



Gehlen Barn  
101 N Main St.  
St. Donatus, IA 52071  
563-650-4860

## Description

The Gehlen Barn is an event venue (and soon-to-be microbrewery) 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. The barn is being renovated to house MissySipper Brewing, a small microbrewery that will offer local craft beers and wines.

At our venue, you 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 Bar(n) taproom in the barn is available to serve beer, wine and seltzer/coolers to your guests. We specialize in craft beers and when the brewery is licensed, we will be able to brew special order beers for you wedding or event. For all barn weddings and events, two 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 by Peter Gehlen, an immigrant from Olm, Luxembourg, it is the oldest barn in Iowa. It is constructed of locally quarried limestone and is the oldest building in Jackson County. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The bathrooms are on the first floor and the double barn doors open up to provide entry to the upper levels (in good weather). The Bar(n) taproom is on the second floor, accessible from the various rooms in the barn. The catwalk takes you to the two-story stone room filled unique windows and open from the loft above. Two modern bathrooms were built in 2020, and the entire barn has been rewired and updated, providing plenty of electrical outlets. An 18' x 36' deck will be built in the spring of 2021, providing a beautiful outdoor space 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 and bathrooms are accessible.

### Ceremony/Event Space

**Outdoors:** Chairs can be set up in the front of the barn to accommodate up to 125 guests. The barn doors can be closed to use as a backdrop for a wedding party, or left open and draped with curtains, lights or other materials of choice. The barnwood wedding arch provides a perfect backdrop for wedding vows. Electrical service is accessible, and a portable sound system will 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.

## GEHLEN BARN RENTAL OPTIONS

*WEDDINGS – APRIL through NOVEMBER*

### Wedding Ceremony + Reception

Saturday Rate: \$2,400

Friday & Sunday Rate: \$2,200

Capacity: Inside- 100 for ceremony (max of 60 in the chapel room and 40 in the overlooking loft), 125 for reception (will be seated in three areas in the barn), Outside- 125 (you will only be able to seat 100 in the barn for the ceremony, in case of inclement weather)

### Saturday Reservation (sample)

- Friday: access to barn and grounds for decorating ( between the hours of 8:00 am – 4:00 pm)
- Saturday: the venue will be open to you from 10:00 am – 11:00 pm (music must stop by 10:00 pm)
- 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, and surrounding area).
- 8 hours of event time
- Parking for 10-15 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 (3); 8 ft banquet tables (3); white or ivory table linens
- Rustic wooden tables, antique barn décor and items for your use
- Wine barrels (3)
- 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 is not currently air conditioned; ceiling fans and portable fans are used during the summer months for inside weddings/events
- Use of the The Bar(n) taproom on the second floor, bartender(s) provided when purchasing alcohol through The Bar(n); outside alcohol is not permitted
- Wireless Internet
- Outdoor 18x36 deck for drinks and relaxing before and after the service
- Firepit and wood for up to 3 hours
- 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.

*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

2021: Saturday Rate: \$700

Friday & Sunday Rate: \$500

Monday – Thursday Rate: \$400

(Dates and cost for 2022 will open October 1, 2021; 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)

*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 4:00 on day of event, unless contracted differently)
- Access to venue to decorate the day of the wedding, beginning at 8:00 am
- Parking for 10-15 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)
- 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
- Heating is available during colder months, but dates later than October should be expected to be a little chilly. The barn is not currently air conditioned; ceiling fans and portable fans are used during the summer months for inside weddings/events
- Use of the The Bar(n) taproom on the second floor, bartender(s) provided when purchasing alcohol through The Bar(n); outside alcohol is not permitted
- Outdoor deck/patio area for drinks or relaxing before the ceremony
- Set-up and clean-up. Couple is responsible for set-up and removal of decorations.
- Rehearsal time will be planned with couple
- The entire guest house can be rented for overnight 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.
- Additional hours may be added

## *GUEST HOUSE RENTAL*

The Gehlen House Inn offers on-site lodging for weddings and events. Rental is \$400/night for the entire guest house, plus \$100 cleaning fee; \$350/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 for wedding weekends.

Gehlen House Inn 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)
- 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

## *PRIVATE EVENTS*

The Gehlen Barn provides a wonderful setting for a number of private events. 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!

Rental Rates: \$100 - \$200/hr

*\*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.*

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 can only be rented as part of the entire venue package, not as a separate space. Clients renting the other spaces will have access to the tap room during regular hours of operation, or if purchasing alcohol for your event. We have a portable 2 spigot tapper that is available for use outside the taproom with the purchase of keg beer.

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

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 can be rented and used until 11:00 pm on day of rental (wood for 3 hours)

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 wedding/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

# RULES AND REGULATIONS

## Standard Time Restrictions

### Saturday Wedding + Reception

#### Friday

- Decorating may take place between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm
- Rehearsal time to be coordinated between client and the Gehlen Barn

#### Saturday (or 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 premises unless guest house is booked for the weekend

#### 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 electrical hookups available.

## *Alcohol*

The Gehlen Barn currently has a Special Class C Liquor license that allows us to serve beer, wine and drinks like seltzers and coolers. We hope to have our microbrewery operational by May, 2021, at which time we will be able to continue to offer native wines from Iowa, along with our own beers and guest microbrews.

Wine Service- House wines will be available for \$5 (per 5 oz pour)/ \$20 bottle/ \$15 Corkage fee per 750 ml bottle if you choose to bring your own

### Keg Beer

Keg of Domestic Beer: ½ barrel- \$250 (roughly 165 servings of 12 oz cups)

Client purchases kegs of domestic beer prior to the function and the Gehlen Bar(n) will have the beer on tap for guests until depleted. There will not be a refund if the 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 : ¼ barrel- \$350 (roughly 82 servings of 12 oz. cups) Client will select from a provided list 30 days prior to the event. 1/6 barrel may also be purchased - \$250 (roughly 55 servings of 12 oz cups).

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! Price will be determined by 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.

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; if any 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 on the east side of the barn. If your wedding is outside, some of this area will need to be eliminated in order to provide adequate space for the ceremony. Additional parking is available at the public baseball field a block away, along Centerville Road on the south side of the barn, and possibly across the street at Kalmes Restaurant, with permission from the business. Guests may park on the south side of the barn in the grassy area, weather permitting.

### *Pets*

Pets are not allowed on the property during events. Pets are not allowed in the Guest House. Please make arrangements for your pets prior to the event.

## *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 not handicapped accessible other than 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 COVID restrictions will be observed and adhered to at the time of the event, as proclaimed by the State of Iowa.