



Faith Lutheran Church

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Dear Prospective Bride and Groom:

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding!

We are delighted that you are considering Faith Lutheran Church as the location for your wedding. Uniting couples in the presence of God is a privilege which we do not take lightly. Our prayer is that your wedding day will be the beginning of the process called marriage at which Christ is the center.

Whether you are a member or non-member of this church, your wedding ceremony here will be a worship service which praises and glorifies Jesus Christ from whom all things are possible, including the gift of your love for each other.

Every wedding is a unique and special event. To help you in your wedding planning and budgeting, we have prepared this booklet which informs you of our guidelines and charges. Please read it carefully and contact us if you have further questions. May God's presence go with you on your marriage journey.

Planning Ahead

Scheduling: You will want to plan your wedding as early as possible, so that the use of the church facilities can be arranged without conflict. The date of the wedding is set in consultation with the pastor. If your wedding date should need to be changed, please notify the church office as soon as possible.

Counseling: An appointment must be scheduled with Pastor to begin detailed preparation. This should be done at the earliest possible date and before the date and time of the wedding are definitely established. The officiating pastor generally schedules three sessions with the prospective couple in preparation for the wedding ceremony. At the first session, the couple will answer questions from "PREPARE," a pre-marital counseling inventory designed to help engaged couples explore major issues involved in marriage. At the second session, the pastor will assist the couple in discussing the results of this questionnaire. This discussion is intended to be the beginning of open communication about potentially difficult issues relating to your life together. In the third session, the couple and pastor, will plan the wedding ceremony itself and discuss any other necessary issues. Other sessions may be scheduled as needed.

Marriage service or wedding is defined as between a male and a female only.

Weddings scheduled on a Sunday or a holiday or the weekend before and the weekend after Christmas must have special approval by the pastor and the Congregation council. Weddings will not be conducted on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas, Maudy Thursday through Easter.

The Pastor(s) have the responsibility to officiate the wedding service. If another minister is desired to assist or conduct the service, then this information needs to be shared with pastor and cleared through the Congregation Council. The guest pastor will be contacted and sent a copy of the wedding booklet.

Marriage Licenses: The license shall be given to the pastor no later than the day of rehearsal.

The pastor reserves the right to refuse to perform the ceremony.

Wedding Facilitator: The Wedding Facilitator is your church connection in discussing flowers, candles, timing of photos, family seating, ushering, scheduling the rehearsal, and other formalities. The Wedding Facilitator will be available to answer questions and provide assistance.

Receptions: Receptions may be held at the church. Arrangements are to be made with the Wedding Facilitator. Fees are listed at the back of this booklet.

Other Guidelines: Alcoholic Beverages and Smoking: The use of alcoholic beverages is not permitted in the church or on the premises. Smoking of any kind is not allowed anywhere on Faith property. Any member of the wedding party who arrives for the wedding in an intoxicated condition shall not be allowed to participate in the wedding ceremony.

Birdseed, rice and wheat are not to be thrown or handed out inside of the church building.

Bulletins: A wide variety of bulletins are available in the church office for order. Worship Bulletins can be printed at the church or by the couple, with content subject to approval by the presiding pastor.

Candelabras: Some flower stands are available by arranging with the wedding facilitator.

Dressing Rooms: The Youth Room can be used for the groom's party. The Bride's Room is available for the bride's party. Please arrange for the care of the wedding party's property during the wedding and for the general pickup of these areas after the ceremony. Lost articles can be claimed by calling the church office as soon as possible after the wedding.

Photography/Video Cameras: Out of respect for the sanctity of the service, no flash pictures shall be taken during the worship service. It might be helpful to add a simple reminder of this in our wedding bulletin. Consult the pastor about video taping use of cameras and camcorders during the service.

Music

Your wedding is, first of all, a worship of God who has called you together in marriage. As worship, our primary attention during the service is focused on God and His love and care for us. Your declaration of love for each other is in the context of His already having declared His love for you. What we do during the service is designed to focus on God's love for you and the importance of the vows you take with each other in the presence of God and your family and friends. As in all worship services, the music for your wedding is to be selected with care. It is important to keep vocal/instrumental selections in harmony with the themes of the Christian Marriage Service. These themes are:

1. God's Word to us as His children. Music which centers on God's instruction, love, care and leading is appropriate here.
2. Promises of faithfulness. Our promises of love to each other are to reflect God's eternal love for us. We are not free to define "love" however we want, for it has been defined and given by God in Jesus Christ.
3. Prayers. Your wedding is not only a conversation with each other, but also with God. Praise, thanksgiving, and petition themes in music fit in well in this section.

Generally, the regular church organist plays for weddings when his-her schedule permits. He/She must be consulted regarding date and time of wedding and practice schedule. He/She will be happy to assist you, along with the pastor, in the selection of appropriate music. Please advise the pastor if you wish to make other arrangements for an organist or musicians.

To further assist you in selecting your music for this special event, you are asked to consider the various sections of the service into which the music must appropriately fit. Following is a further description of the segments of the marriage service.

I. Prelude: As your guests are gathering in the Sanctuary, the music serves to gather up and unite the thoughts of all present in the service itself, always pointing Godward. During this time the music may be of a serious, joyful, or festive nature. Seasonal music can also be used during the festive periods of Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter.

II. Processional: This is the time for the wedding party to enter the Sanctuary. The music may be of a quiet, reverent nature or more stately and festive. Organ selections may be chosen from the vast array of marches and elegant ceremonial pieces available. Other instruments than the organ may be used, but care should be exercised as to their appropriateness.

III. Ceremony: Music should fit into the three themes of the service: Proclamation — Promises — Prayers.

IV. Postlude: As with the Recessional, the music should be of a joyful, dignified nature, but in varying degrees of loudness so as not to become monotonous.

The singing of hymns by the congregation during the service or for Processionals or Recessionals provides a wonderful opportunity for your guests to actively participate in the celebration.

Marriage

Stand

1. The bride, groom and wedding party stand in front of the minister. The parents may stand behind the couple.

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

All: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Canaan in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so by his presence now bring your joy to this wedding. Look in favor upon _____ and _____ and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end.

All: Amen

Sit

2. One or more lessons from the Bible may be read. An address may follow. A hymn may be played or sung.

P: The Lord God in his goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden.

But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with his abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

_____, and _____, if it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

Stand

3. The bride and groom face each other and join hands. Each, in turn, promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words:

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.

4. The bride and groom exchange rings with these words:

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

5. The bride and groom join hands, and the minister announces their marriage by saying:

P: _____ and _____, buy their promises before God and in the presence of this congregation, have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife.

All: Blessed by the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

P: Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

All: Amen.

Sit.

6. The bride and groom kneel.

P: The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, establish and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life's end.

7. The parents may add their blessing with these or similar words; the wedding party may join them.
May you dwell in God's presence forever; may true and constant love preserve you.

8. The bride and groom stand.

Stand.

All: Let us bless God for all the gifts in which we rejoice today.

P: Lord God, constant in mercy, great in faithfulness, with high praise we recall your acts of unfailing love for the human family, for the house of Israel, and for your people the Church. We bless you for the joy which your servants, _____ and _____, have found in each other, and pray that you give to us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you, whose work alone holds true and endures forever.

All: Amen.

P: Let us pray for _____ and _____ in their life together.

P: Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your grace upon _____ and _____, that they may fulfill the vows they have made this day and reflect your steadfast love in their life-long faithfulness to each other. As members with them of the body of Christ, use us to support their life together; and from your great store of strength give them power and patience, affection and understanding, courage, and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world, that they may continue together in mutual growth according to your will in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Other intercession may be offered.

P: Let us pray for all families throughout the world.

Gracious Father, you bless the family and renew our people. Enrich husbands and wives, parents and children more and more with your grace, that, strengthening and supporting each other, they may serve those in need and be a sign of the fulfillment of your perfect kingdom, where, with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God through all ages.

All: Amen.

9. When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the Peace.

10. When there is no Communion, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom comes, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever.

All: Amen.

Word of God

Readings from the Bible help us understand marriage in the context of God's creative love for God's people. Consider the following suggestions as you select readings for your wedding. Other personal selections must be approved by the presiding pastor.

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:18-24

Song of Solomon 2:8-14

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Isaiah 63:7-9

New Testament

Romans 12:1-2

1st Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Ephesians 5:21-33

Matthew 19:4-6

John 2:1-10

John 15:9-12

1 John 4:7-12

Colossians 3:12-17

Psalms

Psalm 33

Psalm 100

Psalm 117

Psalm 127

Psalm 128

Psalm 136

Psalm 150

Wedding Promises

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.

(Name), I take you to be my wife/husband from this time onward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and respond, and in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being until death parts us.

I take you, (Name) to be my wife/husband. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful husband/wife and 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.

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 to better understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and worst of what is to come as long as we live.

The Rehearsal

A rehearsal is scheduled to be completed in 45-60 minutes. Therefore it must start on time. The rehearsal is to be done in a dignified manner, ever mindful that there must be reverence and respect for the Lord's house.

No rehearsal or ceremony will be conducted with any members of the wedding party under the influence of alcohol.

The time of the rehearsal will be set with Pastor. Decisions of who will be walking with whom should be made in advance.

Wedding Day

The wedding party should arrive at the church at the designated time. Prepare for pictures by dressing promptly. Someone should be on hand to help with special needs e.g. buttons, bow ties, etc. and to let the photographer know when all are ready.

Miscellaneous

Members and immediate family of members may be married at Faith Lutheran. Non-member couples must schedule a conference with Pastor to discuss requirements for marriage at Faith Lutheran.

Seating capacity in the sanctuary is approximately 350.

Wedding Ceremony Fees

Note: Fees should be paid prior to or by the time of the wedding rehearsal.

	Member	Non-Member
Wedding Facilitator (Cash, or check payable to the individual)	\$125	\$125
Use of Sanctuary (Cash, or check payable to Faith Lutheran)	None	\$225
Use of Fellowship Hall	None	\$225
Refundable Deposit (Cash, or check payable to Faith Lutheran) To be refunded provided there is no damage or excess custodial work.	\$250	\$250
Premarital Counseling Inventory (Cash, or check payable to PREPARE)	\$35	\$35
Sound Technician		
Church Organist - Fee negotiated directly with the Organist (Cash, or check payable to the individual)		
Church Musicians/Soloists - Fee negotiated directly with individuals. (Cash, or check payable to individuals.)		
Custodial Services		
Use of Sanctuary and dressing areas only	\$80	\$80
Use of Sanctuary, dressing areas, and reception (Cash, or check payable to custodian)	\$160	\$160
Pastoral Gratuity	Honorarium	\$250
	Optional	
Counseling and officiating at the rehearsal and wedding ceremony (Cash, or check payable to Pastor Alsen Wenzel or officiating pastor)		
Wedding Bulletins	cost dependent on choice	

Notes:
