

Wedding Information (to be filled out and a copy given to Pastor)

Date of Wedding _____ Time _____

Date of Rehearsal _____ Time _____

Name of Bride _____

Church Affiliation _____

Mailing Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone number-Home _____ Work _____

Name of Groom _____

Church Affiliation _____

Mailing Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone Number-Home _____ Work _____

Future Address of Couple _____

Witnesses Best Man _____

Maid of Honor _____

Attendants-Bridesmaids

Groomsmen

Organist _____
(Church Organist is Joy Toll-Chandler)

Soloist _____

Other music and/or instrumentalists _____

Photographer _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____

Formal pictures before or after ceremony? _____

Video Recorder _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____

Florist _____

Telephone _____

Unity Candle Y or N (provided by couple)

Scripture Passages selected _____

Readers (if any) _____

Communion is an option to be discussed with Pastor if it is so desired.

Parents Names _____

Grandparents in Attendance

Other relatives to be seated in a specific place in front _____

Church bulletin-have bulletin covers and all the information in regards to music, scripture, and people to church office by one week before wedding.

Guest bookstand Y or N

Receiving line at Church or at Reception (underline or circle)

Fee Schedule for Weddings at Lutheran Church of the Cross
(For church members there are no fees for facility usage)

Facility costs for non-members:

Worship area	\$300
Fellowship Hall with kitchen use	\$500

Personnel:

Pastor \$150
(includes four pre-marriage counseling sessions and officiating at ceremony)

Organist \$120
(includes meeting with couple about music, practice with soloist if necessary, playing at the wedding)

Wedding Coordinator \$60
(includes consultation with couple, rehearsal and wedding co-ordinations)

Custodian \$70
(includes opening/closing building, cleaning before and after wedding)

Soloists and Instrumentalists are to be provided by couple and fees are negotiated directly with them. (The only wedding soloist we have in the congregation charges \$75 per song, more for two, and should be booked at least 3 months in advance. She's busy!)

Rehearsal: Please be on time and bring the following items to the rehearsal:

- 1) license
- 2) unity candle
- 3) fees and appropriate checks
- 4) wedding bulletins if not being printed at LCC

For any off-site wedding requests for Pastor or Organist or Wedding Coordinator, the fee schedule is to be negotiated with the requested people.

As you begin planning your wedding at Lutheran Church of the Cross

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! This is an exciting time for you and we are pleased that you have decided to take this important step through the church. As you begin your preparation for marriage, we want to provide you with our understanding of Christian marriage.

At Lutheran Church of the Cross we hope that you are planning not only for your wedding but also, more importantly, for your marriage. Of course your wedding day is very important. But the wedding ceremony lasts less than an hour, while your marriage is intended to last a lifetime. Accordingly, the commitment of Christian marriage presumes that the couple is actively pursuing a life of faith, and that they desire to grow together in their union with God. At Lutheran Church of the Cross this means that couples preparing for marriage are expected to attend worship services regularly and to share in the life of the church.

Premarital preparation is really in your best interest. When researchers examined characteristics of happy couples that had been married for more than two decades, one of the most important qualities they found was faith in God and spiritual commitment. Regular worship and prayer together, both before and after your wedding, can do much to make your marriage fulfilling and vital. And that is our goal at Lutheran Church of the Cross: We want your relationship to reflect the abundant life that Jesus Christ promises to us all.

Additional research has shown that churchgoers feel better about their marriages than those who do not attend worship, and that couples who attend church together are much more likely to be partners for life. Shared worship is a time of rest and renewal in your relationship. In addition, we strive at Lutheran Church of the Cross Church to make worship an opportunity for social support and spiritual refueling. Singing hymns, learning from Scripture, worshipping God, sharing Holy Communion, and meeting with friends who share your spiritual quest are all comforting and inspiring activities. Worshipping together strengthens marriage and makes the week ahead more meaningful.

For all these reasons we ask that you make a commitment as a couple to worship with us regularly if you reside locally. If you live in another area, we can help you find a church home close to you.

Policies for weddings conducted at Lutheran Church of the Cross

Premarital Counseling. There will be schedule of meetings with the Pastor for a minimum of four sessions to not only talk about your wedding about of equal importance is the discussion of the marriage relationship. If you live in another part of the country and cannot meet with the pastor, you will meet with a local pastor or social service agency for your premarital counseling.

Music. Weddings are worship services during which a couple exchange their promises of marriage and begin living together in the gift that God has given to them called Marriage! We believe couples want their weddings to reflect the timeless beauty of the love they have for each other. Musical choices for various parts of the worship service are planned with the church organist who has access to a variety of music and the experience to know what works at what place in the service. If there is any question about the appropriateness of a musical selection please discuss the selection with the Pastor. If secular songs that have meaning for the couple are to be used, we suggest they be sung/played before the processional as people are being seated.

If someone other than the church organist is playing for the wedding, please have that person call the Pastor in regards to the selection procedure for music.

Photography. Since weddings are worship services and the intent is to retain the sacred character of the occasion we ask both professional and amateur (e.g. aunts and uncles) to refrain from taking flash pictures once the ceremony has begun. Please know that after the ceremony the wedding party and the Pastor are available for pictures. Videotaping may be done from an unobtrusive, fixed location. The Wedding Coordinator will assist photographers by showing them the appropriate locations and where they are allowed to stand in order to take pictures. The overall philosophy is that the wedding ceremony is a worship service and not to be disrupted by inappropriate positioning of people taking pictures. If there are repeated difficulties with certain photography studios, they will not be allowed to photograph weddings at LCC.

Decorations. Live flowers can be purchased through the church for the vases on the pedestals on either side of the altar for approximately \$60. If your wedding takes place on a Saturday and you would like to leave them for Sunday morning your names are then listed in the bulletin as the couple who provided the flowers! Other floral designs and candelabras need to be approved by the wedding coordinator or Pastor. Fresh flower petals cannot be thrown by a flower girl during the processional and there is no rice or birdseed allowed after the wedding. Candles should be dripless and adequate protection for furnishings and carpeting must be provided. Any expenses for damage will need to be covered by the families of the bride and groom.

Alcohol. There is no alcohol besides the communion wine in the sacristy allowed on the premises or on the grounds of the church buildings. If there are any difficulties in this regard the Pastor or Wedding coordinator can postpone the wedding at their discretion.

Smoking. There is no smoking allowed in any of the buildings of the church. If there are difficulties in this regard the Pastor or Wedding Coordinator can postpone the wedding at their discretion.

Unity Candles. Often at weddings a unity candle is lit during the worship service to symbolize the couple's new life together. There are a number of options in regards to

how the unity candle ceremony is performed. Sometimes mothers light the candles prior to the bridal party entering the worship area while at other times the couples light the tapers from the altar candles before lighting their Unity Candle. Please discuss this with the wedding coordinator or Pastor as to how you want to do this aspect of the ceremony. Unity Candles, tapers, and candle stands are provided by the couple getting married.

Wedding Rehearsals. Most weddings require a rehearsal so that all people involved will feel more comfortable on the wedding day. The time for the rehearsal is usually 5:30 on the day prior to the wedding. At the rehearsal the wedding party walk through the ceremony to get a sense of what to expect at the ceremony. Musicians do not need to be present and the church organist is not present. Normally the rehearsal takes about one hour.

Please bring the following to the rehearsal:

- 1) Unity Candle, tapers, and candle stands.
- 2) Marriage License.
- 3) Appropriate fees (see fee schedule).
- 4) Guest book.

Prayers for Use by Best Man, Father, or Other Persons. At the Rehearsal Dinner and Wedding Reception it is appropriate to use one of the following prayers asking God's Presence at the Celebration.

Here are examples of possible prayers that set a positive, loving tone for such occasions.

Prayer at a Rehearsal Dinner

Almighty and loving God, accept our thanks and praise for all you have done for us. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care, which surrounds us on every side. Grant us your special blessing on this occasion as we gather for food and fellowship in joyful anticipation of the wedding day of _____ and _____. Make these families and friends a source of support and loving care for _____ and _____. And in your mercy, bless this couple with abundant joy as they look forward to joining their lives together as one. Amen.

Prayer at a Wedding Reception

We join our hearts in thanks to you, Lord, for the life, the joys, and the love that _____ and _____ now share in marriage. Make their life together a sign of Christ's love for this world. Make their love one of fidelity, grace, forgiveness and kindness that they may continue to find delight in one another. Make their home a place of stability and growth, peace and contentment that they may grow to their life's end in harmony and happiness. And make this present community of family and friends a source of strength and continued love for them, that _____ and _____ may feel supported through all the times of their life together. Bless now this gathering with your presence that _____ and _____ and indeed all of us, may live lives of thanks to you for your loving kindness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Order of Worship for a Wedding Ceremony. The basic order of service for weddings consists of the following:

- 1) Prelude (music selections decided upon by couple with input from church musician).
- 2) Processional (see above).
- 3) Welcome, greeting and Prayer.
- 4) Scripture Readings (see list provided below).

- 5) Meditation/Sermon.
- 6) Music/Solo (if desired).
- 7) Vow Introduction
- 8) Vows (couple can select vows, write vows with Pastoral input).
- 9) Blessing and Exchange of Rings
- 10) Declaration of Marriage
- 11) Lighting of Unity Candle (Music/solo if desired).
- 12) Prayers, Lord's Prayer (if not sung), Benediction.
- 13) Presentation of Couple (how would you like to be introduced).
- 14) Recessional (in consultation with musician couple decides music).
- 15) Postlude (same as above).

Scripture Readings.

From the list below please select two readings from the Old Testament/New Testament and one Gospel Reading for a total of three readings.

Old Testament Psalms

Psalm 33
 Psalm 34
 Psalm 37
 Psalm 100
 Psalm 103
 Psalm 127
 Psalm 128
 Psalm 136
 Psalm 145
 Psalm 150

Other Old Testament Readings

Genesis 1:26-31
 Genesis 2:18-24
 Song of Solomon 2:10-13
 Song of Solomon 8:7
 Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
 Isaiah 63:7-9
 Isaiah 54:5-8
 Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Hosea 2:16-20

New Testament Gospels

Matthew 5:13-16
 Matthew 19:4-6
 Mark 10:6-9
 Mark 12:28-31
 John 2:1-11
 John 15:9-17

Other New Testament Readings

Romans 8:31-39
 Romans 12:1-2
 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
 Philippians 4:4-7
 Ephesians 5:21-33
 Colossians 3:12-17
 1 John 4:7-12
 Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

We discourage the use of non-Christian materials at weddings.

Vows. Wedding vows reflect the complete sharing that marriage implies and a commitment that is life-long. Below are listed four examples of wedding vows. You can select one of these, write your own, or allow the Pastor to select an appropriate vow.

1. I take you _____ to be my wife/husband from this day forward, to join with you and to share all that is to come and, with the help of God, I promise to be faithful to you, and to care for you as long as we both shall live.

2. I take you _____ to be my wife/husband. With the help of God and before these witnesses, I promise 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 to strengthen you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.
3. I take you _____ to be my wife/husband and with God's help, 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 worst that is to come until death parts us.
4. I take you _____ to be my wife/husband from this time onward, to join with you and to share with you 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 with the help of God, I promise to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all of my being until death parts us.

Bulletins. A printed order of service will be put together with the Pastor. If you would like to have the church office personnel provide this, we are willing to assist you. If you would like to create this on your own, Pastor has some examples to show you. If the wedding has fewer than 25 guests then a bulletin may or may not be appropriate.

Dressing Areas. There are two areas that can be used for dressing and preparing for the wedding. The Pastor can show you those areas.

Ushers. Depending on number of guests expected we recommend that you have ushers (trained at the rehearsal) available to assist in conducting the ceremony by seating guests, distributing bulletins, and other possible tasks. We recommend one usher for every fifty guests (150 expected guests would mean three ushers).

Flower Girls, Ring Bearers, Junior Bridesmaids, etc. Please talk with Pastor about age appropriate roles for young children. Any child under five should be seated during the ceremony and not expected to stand with the wedding party.

Additional notes and questions.