



# Wedding Handbook

First Lutheran Church

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***Congratulations!*** We rejoice with you as you anticipate your wedding day. As you prepare to make this public commitment to one another in the presence of God and your gathered family and friends, may God bless you and guide you.

With the church as the setting for your wedding, naturally you will want the service to be worshipful and to keep the presence of God central. We want your wedding to be an occasion that you will always remember as a beautiful and meaningful day, one filled with reverence and dignity.

Therefore, you can use the following pages to select and plan for appropriate scripture passages, music, vows and order of worship. When you meet with the pastor, you will go over the details of the service to ensure that your wedding both reflects who you are as a couple and honors the joyfully reverent occasion of your public commitment to one another in holy marriage.

As you know, there are many details to consider, so begin with an early appointment with the pastor and our wedding coordinator. We suggest at least three months prior to your wedding day.

May God continue to bless you in these exciting days of preparation!

**First Lutheran Church**  
**218-728-3668**

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

FLC Wedding Coordinator

Gail Tate – 218-348-6310

# WEDDING GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES

## First Lutheran Church

*“I will betroth to you 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**

It is always a delight for the church to share in the marriage of couples who are seeking to make a lifelong commitment to each other in the Name of Christ and in the Presence of God and God’s People.

Throughout the planning process and the wedding itself, it is good to remember that a church wedding is, first of all, a sacred service of worship. In this worship, we praise God and celebrate the gracious gifts given to those who enter into marriage. This sense of praise to our Lord is the foundation for our wedding practices here at First Lutheran Church. To clearly express this, FLC has established the following guidelines.

### **HOW TO BEGIN ~ SCHEDULING YOUR DATE**

The pastor at FLC is happy to officiate at weddings for church members and their immediate family members. If you desire to become a member, we invite you to attend our New Member classes. Please contact our pastor for more information.

Contact the church office to find out if First Lutheran is available on the wedding date you are considering. Confirmation of the wedding date may take several days. Schedule your wedding before you reserve a location for the reception, as we cannot guarantee the availability of the church or pastoral staff for a specific date on which you have scheduled a reception. Weddings are not scheduled on major holidays, Holy Week or Christmas week. A deposit is required at the time of reserving the date. All weddings at FLC shall include a pastor of First Lutheran Church as the presiding pastor. If a couple requests a specific pastor, that request will be considered, but not guaranteed. With the consent of FLC’s officiating pastor, another ordained clergy may be invited to participate in the service at the request of the couple.

### **MARRIAGE PREPARATION/COUNSELING**

Couples to be married at First Lutheran are expected to participate in premarital counseling with the pastor. This typically consists of meeting three times (within six weeks) with the pastor who will officiate at your wedding. All couples must also take an online inventory called PREPARE, by Life Innovations.

PREPARE Inventory is not a compatibility test, but a tool to facilitate conversation about a couples’ relationship. The goal is to enhance your growth as a couple, and to equip you with some tools and strategies for a lifelong journey.

Please call or email the church office to make arrangements to take the PREPARE Inventory online. The cost of the inventory is \$30, which you pay when you access it online. Once the inventory is complete you can schedule your follow-up sessions with the pastor. Flexibility is needed in arranging sessions. Please note: check with your county recorder’s office to see if

you qualify for a discount on your marriage license if you participate in pre-marriage counseling.

### **WEDDING COORDINATOR**

Weddings taking place in the main sanctuary are assisted by the Wedding Coordinator. Once your wedding date is confirmed with the church office, the coordinator will be in touch with you. She will help you with the details including such things as flowers, candles, ushers, seating of guests, receiving line, rehearsal, church equipment available, etc. It is helpful for the couple to meet with the coordinator **no later than six weeks before the wedding** so there will be sufficient time to have the details arranged.

### **WEDDING REHEARSAL**

The wedding rehearsal is usually scheduled for the evening before the wedding and lasts approximately an hour. The date and time for the rehearsal are arranged with the wedding coordinator and the pastor. All participants in the wedding service are asked to be present and on time for the rehearsal. This includes the bride, groom, all attendants, readers, musicians, ushers and parents. A rehearsal dinner is traditionally held immediately following the wedding rehearsal. If you would like the officiating pastor to attend, please extend an invitation in advance so she/he is able to respond and plan accordingly.

### **DECORATIONS**

Plans for decorations and flowers to be used in the church should be discussed with FLC's wedding coordinator. She will be able to answer your questions about what is allowed, and will advise and assist you in the placement of all decorations and flowers.

If floral decorations or aisle runner (both optional) are desired, they are to be provided by the couple. The length of the aisle is 52.5'. Flowers may be placed on wire stands or in urns provided by the church. The couple may take the liners from the church's urns to the florist a few days before the wedding. The florist arranges the bouquets in the urn liners and delivers them to the church on the day of the wedding. If you are planning on leaving the flowers for Sunday church services please notify the wedding coordinator before flowers are ordered.

Four white candles always stand on the altar and are provided by the church. Two black wrought iron candelabras, each holding seven candles, are also available. When you purchase candles for the candelabras please use drip-less candles only. There is also a stand for a Unity Candle at the church; the candles must be supplied by the wedding couple.

Please refrain from using tape on the chairs and please do not put anything on the altar. The seasons of the church determines the color of the altar, pulpit and lectern paraments and may **not** be removed, covered or changed. The coordinator can tell you the colors of the season. Any decorating of the church is to be completed at least one hour prior to the service, and decorations should be removed immediately after any post-service photographs.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

To preserve the atmosphere of worship, no flash pictures are permitted during the service by professional photographers, guests or members of the wedding party. The photographer and videographer should use discretion so as not to detract from the ceremony.

Formal pictures may be taken before or after the ceremony. You should allow two hours for picture-taking. Photographers in the sanctuary must be completed with their work **one hour prior to the ceremony**.

### **DRESSING ROOMS**

Rooms for dressing are available for use the day of the wedding only. Arrangements for rooms will be made with the wedding coordinator. It is important to designate someone who will remove all your belongings from the dressing rooms immediately following the service. Articles left behind will be removed. The church is not responsible for lost or missing items.

### **MARRIAGE LICENSE**

You will need to obtain a marriage license either in the county in which you reside, or the county in which you will be married. There may be a waiting period between the time that you apply for the license and the day you pick it up. The marriage license and all fees and honorariums are to be brought to the church **no later than Wednesday prior to the wedding**.

### **RECEPTION**

If you wish to rent the church parish hall for your reception or rehearsal dinner, please reserve space as soon as possible with the church office. First Lutheran does not provide catering services. The wedding coordinator will advise you of equipment that is available for your use at the reception.

### **ADDITIONAL WEDDING ETIQUETTE AND CHURCH REGULATIONS**

The wedding is a worship service of the church. Participants and guests should conduct themselves accordingly. No alcohol is allowed in or on church property. Smoking is prohibited in the church building.

If gifts are brought to the church, please assume responsibility for their safety and have someone in charge of them at all times, during the ceremony and reception.

The throwing of rice, bird seed or any form of confetti is not permitted. Bubbles may be a desirable alternative.

### **WORSHIP GUIDELINES**

All marriage services will follow the pattern for the Service of Marriage in the **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP** (ELW). There is flexibility which will allow couples to include various options in the service. Options might include: Lighting of the Unity Candle, Holy Communion, The Apostle's Creed, and other options with the approval of the pastor.

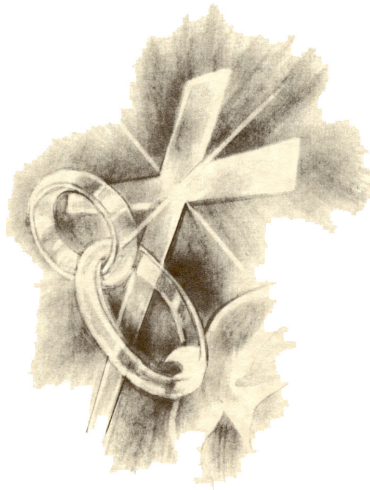
Marriage vows will be selected by the bridal couple from a number of options from the Resource part of this document. Lessons from the Scriptures will be read, and a meditation celebrating God's blessing and empowering of marriage given by the pastor. Appropriate scripture passages are available in the Resources Section.

The wedding is an act of Christian Worship, and the music should reflect this. The organist and pastor have many resources to assist you in the selection of music that is appropriate for worship, and will work with you in this process. The inclusion of at least one congregational hymn is encouraged.

First Lutheran Church Director of Music Ministry shall normally be the organist for all weddings. Permission to have another organist must have the approval of the Director of Music Ministry. The bridal couple may invite a soloist to participate in the worship service, as well as other instrumentalists. Music must be approved ~ please confer with our organist BEFORE decisions or arrangements about music are made.

If Holy Communion is celebrated within the marriage service, it must be open to the assembled congregation, and not limited to just the bride and groom, or the wedding party.

Wedding bulletins, if desired, are the responsibility of the bridal couple.



**Wedding Service** -- (No communion)

Prelude

Processional: \_\_\_\_\_

(Special Music for bride) \_\_\_\_\_

Greeting

Declaration of Intention

Prayer of the Day

(Solo/Hymn) \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture Reading(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Meditation

(Solo/Hymn) \_\_\_\_\_

Exchange of Vows # \_\_\_\_\_

Exchange of Rings # \_\_\_\_\_

Acclamation

(Lighting of Unity Candle; Music) \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage Blessing

Prayers of Intercession

The Great Thanksgiving

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction, Blessing

Presentation

Recessional \_\_\_\_\_

Postlude

## Wedding Service -- With Holy Communion

Prelude

(Solo/Hymn) \_\_\_\_\_

Processional: \_\_\_\_\_

(Special Music for bride) \_\_\_\_\_

Invocation and Prayer

(Solo/Hymn) \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture Reading(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Meditation

(Solo/Hymn) \_\_\_\_\_

Exchange of Vows # \_\_\_\_\_

Exchange of Rings # \_\_\_\_\_

Acclamation

(Lighting of Unity Candle; Music): \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage Blessing

Prayers of Intercession

The Great Thanksgiving

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Distribution

Music:

(Solo/Hymns) \_\_\_\_\_

Post Communion Canticle/Prayer

(Solo/Hymn) \_\_\_\_\_

Benediction

Presentation

Recessional \_\_\_\_\_

Postlude



## Possible Scripture Texts

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 24:48-51; 58-67

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

Song of Solomon 8:7

Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Isaiah 63:7-9

Creation of man and woman

Creation of woman

Meeting of Isaac and Rebekah

Love in the Spring

Unquenchable love

New Covenant of God's people

Everything has its time

God's mercy remembered

### Psalms

Psalms 33

Psalms 100

Psalms 103:1-18

Psalms 117

Psalms 127

Psalms 128

Psalms 136

Psalms 150

Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Galatians 5:22-26

Philippians 1:3-11

Philippians 4:4-9

Colossians 3:12-17

Hebrews 13:1-6

1 John 3:18-24

1 John 4:7-12

The greatness and goodness of God

A psalm of thanksgiving

Universal call to worship

God's blessings in the home

God's love endures forever

Praise for God's surpassing greatness

New life in Christ

The gift of love

The fruit of the Spirit

Paul's prayer for the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord

New life in Christ

Let mutual love continue

Love one another

God is love

### Gospel Readings

Matthew 5:1-2a

Matthew 5:13-16

Matthew 7:21-29

Matthew 19:3-6

Matthew 22:34-40

Mark 10:6-9

John 2:1-11

John 15:9-12

John 15:12-16

John 17:20-26

1 John 4:13-16

The Beatitudes

Salt of the earth, light of the world

House built upon a rock

The two become as one

The greatest commandment

Two become one body

The wedding at Cana

Love one another

Love one another as I have loved you

That they may be one as we are one

Love is of God

## Suggested Marriage Vows and Exchange of Rings

### VOWS

*The presiding minister may address the couple in these or similar words.*

*Name and name* I invite you to declare your vows to one another.

*The couple may join hands. Each promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words.*

***OPTION A: I take you to be my .....***

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.

***OPTION B: In the presence of God .....***

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.

### EXCHANGE OF RINGS

*The couple may exchange rings with these or similar words.*

***OPTION A: This ring as a sign .....***

*When rings are to be exchanged, the presiding minister may say this prayer.*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God of grace, for your love and faithfulness to your people. May these rings be symbols of the promise *name* and *name* have made with each other; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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

***OPTION B: This ring as a symbol .....***

*When rings are to be exchanged, the presiding minister may say this prayer.*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God of grace, for your love and faithfulness to your people. May these rings be symbols of the promise *name* and *name* have made with each other; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The couple may exchange rings with these or similar words.*

*Name*, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow. With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

## Wedding Ceremony Music



### Organ Music Selections

#### PROCESSIONALS

- |    |                             |                   |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring | J. S. Bach        |
| 2. | Trumpet Voluntary           | J. Clarke         |
| 3. | Trumpet Tune                | H. Purcell        |
| 4. | Canon in D                  | J. Pachelbel      |
| 5. | Air from "Water Music"      | G. F. Handel      |
| 6. | Air for the G String        | J. S. Bach        |
| 7. | Airioso                     | J. S. Bach        |
| 8. | Prelude from "Te Deum"      | M. A. Charpentier |
| 9. | Promenade                   | M. Mussorgsky     |

#### RECESSIONALS

- |    |                        |                  |
|----|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Rondeau                | J. J. Mouret     |
| 2. | Psalm XVIII            | B. Marcello      |
| 3. | Trumpet Voluntary      | J. Clarke        |
| 4. | Trumpet Tune           | H. Purcell       |
| 5. | Hornpipe               | G. F. Handel     |
| 6. | Allegro Maestoso       | G. F. Handel     |
| 7. | Hymn to Joy            | L. van Beethoven |
| 8. | The Great Gate of Kiev | M. Mussorgsky    |

### Wedding Hymns

- |     |                                      |             |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.  | Beautiful Savior                     | ELW 838     |
| 2.  | Hear Us Now our God and Father       | ELW 585     |
| 3.  | Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee        | ELW 836     |
| 4.  | Lord of All Hopefulness              | ELW 765     |
| 6.  | The King of Love My Shepherd Is      | ELW 502     |
| 7.  | I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry | ELW 732     |
| 8.  | Now, Thank We All Our God            | ELW 839,840 |
| 9.  | Soul, Adorn Yourself with Grandness  | ELW 488,489 |
| 10. | Beloved, God's Chosen                | ELW 648     |
| 11. | Come My Way, My Truth, My Life       | ELW 816     |
| 12. | Jesus Come! For We Invite You        | ELW 312     |
| 13. | This Is a Day, Lord Gladly Awaited   | ELW 586     |
| 14. | Love Divine, All Loves Excelling     | ELW 631     |
| 15. | Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love   | ELW 708     |

## Vocal Solo Music

*Three Wedding Songs*, Luigi Zaninelle

Flammer Music IA5101

1. Where You Go, I Will Go
2. O Come Sweet Spirit
3. Love Is Patient, Love is Kind

*Seven Wedding Songs*

Concordia 97-5576

1. Happy Are Those Who Fear the Lord – Schiavone
2. Thou Wilt Keep Him In Perfect Peace – Wienhorst
3. Entreat Me Not to Leave Thee – White
4. Walk In Love – Powell
5. Love, in Christ
6. Come, Lord Jesus, to This Place – Busarow
7. This Love (Wedding Song) – Busarow

*Wedding Blessings*, ed. Paul Bunjes

Concordia 97-9240

Collected songs with optional duets and instrumental accompaniment.



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Wedding Fee Schedule

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Non-Member</b>
SANCTUARY (50% due when reserving date)	\$200.00	\$400.00
CHAPEL	\$ 75.00	\$ 100.00
PASTOR	\$250	\$300.00
ORGANIST CERMONY	\$200.00	\$200.00
ORGANIST CERMONY AND REHEARSAL	250.00	250.00
CUSTODIAL FEE	\$100.00	\$100.00
Reconfiguration of Sanctuary	\$300.00	\$300.00
COORDINATOR	\$200.00	\$200.00
PARISH HALL: Reception or Groom's Dinner		
Up to 96 with round tables	\$125.00	\$225.00
With Kitchen	\$175.00	\$325.00
Up to 200 with long tables	\$175.00	\$275.00
With Kitchen	\$250.00	\$375.00

(Kitchen use includes flatware, dishes, cookware, dishwasher, refrigerator, silver service, punch bowl, vases and other serving pieces. Linen and lace tablecloths need to be rented.)

- NOTES:** Please prepare **separate checks** for the pastor, organist, coordinator, and First Lutheran Church.
- A **50% deposit** is required upon booking a wedding date on the church calendar (member \$100 and non-member \$200). This payment should be made out to First Lutheran Church.
- All **FEES** as listed above must be paid to the church office **no later than Wednesday** before the date of the wedding.
- Your **MARRIAGE LICENSE** must also be in the church office by the **Wednesday** before the wedding to allow the recording secretary time to complete the necessary records.

**SANCTUARY AND CHAPEL FEES  
ARE ONLY REFUNDABLE WITH A THREE-MONTH NOTICE.  
All other fees are non-refundable & subject to change.**

***NO DATE IS SECURE UNTIL THE SANCTUARY OR CHAPEL FEE HAS BEEN PAID***