either Downtown or Medical Center, take Metro-rail to HCC/Ensemble stop.

Parking:

It is important to know the city parking meters are in effect until 6 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays. Each meter covers two parking spaces, and any vehicle observed parked at an expired meter will be ticketed. **The City of Houston makes no allowances for weddings.**

Because of our relationship with Houston Community College Central Campus, free parking is available at several locations in the immediate area. These areas include:

1. The ground floor of the J. Don Boney garage, across Caroline, except for "Reserved" and "Handicapped" spaces. (48 spaces)
2. The open lot behind the church, Caroline at Francis (21) spaces
3. The HCCS lot on Austin at Francis (28) spaces.
4. The large student parking lot, La Branch at Holman, 1 block east of the church.
5. The church itself has two small lots—one behind the nave at Caroline and Francis (9 spaces) plus 1 handicapped space; and one behind the gazebo at Holman and Austin (18 spaces)