

Wedding Guidelines
at
Our Savior's Lutheran Church



Wedding Guidelines

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Hartland, Wisconsin

Contents:

<i>Wedding Guidelines</i>	<i>p. 3-7</i>
Marriage – What We Believe	
How to Begin – Arranging the Worship Service	
Member and Non-Member Weddings	
Pastor Officiating	
Premarital Counseling	
Wedding Liturgy	
Marriage Service Outline	
Organist/Pianist	
Wedding Rehearsal	
Wedding Custodian	
Decorations	
Photographs	
Dressing Rooms	
Non-Alcoholic Beverages	
Clean-Up	
Reception at Church	
Marriage License	
Simple Weddings	
Costs and Contributions	
Possible Scripture Readings	<i>p. 8</i>
Wedding Vows	<i>p. 9</i>

Wedding Guidelines at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

"I will betroth you to myself forever, betroth you with integrity and justice, with tenderness and love; I will betroth you to myself with faithfulness, and you will come to know the Lord" –Hosea 2:19-20

Marriage – What We Believe

Marriage is a gift from God and a covenant of life-long faithfulness between a woman and a man. The heart of the wedding service is the exchange of vows of commitment between the bride and groom (and signified in the exchange of rings) before the congregation and God.

Ideally, a marriage relationship reflects the love that God has shown through the ages and uniquely revealed in Jesus. Martin Luther called marriage "a school for character"; as Hosea states above, a marriage calls forth such virtues as integrity, justice, tenderness, and love—through the joys and sorrows of whatever life may bring. At a Christian wedding service, the couple is not left to their own efforts to fulfill these promises, but is publicly receiving God's blessing and support, as well as the affirmation of family, friends, and the Holy Christian Church.

So the wedding is not only a glad occasion—over-flowing with joy, celebrating the Creator's gifts of life, health love, sexuality, the family—is it a holy moment calling on Christ and the Holy Spirit to bless, strengthen and renew this union day by day.

We believe that the Christian wedding is a sacred service of worship. To clearly express this, Our Savior's has established the following guidelines.

How to Begin – Arranging the Worship Service

Contact our church office to find out if Our Savior's facilities are available on the date that you are considering. Confirmation of dates may take 7-10 days. Please be aware that if you announce times and dates before confirming them with the church office the facilities may already be scheduled for other use.

Member and Non-Member Weddings

The pastors at Our Savior's are happy to officiate at weddings for church members and their immediate family members. If you desire to become a member, we welcome you to attend our "Inquirer's/New Members Classes." Please contact one of our pastors for more information.

Non-members* may also be married at Our Savior's for a total contribution of \$950. \$500 of this amount will be directed to a service area, mission trip or project (World Hunger, Appalachia Service Project Trip, Lutheran Alaskan Missionary Pilots (LAMP), Habitat for Humanity Project, etc). This contribution *may* be tax deductible. The remaining fees are described on the "Costs and Contributions" page.

Pastor Officiating

Normally, one of the pastors of Our Savior's will officiate at all weddings. If a family desires other clergy to participate in the worship service, the requests should be made through the pastor. It is the prerogative of Our Savior's pastors to extend an invitation to other clergy persons to assist at the wedding.

*(Non-members who are members in good standing of another ELCA Church, and who desire to be married at Our Savior's, but with their own pastor officiating, may ask their own pastor to make arrangements with the Our Savior's pastors. Normally, only custodian and organist fees will apply in this case.)

Premarital Counseling

Premarital counseling is one of the expectations for the couple. We ask that the counseling begin at least three months before the wedding. There are a variety of possibilities:

- ◆ with the Our Savior's pastor
- ◆ with a Lutheran Social Services counselor
- ◆ Kairos Ministries 414-778-1266
- ◆ a pre-marital retreat (please confirm with presiding pastor)

Wedding Liturgy

The order of the wedding service will be from the marriage service of the Lutheran Book of Worship (p. 202) or new ELCA Renewing Worship Service. In consultation with the pastor and church musician, couples may choose from a variety of readings, prayers, wedding vows, hymns and solos. You may choose to celebrate communion during the wedding service. Other changes or variations must be approved by the pastor.

Bulletins—Printed bulletins are nearly always used, but the church office does not print or purchase them. Sample bulletins are available for you to peruse.

Marriage Service Outline

(*=optional)

PRELUDE MUSIC

GATHERING-	*Processional Greeting Introduction Declaration of Intention Prayer
WORD-	Scripture Readings *Music (Hymn, Solos, Special Music) Homily *Hymn of the Day (or Special Music)
MARRIAGE-	Vows *Exchange of Rings Acclamation *Lighting of Unity Candle

Prayers

*SACRAMENT	*Communion Liturgy
SENDING	Blessing
	*Introduction of Married Couple
	*Recessional

Organist/Pianist

Our Savior's organist will play for all weddings, where an organist/pianist is needed, as well as assist in the selection of all music to be performed in the service. Please contact Polly Mauer (367-5795) at least 3 months before the wedding. Permission to have another organist or musicians must have the approval of Ms. Mauer. Please confer with our organist BEFORE decisions or arrangements about music and musicians are made. The organist/pianist fee includes the wedding rehearsal.

The wedding is an act of Christian Worship, and the music should reflect this. Several questions to ask yourself are:

1. Is the music consistent with what the Christian Church teaches about marriage?
2. Is the music appropriate for a worship service?
3. Is it tasteful?

The implementation of these guidelines is left to the discretion of the pastor and church musician. The organist and other musicians may place further restrictions on the music requested relative to their ability and performance style.

Wedding Rehearsal

The pastor and organist/pianist will meet with the wedding party for the rehearsal (usually the evening before the wedding) and review the wedding service. It is important courtesy that the rehearsals begin at the scheduled time. Our rehearsals tend to be 30-45 minutes long.

Wedding Custodian

A custodian from Our Savior's is provided for each wedding. The couple should meet at least once with the wedding custodian—no less than eight weeks prior to the wedding date in order to discuss the use of church equipment, banners, dressing rooms, candles, etc.

Decorations

Plans for decorations and flowers to be used in the Church should be discussed with Our Savior's wedding custodian.

- ◆ Ribbons or simple floral arrangements may be used to mark pews. However, no nails or tacks may be used! Masking tape is permissible.
- ◆ If flowers and other items are to be delivered to the church, please contact the custodian to ensure that someone is available at the time of arrival.
- ◆ Standing candelabras are available for your use. Altar candles may be used only with the approval of the church custodian.
- ◆ The brass vases in the chancel may be used, but only with the plastic lines, that may be borrowed through the custodian and given to the florist. At no time are the brass vases to be handled or removed from the stand by anyone but the custodian.

- ◆ A bridal carpet may be used and can usually be ordered through the florist. The carpet size needed is fifty feet.
- ◆ Your own personal wedding consultant may assist the wedding party but must abide by the guidelines of Our Savior's Church.

Photographs

Photographs in the sanctuary are normally scheduled at least 2 hours prior to the beginning of the service and must be completed at least 30 minutes before the wedding service. Photos during the service may be taken from the back of the sanctuary.

Stationary video recording is acceptable.

Dressing Rooms

Dressing rooms are available for use the day of the wedding. The dressing room for the bride and her party is in the East wing. The fellowship hall is often used by the groom and his friends. Arrangements for rooms should be made with the custodian.

Non-Alcoholic Beverages

You may bring snacks and non-alcoholic beverages for the wedding party on the day of the wedding. Please note that Our Savior's does not supply plates, napkins, glasses or cups.

Clean-Up!

It is important to designate someone who will remove all of your belongings from the dressing rooms immediately following the service. Articles left behind will be placed in the lost and found.

Reception at Church

Receptions in our church's fellowship hall may be arranged by completing a Facility Use Form. These forms are available through the church office. The bride and groom are responsible for the use of the kitchen and equipment and for all damages or breakage.

Marriage License

Please bring your completed marriage license to the pastor on the day of your rehearsal.

Simple Weddings

Wedding customs in the United States are becoming more costly and burdensome for couples. According to the publishers of Bride's and Modern Bride magazines, the average wedding cost is \$22,3609 in 2004. We believe that Christian wedding can be both simple and elegant and should not leave a family in debt! The pastors and church staff are available to assist in planning so that your wedding arrangements are not a burden, but a joy.

Possibilities for simple and meaningful church weddings include:

- Have just 2 people stand up with you, a maid or matron of honor and a best man.
- Use flowers from your garden, or your gardening friends' gardens
- Exchange marriage vows on a Saturday night or Sunday morning during the normal church service! Flowers and musicians will already be in place, and the congregation will love it! You can have a totally free wedding this way.
- Have a potluck reception right in the church fellowship hall. Have your friends decorate the place and ask friends to bring their very favorite food (and recipe!) as their wedding gift to you.

- Ask the church office for a copy of Alternative Wedding Book or visit the Alternatives for Simple Living website at <http://www.simpleliving.org/Archives/Wedding/WeddingAlternatives.html>

Costs and Contributions

Non-Members:

Organist - (includes music consultation, playing at rehearsal, and wedding and practicing with soloists)	\$200
Custodian -	\$100
Wedding Contribution to Social Ministry -	\$500
Honorarium for pastor (left to couple's discretion) -	
*Visiting pastor's (when O.S. pastors are not available) fee is a minimum of \$150	\$150
TOTAL:	\$950

Members:

Organist – (includes music consultation, playing at rehearsal and wedding and practicing with soloists)	\$200
Our Savior's soloist (suggested contribution is \$75)	_____
Custodian – (includes consultation, opening and closing building for rehearsal and wedding, wedding clean up)	\$100
Honorarium for pastor – (left to couple's discretion)	_____
TOTAL:	_____

Possible Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-28	Woman and man created in the image of God
Genesis 2:18-24	Companionship rather than loneliness
Ruth 1:16-17	"Where you go, I will go"
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 people
Hosea 2:19-20	God's "betrothing" us in integrity, tenderness and love
Jeremiah 31:31-34	The new covenant of the people of God

Psalms

Psalms 67	May God be merciful to us and bless us
Psalms 100	We are God's people and the sheep of His pasture
Psalms 117	The steadfast love of God
Psalms 121	The Lord keeps watch over you
Psalms 127	Unless the Lord builds the house
Psalms 128	Blessed are those who walk in the Lord's ways
Psalms 150	Let everything that breathes 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 13	The greatest gift is love
Ephesians 3:14-19	The breadth, length height and depth of Christ's love
Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33	Walk in love as Christ loved
Philippians 4:4-9	Rejoice in the Lord always
Colossians 3:12-17	Clothed in compassion, kindness, meekness and patience
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 7:21, 24-29	A wise person builds upon 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.

Wedding Vows

- I. Lutheran Book of Worship
I take you, _____ 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.

- II. _____, I take you to be my wife/husband 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 to respond, and in all of our life together be loyal to with my whole life and with all my being.

- III. I take you, _____, 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 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.

- IV. I take you, _____, 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 to better understand ourselves, the world and God...through the best and worst of what is to come as long as we shall live.

- V. I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife/husband; to share with you both sorrow and joy, and to be faithful to you until death parts us.

- VI. I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do us part.

- VII. I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife/husband; to love and to trust, from this day forward; for better or worse, for richer or poorer; in sickness and in health. As we continue to grow in our love for each other, I shall honor you with my whole self, listen and speak the truth to you, and seek to live each day as a gift of God, as long as we both shall live.

- VIII. I, _____, give myself to you, _____. By the grace of God, I promise to support and care for you. In the love of Christ, I promise to love and cherish you. With the Spirit's help, I promise to be faithful to you, as long as we both shall live.

Wedding Questions for the Bride and Groom

Escorting and Ushering of Guests and Seating

◆ Will there be ushers? (to light candles, hand out bulletins, and usher guests to their seats?) Who will be doing what?

◆ Who will be escorted in? (parents, grandparents, aunts, etc)	By whom?	Escorted out?
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

◆ Will you seat immediate family and friends of the bride and groom on different sides of the church or together?

◆ Where will special guests sit (parents, step-parents, grandparents, family, etc)...in first, second, third row?

◆ How will family be escorted out (or will they)? Ushers? Bride and groom?

◆ How will guests be escorted out? Ushers? Row by row? "Released" by bride and groom?

◆ Will there be a receiving line? Who will be in it? Where will it be (inside or outside)? What will be the order of the people in the receiving line?

Processional and Recessional

◆ How will the wedding party enter the sanctuary? (As couples down main aisle? Separately? Men from side and women down main aisle?)

◆ How will the bride and groom enter? (bride with father? bride with parents? bride and groom together? bride alone? groom from side?)

Wedding Liturgy

◆ What Biblical texts do you want read? Why? Be prepared to talk with pastor about this!

◆ Would you like a friend or relative to read these texts at the wedding? Who?

◆ Which vows have you chosen?

◆ Will you have communion during your wedding?

◆ How will you be called during the wedding service?

- ◆ By what name/s do you wish to be presented to the congregation at the end of the wedding service?
- ◆ Will you kiss at the close of the wedding?

Music

- ◆ What music will you have during the wedding (prelude, during the seating of parents and grandparents, hymns sung by the congregation, processional, recessional, during the lighting of the unity candle)? Please consult with our church organist/pianist, Polly Mauer (367-5795).
- ◆ Will you have soloists?

Miscellaneous

- ◆ Will you have an aisle runner?
- ◆ Candles? Candelabras? Unity candle? Who lights what when? (parents? bride and groom?)
- ◆ Flower girl/s? Ring bearer? Will they be standing or seated during the service?
- ◆ Will you have a guest book?
- ◆ Will you have your reception at Our Savior's fellowship hall?

**Marriage Service
(ELCA Renewing Worship—2003)**

Preludes
Processional

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Introduction

Dear friends: We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of _____ and _____, to surround them with our prayers and to share in their joy.

The Scriptures teach us that the bond and covenant of marriage is a gift of God, a holy mystery in which two become one flesh, an image of the union of Christ and the church. As _____ and _____ give themselves to each other today, we remember that at Cana in Galilee our Lord Jesus Christ made the wedding feast a sign of God's reign of love.

Let us enter into this celebration confident that, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now also; we pray that this couple may fulfill God's purpose for the whole of their lives.

Declaration of Intention

(Minister addresses couple)

_____ will you have _____ to be your wife/husband, to live together in holy marriage? Will you love him/her, comfort him/her, honor and keep him/her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her/him as long as you both shall live?

I will.

(Minister addresses family)

Will you, the families of _____ and _____ give your love and blessing to this new family?

We will.

(Minister addresses assembly)

Will all of you, by the Grace of God, do everything in your power to uphold and care for these two persons in their life together?

We will.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so bring your joy to this wedding by his presence now. Look in favor upon _____ and _____, and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate the unending marriage feast with Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

(Optional) Hymn / Soloists

Homily – Pastor

Vows

Giving of Rings

Bless these rings, O God; may they who wear them live in love and fidelity, and continue in your service all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Exchange of Rings

_____, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

Acclamation

_____ and _____ by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife. Those who God has joined together let nothing put asunder.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. May the hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. AMEN

Kiss

Recessional

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Wedding Information Form**

Bride: _____
Address: _____
Day Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____
Email: _____
Marital Status:
Single: _____
Divorced: _____
Widowed: _____

Groom: _____
Address: _____
Day Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____
Email: _____
Marital Status:
Single: _____
Divorced: _____
Widowed: _____

Parents: _____
(will be present at wedding? _____)

Parents: _____
(will be present at wedding? _____)

Proposed Wedding Date and Time: _____
Proposed Rehearsal Date and Time: _____

Wedding Party:

Women Attendants: _____
Maid of Honor: _____
Men Attendants: _____
Best Man: _____

Flower Girl: _____ Ring Bearer: _____

Ushers: _____

Marriage Service:

Scripture Readings: _____
Readers: _____
Vows #: _____
Hymns: _____
Organist/Pianist: _____
Soloists: _____
Communion: _____
Special Music: _____

Processional: _____ Recessional: _____

Names of Bride and Groom to be used during service: _____

Names to be presented to congregation at end of service: _____

Name of Florist: _____

Phone: _____

Name of Photographer: _____

Phone: _____

For Office Use:

Wedding date and time confirmed: _____

Rehearsal date and time confirmed: _____

Presiding Pastor: _____