

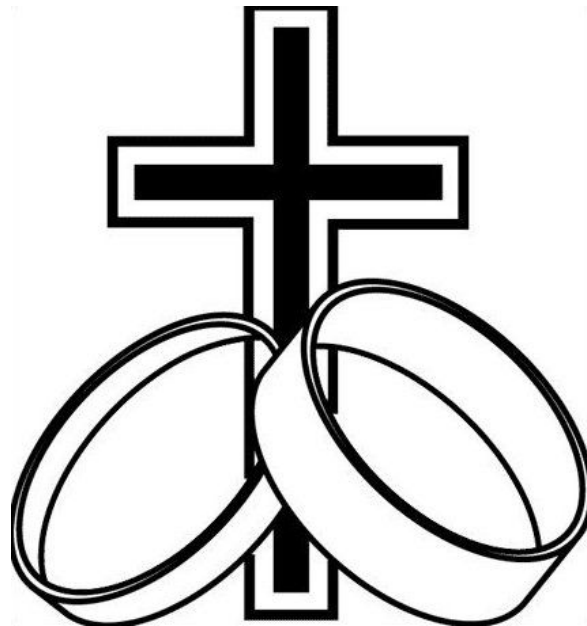
# Our Savior's Lutheran Church



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## **THE WEDDING BOOKLET**



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## **Congratulations on your engagement!**

The pastor & members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church are pleased to help you prepare for your wedding day, and your marriage. This booklet is provided to aid you in your planning, and to familiarize you with the wedding policies of this congregation.

*Marriage is a gift of God, intended for the joy and mutual strength of those who enter it and for the well-being of the whole human family... Marriage is also a human estate, with vows publicly witnessed. The church in worship surrounds these promises with the gathering of God's people, the witness of word and God, and prayers of blessings and intercession (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 2006, page 286).*

Since you are planning a wedding in and through the church, it is assumed that you desire to recognize God's part not only the wedding itself but also your marriage to come. Your wedding *is* about you as a couple, but it is also bigger than you as a couple. A wedding is a worship service. It is here we gather together in Christ's name to recognize and honor God's intention for humans to be a part of intimate, long-lasting, mutually edifying relationships. The service itself is usually very brief; even the longest form of the actual service requires only around 30 minutes. That brief time--out of months of preparation--ought to therefore be dedicated to God, God's word, and God's blessings.

## **In this Wedding Booklet...**

- I. Planning Ahead
- II. Schedule of Fees - Members
- III. Schedule of Fees - Non-Members
- IV. Wedding Policies
- V. Worship Service
- VI. Suggested Readings & Hymns
- VII. Suggested Vows
- VIII. Wedding Rehearsal & Marriage License

# **I. PLANNING AHEAD**

## **Wedding Date**

Your first contact should be with the pastor, to set the date of your wedding. Do not reserve the hall, the photographer, etc. until you have set the date with the pastor! Plan ahead as early as possible. The pastor will try to accommodate you, but the later you make these arrangements, the more likely scheduling conflicts arise. A date and time for the rehearsal will also need to be established. *Traditionally, weddings are not celebrated during Lent, the six weeks before Easter.*

## **Pre-Marital Counseling**

Three meetings will be scheduled with the pastor before the wedding, for the purpose of pre-marriage counseling (two meetings) and wedding planning (final meeting). The initial conversation with the pastor will help establish what form these three sessions will take. The final session will be scheduled within a month of the wedding in order to cover final details. It is your responsibility to schedule these meetings with the pastor.

## **Organist/Music**

You will need to contact your own musicians. Please do so as soon as possible (ideally 6 months prior) to ensure that they have sufficient time to meet with you and prepare the music. All music must be approved by the pastor. We have several organists/pianists currently serving in our congregation, who may be available. We can provide their contact information to you if you wish. While Our Savior's is now set up to provide quality music from cd or other digital source, a live musician is strongly encouraged.

## **II. SCHEDULE OF FEES - Members**

Members of Our Savior's will pay a deposit of **\$250.00**, due immediately to reserve the church and date. Checks can be made payable to: *Our Savior's Lutheran Church*. Unused portions of the deposit will be returned to the couple within 2 weeks after the wedding day.

**The following items will be deducted from the deposit if not used:**

Building Usage Fee:	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
Pastoral Services <i>Typical Gratuity (thanks offering) is \$125 - \$225</i>	<b>No Fee Required</b>
Pre-marriage Resources	<b>\$ 25.00</b>
Weddings Bulletins:	<b>\$ 50.00</b>
Custodial Fee	<b>\$ 75.00</b>

**The following items are an extra fee that isn't included in the deposit:**

Organist (rehearsal & wedding):	<b>\$ 125.00</b>
Soloist: (plus \$25 for each additional rehearsal & each practice with a soloist. There will be an additional charge of \$25 for any time exceeding 1 hr.)	<b>\$ 50.00</b>

### **III. SCHEDULE OF FEES - Non-Members**

Non-members will pay a deposit of **\$550.00**, due immediately to reserve the church. Checks can be made payable to: *Our Savior's Lutheran Church*. Unused portions of the deposit will be returned to the couple within 2 weeks after the wedding day.

**The following items will be deducted from the deposit:**

Building Usage Fee	<b>\$ 150.00</b>
Pastoral Services	<b>\$ 250.00</b>
Pre-marriage Resources	<b>\$ 25.00</b>
Weddings Bulletins:	<b>\$ 50.00</b>
Custodial Fee	<b>\$ 75.00</b>

**The following items are an extra fee that isn't included in the deposit:**

Organist (rehearsal & wedding): **\$ 125.00**

Soloist: **\$ 50.00**

(plus \$25 for each additional rehearsal & each practice with a soloist. There will be an additional charge of \$25 for any time exceeding 1 hr.)

## IV. WEDDING POLICIES

1. **The use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited at the church or on the grounds** with the exception of wine for Holy Communion. The pastor will not proceed with the rehearsal or the wedding if anyone in the wedding party is believed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
2. **Smoking is prohibited indoors.** Please remind your guests to respect this rule, and smoke only out of doors. Also, please do not leave crushed out cigarettes on the sidewalks. **Pop cans are also prohibited in the church worship area.**
3. **The conduct of all participants** should be in keeping with the spirit of worship. The pastor reserves the right to halt any service when a member of the party or any guests in the church are not conducting themselves with propriety.
4. **Picture taking** during the wedding service is discouraged. Only the designated photographer is allowed to take pictures from half-way down the aisle during the processional and recessional. The photographer is permitted to take pictures during the service without a flash from the balcony or rear of the sanctuary.
5. **Video equipment** may be used from the balcony during the service. For the processional and recessional, it may be used half-way down the aisle, with the video photographer standing inside the end of a pew.
6. **The throwing of rice** is discouraged as it is messy, and possibly harmful to the birds. For those reasons, we ask that you not throw rice. Flower petals can be used, as long as the wedding party cleans them up.
7. **The pastor of Our Savior's** will be the officiating minister at all weddings in the congregation, unless direct arrangements are made with him. If you wish to have another minister or priest participate as the assisting minister, it should be at the invitation of the pastor of this parish.

## **V. WORSHIP SERVICE**

The marriage service is found on page 286 in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal. The basic format is as follows (with a \* designating items which are optional):

Prelude (a possible place for a solo or other instrumental)

### GATHERING

- Processional Entrance
- Greeting
- Declaration of Intention
- Prayer of the Day

### WORD

- Readings
- Sermon
- \*Hymn of the Day or Solo

### MARRIAGE

- Vows
- Giving of Rings
- Acclamation
- \*(Solo, hymn, unity candle, other symbols)
- Marriage Blessing
- Prayers of Intercession
- \*Holy Communion
- The Lord's Prayer

### SENDING

- Benediction
- Introduction of the couple
- Dismissal
- Postlude

The marriage service in Evangelical Lutheran worship is one in which the guests are not mere spectators, but participants in worship. You are encouraged to consider the use of congregational hymns and the celebration of Holy Communion at the service. The liturgy of Holy Communion stresses several important themes: the centrality of Christ in your relationship, the love of God, unity, and forgiveness. It can be a very meaningful symbol to participate in this sacrament of one's wedding day. The use of a unity candle, while not a historic Christian symbol, is an accepted practice. Bulletins are not required, but many people find them helpful. You may produce them yourselves, or have them done at the church (fee). The pastor will plan the worship with you.

## **VI. SUGGESTED READINGS & HYMNS**

Readings from Scripture are an important part of the worship. Scripture readings may be proclaimed by those who read with confidence from among family members, members of the wedding party, and others. If the last reading is from the gospels, it is normally proclaimed by the minister who is preaching. The assembly stands for this reading.

### **Suggested Scripture Readings**

It is suggested that you read these together and choose several that are meaningful to you. It is traditional (though not required) to have 3 readings: First Lesson, Second Lesson, and Gospel. A Psalm may also be chosen.

### **Old Testament**

Genesis 1:26-28: *Woman and man created in God's image*

Genesis 2:18-24: *Companionship rather than loneliness*

Proverbs 3:3-6: *Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart*

Song of Solomon 2:10-13: *The voice of the beloved*

Song of Solomon 8:6-7: *Many waters cannot quench love*

Isaiah 63:7-9: *God's steadfast love lifts up the people*

Jeremiah 31:31-34: *The new covenant of the people of God*

### **Psalm**

67: *May God be merciful to us and bless us*

100: *We are God's people*

117: *The steadfast love of the LORD*

121: *The LORD keeps watch over you*

127: *Unless the LORD builds the house*

128: *Happy are they who follow in God's ways*

150: *Let everything that has breath praise the LORD*

### **New Testament**

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39: *If God is for us, who is against us?*

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18: *A living sacrifice and genuine love*

1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13 *The greatest gift is love*

Ephesians 3:14-19: *The greatness of Christ's love*

Ephesians 5:1-2: *Live in love, as Christ loved us*

Philippians 4:4-9: *Rejoice in the Lord always*

Colossians 3:12-17: *Clothed in gifts of God*

1 John 3:18-24: *Let us love in truth and action*

1 John 4:7-16: *Let us love one another, for love is of God*

### **Gospel**

Matthew 5:1-10: *The Beatitudes*

Matthew 5:14-16: *You are the light, let your light shine*

Matthew 7:24-27: *Build on the rock*



Matthew 19:3-6: What God has united must not be divided

Matthew 22:35-40: Love, the greatest commandment

Mark 10:6-9: They are no longer two but one

John 2:1-11: The wedding at Cana

John 15:9-17: Love one another as I have loved you

## **SUGGESTED MUSIC**

Music is a beautiful (but not required) aspect of any wedding service. Below is a list of suggested congregational hymns. Your musician can give you ideas of instrumental music you might use for your processional or recessional. You are responsible for the purchase of copies of any vocal or solo music you select (usually one for the vocalist and one for the accompanist).

### Congregational Hymns

*Hymns from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (the Cranberry hymnal):*

308: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

312: Jesus, Come! For We Invite You

436: Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

460: Now the Silence

488, 489: Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

527: Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

543: Go my Children with my Blessing

547: Sent Forth By God's Blessing"

585: Hear Us Now, Our God and Father

586: This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited

631: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

642: Ubi caritas et amor

644: Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue

648: Beloved, God's Chosen

656: Blest Be the Tie That Binds

858: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

839, 840: Now Thank We All Our God

879: For the Beauty of the Earth

816: Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

836: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

### Vocal Solos/Duets

Besides congregational hymns, couples sometimes request to include other music from the wider culture. It is understood that contemporary songs can hold significant meaningful to couples. Remember that your wedding is a worship service when considering such additional songs. The reception or dance is another appropriate venue for the use of many contemporary songs. The final approval of all music for the wedding ceremony itself must come from the pastor.

## VII. SUGGESTED VOWS

The vows that you make to one another are at the heart of the wedding service. The words should reflect your relationship. You may choose to use any of the vows below, combine them, or write your own:

1. I take you, *name*, to be my *wife/husband* from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.
2. In the presence of God and this community, I, *name*, take you, *name*, to be my *wife/husband*; to have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.
3. I take you (name) to be my wife/husband from this day 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 to respond, and in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being.
4. I take you (name) to be my wife/husband, I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful husband/wife, to share 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 and others as long as we both shall live.
5. I take you (name) to be my wife/husband, 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 forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will try with you better to understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and the worst of what is to come as long as we live.
6. I (name) take you (name) to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance - these things I promise with all my heart.

\* If you choose to write your own vows, they will need to be approved by the pastor, with a printed copy being provided to the pastor prior to the rehearsal.

## **VIII. WEDDING REHEARSAL & MARRIAGE LICENSE**

### **Wedding Rehearsal**

The wedding rehearsal is very important. You should be sure that all who are involved in your wedding are present, including the organist, the wedding party, the parents, the ushers, and the readers. Arrangements need to be made with the office administrator for rehearsal & decorating times. The church building is locked otherwise.

**Be prompt for rehearsal!** If you are arranging candelabras, bows, etc. in the worship area, you will want to arrive early to do this, so that we may begin on time. Remember that the placement of all decorations must be cleared with the pastor, and that it is your responsibility to see to it that the worship space is left in its original arrangement. All decorations and candles should be purchased by you, including the unity candle (if you desire to use one). Following the service you are responsible for removing all personal items, trash and debris, and leaving the church building in the same good order as when you arrived

### **Marriage License**

You must make application for your license at least 7 days, but no more than 30 days in advance of your wedding, according to the State of Wisconsin. Remember that a pastor cannot legally perform a wedding without the marriage license. Therefore, you should bring your license to the church no later than the wedding rehearsal.