



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.

### Event Space

Because of the multiple spaces available, we are able to accommodate both small and large events, depending on the needs of our clients. Interested in space for a bridal shower, graduation party, family reunion, or meeting? Let us help you plan your event!

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.

The new pavilion behind the barn is the perfect location for a private event, with a raised stage and seating for up to 100 (with folding chairs and no tables). 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 surrounding grassy area provides additional space for seating, games and food.

## GEHLEN BARN RENTAL OPTIONS: PRIVATE EVENTS

### Entire Day; Barn Closed to the Public

Friday, Saturday Sunday Rate: \$2,800

Capacity: Max 100 (you will only be able to seat 100 in the barn for a meal)

### 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)

### *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, 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
- 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 (check for availability)
- 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.

### *Not Included:*

- Event planning/coordination
- Breakdown and removal of outside vendor-supplied tents, tables, chairs or furniture
- China, flatware, glassware

- Catering or food service of any kind (Pizza may be purchased through the tap room)
- Security for events serving alcohol

### Private Event; Barn Closed to Public (3 Hours)

2025: Friday, Saturday, Sunday Rate: \$700 - \$1,000- depending on time of day, location of the event and use of the barn;

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 (capacity of barn remains 100 inside in case of inclement weather)

\*We ask that private events requiring the barn to be closed 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: Same as in all day private barn closure*

- 3 Hours of event time
- Additional hours may be added at a negotiated rate

### Private Room Rental:

The Gehlen Barn also provides a wonderful setting for a number of private events that require only a room or smaller space than the entire barn.

Rates: \$100 - \$200/hr for individual spaces; (pricing includes all taxes)

*\*Rates will vary for each space, depending on day of week, time of day, length of time, type of activity or event, time of year, and packaging with multiple spaces. Purchase of beer and wine through The Bar(n) will also affect the total rental price of the space. We will work with each request individually to provide the best cost possible.*

*Included:*

- Access to the contracted room(s) or outdoor space- no public access
- 3 hours of event time, or as negotiated between the Barn and client
- Access to the space to decorate prior to the event, as arranged between client and the Barn
- Parking in paved parking lot and gravel parking area, and on side of barn 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
- Use of any Barn decoration items available at the time
- Wireless Internet
- Use of portable projector and screen (additional fee may apply)
- 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 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.

- Access to the Barn taproom on the second floor. If renting an individual space in the barn, the tap room will remain open to the public. Outside alcohol is not permitted
- Outdoor deck/patio area for drinks or relaxing; will remain open to the public if rental is for a private space in the barn
- Set-up and tear-down. Client is responsible for set-up and removal of decorations. We ask that the client place any trash or items to be disposed of in the receptacles provided.
- Additional hours may be added at a negotiated rate

### *AVAILABLE SPACES*

Upper Loft – (950 sq. ft) This room is in the upper level of the barn, overlooking the two story “chapel room”. The space can comfortably fit 7 60” round tables and chairs, seating 56 people. The space can be used for private parties, meetings, yoga classes or family get-togethers. The tap room is located directly below, making easy access to beverages if desired. Two large ceiling fans help with air flow and comfort.

Chapel Room – (650 sq ft) This room is a beautiful two-story room with stone walls and interesting windows. Used for wedding ceremonies, we also use it for seating for our tap room patrons. Tables can be added or removed to meet your event needs. The room will support (6) 60” round tables, seating 48 people. There are currently (7) square tables that can be pushed together, and additional rectangular tables added to accommodate up to 52 people comfortably. Access to the room is through the tap room. We set up small bands in this room on the weekends!

West Loft – (720 sq ft) This room runs the entire length of the barn on the west side. Used primarily as a gallery and lounge area for tap room guests, this area can be used to add on space to other events in the upper loft, used to set up food for events, or just for a place to come and hang out with family. Seating in this area consists of miscellaneous wooden tables and chairs; up to 24 seats

The Bar(n) taproom – this space cannot be rented separately. Clients renting private spaces will have access to the tap room during regular hours of operation, or if purchasing alcohol for your event. A portable 2-spigot tapper is available for use outside the taproom with the purchase of keg beer. An 8 tapper serving cooler is available in the outside pavilion during events using that space.

The Pavilion – 28’ x 48’ covered pavilion with closing barn doors on two sides, a stage area, a bar area and biergarten style seating. This can be set up with alternate seating as needed.

Pricing does not include food, beverage, additional decorations, amenities, or entertainment for your event, but we are more than happy to help you find what you are looking for.

- There are no hidden or extra fees
- There are NO fees for using your own vendors
- Additional services are listed below, with fees

ADDITIONAL SERVICES (pricing includes all taxes)- \*Starred items are included in all-day rentals

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.

\*Firepit, with wood: \$75

Firepit may be rented for use during agreed upon events (wood for 3 hours) – As available

\*Projector and Screen: \$50

Includes assistance with set-up

\*Outdoor Bean Bag and Giant Jenga games: \$25

*Items for use by client free of charge*

(limited number of items; this will continue to change. Check with us to see what we have available at the time of your event)

- Metal and wooden lanterns
- Chalk boards/chalk markers
- Small tin milk cans
- String lights/single drop lights (white and green cords)
- Rustic items from the barn (canvas grain bags, wagon wheels, windows, doors, etc.)
- Miscellaneous artificial flowers

GUEST HOUSE RENTAL

The Gehlen House Inn offers on-site lodging for weddings and events. 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 discounted price in conjunction with weddings and events. Special arrangements may be considered to rent the entire property, consisting of the guest house and the barn, for wedding weekends.

Gehlen House Inn includes:

- Sleeps 15 (additional air mattresses available)
- 6 bedrooms (5 on second floor, and King suite with jacuzzi tub on first floor)
- 6 bathrooms (each room assigned a private bath)
- Upper deck with gas grill
- Cable TV (shared TV in living room, King suite equipped with own)
- 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
- Use of outdoor area surrounding the guest house
- Use of firepit, as approved by Barn staff
- Continental breakfast each morning

# RULES AND REGULATIONS

## Standard Time Restrictions

### ALL DAY EVENT

#### Day Before Event

- It may be possible to arrange decorating the day prior to the event, but only with approval from the Barn; operation of the tap room and brewery may limit access
- Items for the event may be brought on site with approval of the Barn

#### Day of Event

- 9:00 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 booked for 3 hours or less require a \$200 deposit; all-day events 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 an all-day private event. 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 bunsen 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.