



Gehlen Barn  
101 N Main St.  
St. Donatus, IA 52071  
563-213-8014

## Description

The Gehlen Barn is an event venue housing Beer in the Barn Brewery, owned and operated by MissySipper Brewing LLC. The barn provides one of the most unique locations in the area to host your wedding or other events. St. Donatus is a hidden gem, sitting in the rolling hills between Dubuque and Bellevue, IA. It is located 30 minutes from Galena, IL and 1 ½ hr. or less from Madison, WI, Cedar Rapids, IA and the Quad Cities, making it a viable location within driving distance of many larger cities.

At our venue, you will have access to the barn, guest house and the surrounding grounds. You have the flexibility to use the vendor of your choice for catering, with Kalmes Restaurant located directly across the street. The taproom in the barn is available to serve beer, wine and seltzer/coolers to your guests, specializing in craft beers produced in the on-site brewery. We are able to brew special order beers for you wedding or event if requested in advance. For all barn weddings and events, up to four Gehlen Barn representatives will be on-site during the event to assist with parking, vendors, trash, maintenance, and any unforeseen event details.

### The Gehlen Barn

Constructed in 1839, it is the oldest standing barn in Iowa. It is constructed of locally quarried limestone and is likely the oldest building in Jackson County, Iowa. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The double barn doors open up (in good weather), to provide easy entry to the upper levels. The taproom is on the second floor, accessible from the various areas in the barn, but reached only by stairs (\*there is no elevator on site). The catwalk from the tap room takes you to a two-story stone room filled with unique windows, and is open from the loft above. The perfect place for a wedding ceremony or small event. The two modern bathrooms added to the barn in 2020 are on the main level and are handicapped accessible. The 18' x 36' deck added in August of 2021 and the 28' X 48' pavilion added in 2024 provide a beautiful outdoor space for ceremonies and events, or for drinks before, during and after events.

Note: \*The second and third floors of the barn require going up steps to access; there is no elevator or chairlift in the building. The first floor space and bathrooms are accessible, as are the patio areas outside the barn.

### Ceremony/Event Space

Outdoors: The new pavilion behind the barn is the perfect location for you ceremony, with a raised stage for the wedding party and room for up to 100 chairs in the main area. There is a small bar area set up that can accommodate up to 8 beers on tap, as well as canned beverages and wine.

The front of the barn may also be set up with up to 125 chairs, providing the stone barn and weathered barn doors as the backdrop. The barnwood wedding arch may be used in either space, and electrical service is accessible in both spaces. A portable sound system is available for music and to assure guests hear every word.

Indoors: The Chapel Room and Upper Loft provide space to seat up to 100 guests for ceremonies and other events, offering a unique space surrounding you in stone and beauty. The tap room is adjacent to the chapel area and can be accessed before and after the ceremony. Catered events will require time to break down and reset spaces used during ceremonies.

## GEHLEN BARN RENTAL OPTIONS

*WEDDINGS – APRIL through DECEMBER (Listed pricing includes all taxes)*

### Wedding Ceremony + Reception

Friday, Saturday Sunday Rate: \$2,800

Capacity: Inside- 100 for ceremony (max of 60 in the chapel room and 40 in the overlooking loft), 100 for reception (will be seated in two areas in the barn, with additional seating in the tap room), Outside ceremony- Max 125 (you will only be able to seat 100 in the barn for the ceremony, in case of inclement weather; additional guests may be required to stand, or sit in areas that have limited viewing).

### Saturday Reservation (sample)

- Friday: access to barn and grounds for decorating may be available and will be coordinated with Barn staff.
- Saturday: the venue will be open to you from 10:00 am – 11:00 pm (music must stop by 10:00 pm); earlier access for decorating may be scheduled with Barn staff.
- Sunday: Pick up anything left from the previous night (8:00 am – 10:00 am)
- Rehearsal time will be arranged

### *Included:*

- Access to the entire property (the oldest barn in Iowa, pavilion and surrounding area).
- 8 hours of event time
- Parking for 50-70 cars on site, depending on location of ceremony and need for outside set-up; side of barn can be used unless it becomes too wet due to rain (additional parking is available within close walking distance).
- Chairs – White folding chairs (125 available)
- Tables – 5 ft. round tables (13); 6 ft. banquet tables (5); 8 ft banquet tables (6); white or ivory table linens
- Rustic wooden tables, antique barn décor and items for your use
- Wine barrels (3- outside)
- Wooden arch
- Modern men's and women's indoor bathrooms on the first floor

- Heating is available during colder months, but dates later than October should be expected to be a little chilly. The barn has limited air conditioning; ceiling fans and portable fans are used during the summer months for additional air circulation.
- Use of the taproom on the second floor and/or the bar area in the pavilion, bartender(s) provided; outside alcohol is not permitted on the premises
- Wireless Internet
- Outdoor 18x36 deck for drinks and relaxing before and after the service
- Use of the 28' x 48' pavilion, for ceremonies, meals, entertainment
- Firepit and wood for up to 3 hours, weather permitting
- Portable projector and screen
- Outdoor games (bags and Jenga)
- Set-up of tables and chairs, if layout is provided at least one week in advance of the wedding date. Couple is responsible for set-up and removal of decorations and or additional furniture and items provided by outside vendors.

The entire guest house can be rented for the weekend or overnights for an additional fee, providing a place for the bridal party to stay and get ready for the wedding, or friends and family from out of town. (If renting on the night before the wedding only, the space must be vacated at the normal 11 am check-out time to allow for cleaning time for guests checking in the day of the event)

*Not Included:*

- Wedding planning/coordination
- Breakdown and removal of outside vendor-supplied tents, tables, chairs or furniture
- China, flatware, glassware
- Catering or food service of any kind
- Security for events serving alcohol

Wedding Ceremony Only (3 Hours)

2025: Friday, Saturday, Sunday Rate: \$600 - \$1,000- depending on time of day, location of the ceremony and use of the barn; if we are required to close the barn to the public, the higher amount will apply.

Monday – Wednesday Rate: \$500

(Dates and cost for 2025 will open July 1, 2024; inquiries will be taken in the order made)

Capacity: inside – 100; outside – 125 (you will only be able to seat 100 inside the barn in case of inclement weather).

\*We ask that ceremony only events be completed by 3 pm on Saturdays to allow us to open the tap room to the public, unless the ceremony is taking place in the pavilion and we are able to keep the taproom open for regular service to our patrons.

*Included:*

- Access to the entire property (the oldest barn in Iowa, and surrounding area).
- 3 hours of event time (*must be completed no later than 3:00 on day of event, unless contracted differently*)
- Access to venue to decorate the day of the wedding, beginning at 8:00 am

- Parking for 60-70 cars on site, depending on location of ceremony and need for outside set-up; side of barn can be used unless it becomes too wet due to rain (additional parking is available within close walking distance)
- Chairs – White folding chairs (125 available)
- Tables – 60 in round and both 6 ft. and 8 ft. tables are available as needed
- Rustic wooden tables
- Wooden barrels (3- outside)
- Wooden arch
- Use of any decoration items available at the time
- Wireless Internet
- Use of portable projector and screen
- Modern men's and women's indoor bathrooms on the first floor of the barn
- Heating is available during colder months, but dates later than October should be expected to be a little chilly in some areas of the barn. The barn has limited air conditioning; ceiling fans and portable fans are used during the summer months for additional air circulation.
- Use of the taproom on the second floor of the barn and/or the bar area in the pavilion, bartender(s) provided; outside alcohol is not permitted on site
- Outdoor deck/patio area for drinks or relaxing before the ceremony
- Use of the pavilion for ceremonies
- Set-up and clean-up of event space. Couple is responsible for set-up and removal of decorations.
- Rehearsal time will be planned with couple
- Additional hours may be added at a negotiated rate

### *GUEST HOUSE RENTAL*

The Gehlen House Inn offers on-site lodging for weddings and events. The entire guest house can be rented for the weekend or overnights for an additional fee, providing a place for the bridal party to stay and get ready for the wedding, or friends and family from out of town. (If renting on the night before the wedding only, the space must be vacated at the normal 11 am check-out time to allow for cleaning time for guests checking in the day of the event)

Rental is \$450/night for the entire guest house, plus \$100 cleaning fee; \$400/night when booking for two nights or more, in conjunction with an event. Individual rooms are also available and will be eligible for a 10% discounted price in conjunction with weddings and events.

Gehlen House Inn rental includes:

- Sleeps 15 (additional air mattresses available)
- 6 bedrooms (5 up and King suite with jacuzzi tub on first floor)
- 6 bathrooms (each room assigned private bath)
- Possible use of 1 BR apartment on the first floor
- Upper deck with gas grill
- CableSmart TVs in living room and king suite

- Full kitchen (minus stove), stocked with disposable and regular dishware; small appliances, full refrigerator, microwave
- Washer and dryer could be accessed on emergency basis, if needed

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES (pricing includes all taxes)

Additional hours: \$50 - \$200/hr

Additional decorating time, early access to venue, need for staff to be present for vendor drop-off or pick-up can be arranged for \$50/hr. Additional event time outside of scheduled hours will range from \$150 - \$200/hr., depending on time and day.

#### *Items for use by client free of charge*

Use of table cloths, decorations and lighting. Check with us to see what we have available at the time of your wedding/event

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### Standard Time Restrictions

#### Saturday Wedding + Reception

#### Friday

- It may be possible to arrange decorating on Fridays, but only with approval from the Barn; operation of the tap room and brewery will limit access
- Rehearsal time to be coordinated between client and the Gehlen Barn

#### Saturday (or other full day wedding/event)

- 8:00 am – earliest access to the venue
- 10:00 pm – last call for alcohol
- 10:00 pm – music termination
- 11:00 pm – Vacate Barn premises

#### Sunday

- 8:00 am – earliest access to come and pick up items
- 10:00 am – All items must be removed from the barn or alternate arrangements made in advance

### Deposit and Cancellation Policy

A security deposit is required to save the date. Private events and weddings booked for 3 hours or less require a \$200 deposit; all-day events and wedding+reception require a \$500 deposit. The security deposit and signed contract are required to hold your date. The deposit will be returned to you within 1 month following the event, provided there are no damages or theft issues with the venue. This fee is non-refundable if the event is canceled, unless the venue is rebooked for that date, in which case it will be refunded to you. This fee is separate from the cost of the event, which will be

outlined in the contract. Full package payment is due no later than 30 days prior to the event. Payment plans will be established in the contract.

### Catering

BYO- You are required to use a full-time, licensed caterer of your choice for your wedding dinner. Caterers will not be charged an additional fee by the Gehlen Barn. They are permitted to grill on-site, with their equipment, in a location that will not interfere with traffic in and out of the barn. The barn has adequate electrical hookups available.

### Alcohol

The Gehlen Barn is currently licensed to serve beer, wine and liquor. We are a brewery, so offer only a limited number of alcohol choices, to be arranged prior to the event, as requested. No outside alcohol may be on the premises, including during rehearsals and pre- or post-wedding activities.

Wine Service- House wines will be available for \$7/glass/ \$25 bottle/ \$15 Corkage fee per 750 ml bottle if you choose to bring your own. Additional wines may be available for determined costs, as requested.

### Keg Beer (\*\*Prices are subject to change)

Keg of Domestic Beer: ½ barrel- \$350 (roughly 165 servings of 12 oz cups)

Client purchases kegs of domestic beer prior to the function and the Gehlen Barn will have the beer on tap for guests until depleted. There will not be a refund for beer is not consumed, but the client has the right to take the extra beer home in growlers or other approved containers at the end of the event. Client will select from a provided beer list 30 days prior to the event.

Keg of Craft Beer : ½ barrel- \$350- (roughly 82 servings of 12 oz. cups) 1/6 barrel - \$250 (roughly 55 servings of 12 oz cups) Client will select from a provided list 30 days prior to the event.

Special Order Beers: \$350 - \$400 - If you are interested in having a beer brewed by us just for your special day, we would be delighted to craft something for you, depending on our availability and brew schedule. Requests require a minimum of 6 weeks' notice. Price will be determined based on type of beer.

\*Please note: A service charge of 18% on alcoholic beverages served will be added to the final bill. This only applies to the alcohol that you purchase for your guests. Prices may change at any time at the discretion of the Barn, based on actual cost of beer and availability.

*All alcohol must be purchased through the Gehlen Barn.* Alcohol will not be served after 10:00 PM. No outside alcohol may be brought onto the premises other than products approved to use incurring a corkage fee; if any unapproved alcohol is found, it will be confiscated.

An off-duty police officer is recommended, at your expense, if you have more than 50 guests and are serving alcohol. Payment for any hosted beverages will be due at the end of the event before you leave.

## Parking

Parking is available in the gravel parking area to the north of the barn, accessed from the drive in the back near the pavilion. Parking in the lot in front of the barn may be used based on use of the space for wedding activities; it may be designated as handicap parking as needed. Additional parking is available in front of the guest house, along Centerville Road and on the south side of the barn in the grassy area, weather permitting. Parking across the street at Kalmes Restaurant is prohibited unless permission is obtained from the proprietors. Parking at the Community Center can be arranged for a fee.

## Pets

Pets are not allowed on the property during events. Pets are not allowed in the Guest House.

## Policies

- Smoking and vaping is permitted in designated areas only. It is NOT permitted in the Barn, on the deck, or in the Guest House.
- No open flame, candles, or flame-employing devices permitted within any of the structures on the property, or within 10 ft of the exterior of the structures.
- No grills or deep fryers permitted within the structure. Caterers using bunson burners are permitted. Caterers using grills will be provided adequate space on the exterior of the structure.
- Decorations of a highly flammable nature should be avoided.
- No fireworks allowed. Sparklers are allowed outside and must be 10 ft from the barn.
- Gehlen Barn is not responsible for inclement weather, lost or stolen items, or other circumstances beyond our control.
- The interior of the barn is only handicapped accessible on the first floor.
- The client is responsible for any kind of damage to the Barn, guest house or other structures on the property during their wedding, meeting or event.
- Unforeseen events and circumstances may happen, and if they do, we will do everything we can reasonably do to accommodate you and your guests for your big day or event.
- Local restrictions will be observed and adhered to at the time of the event, as proclaimed by the State of Iowa.