

Wedding Handbook

St. John's Lutheran Church
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Congratulations!

You're getting married. God has blessed you with a special kind of love and the desire to share your life with another. You now have the opportunity to prepare for becoming husband and wife. Enjoy this time and make the most of it, using it to grow in your relationship with your Lord Jesus Christ.

Premarital Counseling

At this turning point in your life, you have the opportunity to plan not only a wedding but also plan for a successful marriage. To this end, we highly recommend that you engage in some process by which the elements of a successful relationship are discussed and refined. The pastor can offer some different options so that you can find what will help you towards building the skills and strategy that will keep your relationship thriving and growing.

Your Wedding Is a Worship Service

A wedding is more than a ceremony. In it we praise the Lord, listen to His Word, and offer prayers for your marriage and life together. Keep these things in mind as you prepare the wedding ceremony. Select Scripture readings and music that reflects your faith in the Lord. Let Christ be at the center of your service and your life itself.

A Typical Design for a Wedding Ceremony

Pre-service Music

Processional

Solo

Invocation

Parental Support *(See p. 3)*

Prayer

* Scripture Readings *(See p. 4)*

* Pastoral Message

Solo

Statement of Intent *(See p. 5)*

* Promises *(See p. 5)*

Exchange of Rings *(See p. 6)*

Unity Candle *(See p. 6)*

Solo

Presentation of Roses

Announcement of Marriage

Blessing of the Couple

* Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Presentation of Couple

Recessional

(These items are required)*

The Question to the Parents

(Optional. Please choose one)

1. *(Traditional)* Who gives this woman to be married to this man?
2. Mr. and Mrs. _____, Mr. and Mrs. _____, do you consent to the marriage of _____ and _____ asking God's blessing for their life together?
Please answer: "We do!"
3. Mr. and Mrs. _____, your daughter has come to the presence of the Lord to be united in marriage with _____. She does so with a great love for him and a sincere desire to be his wife. Do you, her parents, join with her in her happiness today, and will you publicly announce your blessing upon this marriage? Will you welcome _____ into your home and family, remember him in your prayers, and ask God's blessing upon the marriage? Please answer: "Yes, with the help of God."
Mr. and Mrs. _____, your son has come to the presence of the Lord to be united in marriage with _____. According to the Word of the Lord he will now leave father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they shall be one. Do you, his parents, rejoice with him today and offer your blessing to him and to _____ as they begin their marriage? Will you also welcome _____ into your home and family, pray for her and ask God's blessing for the marriage. Please answer: "Yes, with God's help."

Suggested Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:4-7, 18-22, 24

Ruth 1:16-17

Psalms 29:1-2; 34:3; 63:1-4; 95:1-6; 100; 127; 128; 150

Proverbs 3:5-6; 18:22; 24:3-4; 31:10-31

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Song of Solomon 2:11-13; 5:16; 6:3; 8:6-7a

Isaiah 61:10; 62:5

Jeremiah 33:11; 32:38-39

Hosea 2:19-20

New Testament

Matthew 5:3-11

Beatitudes

Matthew 19:4-6

Christ's statement on marriage

John 2:1-11

Christ at the marriage in Cana

John 15:9-17

Christ's command to love

John 17:20-23

Christ's prayer for love and unity

Romans 12:9-13

Admonitions to love

1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Marital duty of husband and wife

1 Corinthians 13

Great love chapter

Ephesians 3:14-21

Knowing the love of Christ

Ephesians 5:21-33

Roles of husband and wife

Philippians 2:5-11

Attitudes to build marriage

Colossians 3:12-17

Loving attitudes

Hebrews 13:4

Sex in marriage

1 Peter 3:1-7

Teaching for wives and husbands

1 John 3:16; 4:7-12

Teachings on love

Statement of Intent (Please choose one of the following.)

1. _____, do you give yourself to _____ as her husband (his wife), to live with her (with him) after God's ordinance in the holy estate of marriage? Will you love her (him), comfort her (him), and keep her (him) in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, for better or for worse, and forsaking all others keep yourself only for her (him) as long as you both shall live? If so, declare before God and this assembly by saying, "I will."
2. _____ will you give yourself to _____ here present as her (his) husband (wife)? Will you love, honor and cherish her (him) and keep this bond of marriage with her (him) holy and unbroken until parted by death? If so, declare it before God and this assembly by saying, "I will."

Promises (Please choose one of the following.)

1. _____, in the presence of God and this assembly, give myself to you as your husband (wife). I pledge my faithfulness to you in every duty, not to part from you until parted by death.
2. _____, I give myself to be your husband (wife), from this day onward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and with the help of God, I will be faithful to you as he give us life together.
3. _____, I give myself to you as your husband (wife), from this time onward, to join with you and share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and respond, in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being.

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4. _____, I give myself to you to be your husband (wife). I promise before God and these witnesses (our families) to be faithful to you, to live with you in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, to forgive and strengthen you, and to join with you so that together we may serve God as long as we both shall live.

5. _____, I give myself to be your husband (wife), and these things I promise you:
 - I will be faithful to you and honest with you.
 - I will respect, trust, help and care for you.
 - I will share my life with you.
 - I will share my faith with you.
 - I will forgive you as we have been forgiven.
 - I will try with you better to understand our God, ourselves, and the world around us, through the best and the worst of what is to come, as long as we both shall live.

The Exchange of Rings (Optional)

This ring is a sign of my love and faithfulness. With this ring I give my heart and my life.

Unity Candle

(Optional. You may choose one of the following. Some couples choose a sand ceremony.)

1. As a flame representing the _____ family, joins a flame representing the _____ family in the lighting of a new candle, so in their children _____ and _____ a new home has been born, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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2. The lighting of the unity candle is a symbol of both individuality and unity for _____ and _____. The candles they take represent the individual each is, springing from and developing in different ways from different backgrounds in their separate families. Each brings that self to the other, each receives that self from the other. In their giving and receiving they declare a new unity, which, under God is a cause for rejoicing and celebration. God bless this union with the light of his love.

Wedding Guidelines

1. The pastor must receive the marriage license and certificates by the rehearsal date or the wedding cannot proceed.
2. We prefer to receive the wedding fees at least two weeks in advance, but no later than the rehearsal date or the wedding cannot proceed.
3. The wedding rehearsal is typically scheduled at St. John's on the night prior to the wedding at 6:00 or 6:30 pm. All attendants and parents of the bride and groom plus musicians are asked to attend.
4. Every wedding at St. John's shall include the services of the Church Host and Parish Custodian. (See fee schedule.)
5. Oil candles are available for the center aisle. There is a fee.
6. The unity candle is provided by the couple. Oil candles used to light the unity candle are provided by St. John's.
7. Photographers should be instructed that you want them to be discreet during the service itself. Also, there shall be no halting of the procession for pictures.
8. St. John's is available to print simple wedding bulletins for a fee with the couple selecting the cover from our catalog. We encourage you to make your own bulletins, as it allows for more creativity.
9. Alcoholic beverages of any kind are not permitted on the premises of St. John's Lutheran Church.
10. Please do not throw any rice on church grounds. Bird seed and bubbles outside only please.

Church Host

All weddings at St. John's will require the services of a Church Host who will assist with your arrangements for decorating, photography, sound and other physical needs. The Host will also open and close the church and be available for questions the day of your wedding. There is a fee for this service. (See below).

Music and Wedding Musicians

All music in the body of the service must be worshipful. The pastors can help you pick appropriate music and must confirm your final choices. Flexibility in choice is permitted for music prior to and following the actual service.

As you consider the possibility of a vocalist or instrumentalist to complement your wedding, the pastor can provide you with the names of some appropriate musicians. It is the responsibility of the wedding couple to contact the musician and confirm his or her participation in your wedding.

Wedding Fees

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>	
Pastor	Couple's decision	\$100.00	
Church Host (<i>required</i>)	\$75.00	\$100.00	
Sound Tech. (<i>optional</i>)	\$75.00	\$100.00	
Custodian (<i>sanctuary</i>)	\$75.00	\$100.00	
	(<i>sanctuary and fellowship hall</i>)	\$125.00	\$200.00
Sanctuary	N/C	\$150.00	
Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall	N/C	\$200.00	
Organist	\$150.00	\$200.00	
Soloist	Arrange with soloist		
Pew Candles (<i>cost per candle</i>)	\$3.00	\$6.00	
DVD (<i>from stationary church camera</i>)	\$10.00	\$10.00	
Wedding Bulletin	Cost of bulletins	\$35.00	