



Wedding Planning Guide

St. Luke Lutheran Church
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The Purpose of This Booklet

The purpose of this booklet is to briefly state the guidelines and information you will need in planning your wedding here at St. Luke! I am anxious to get to know you better as together we plan for a celebration of your marriage!

-Pr. Matthew Short

Arrangements

When you have set your date, contact Pr. Matt or the church office to get your date on the church calendar. Obviously, we cannot guarantee that the church is open on the date you first request, and so you may need to have a backup date in mind.

To secure your date, we ask that you fill out the "Wedding Information Form" (available at stluke-slinger.org) and return it and a deposit of \$100, made out to "St. Luke Lutheran Church." *For members of St. Luke, this deposit will be returned on the day of the wedding. For non-members, this deposit will be cover the "church use fee" as outlined in the "Fees" section at the end of this document.*

At that time, an appointment will be made with Pr. Matt so that he might get to know both the Bride and Groom and begin planning the church celebration. It is important that a time be found when both the Bride and Groom can meet with him.

A wedding may be held on any day and at any time of the day. Our sanctuary seats around 250. Outdoor weddings are also an option, if that is what you desire.

Pre-marital Counseling

Pre-marital counseling sessions are part of the preparation for marriage. Pr. Matt desires to meet with the couple three times prior to the wedding date to discuss the dimensions of a happy marriage, and to plan the day and service that best fits each individual couple.

The Marriage Service

“The Christian wedding service is an act of worship in which you come together to offer special thanks and praise and to ask God's blessing upon your life together as husband and wife. This service, which will join you in marriage, is also a joyful act of God-directed, Christ-centered worship.”

(Taken from *Planning the Wedding Service*, by C.F. Schalk.)

Some options you should think through as you prepare to plan your service

1. Are there special Scripture verses that have particular meaning to you?
On the next page is a list of suggested readings if you need ideas...
Please choose at least two readings (with at least one from the New Testament)
2. Will you be using readers (family, friends) to read Scriptures during the service?
3. Are there piece(s) of special music you want?
4. Do you have anyone in mind to sing a solo?
5. Are there congregational hymns/music you would like everyone to sing?
6. Are you wanting to use pre-printed vows, or do you want to write your own?
7. Will you be using a Unity Candle or some other symbol of unity?
8. Will you want to celebrate Holy Communion?
(This is actually a very “Lutheran” thing to do!)

Also available on our website, you will find a document that allows you to “build” your own service from pre-printed options. You can print out the option sheet, make your selections, and then enter those selections right there on the website.

So don't worry! Everything you need will be provided!

Suggested Appropriate Scripture Verses for Your Wedding Service

Old Testament

Genesis 1:27-28a, 31a - God's good and gracious work in creating man and woman for each other
Ruth 1:16 - The devotion of Ruth to a new family
Song of Solomon 2:10-14, 16a - The lover arrives in spring to call for his bride
Song of Solomon 8:6-7 - A bride beseeches her lover to be faithful
Isaiah 26:3-4 - Trust in God
Isaiah 43:1-7 - Our redemption by God, and God's presence and love in our lives
Isaiah 61:10-62:3 - Our certain salvation and a new status
Jeremiah 29:11-13 - Being called into right relationship with God
Psalm 19 - A Psalm praising God as creator
Psalm 34 - A Psalm of Thanksgiving (*Vs. 8 is particularly nice if you include Holy Communion*)
Psalm 127 - A home built by God
Psalm 128 - The blessings of lives led by God
Psalm 148 - Praise the Lord
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - The values of human companionship

New Testament

Romans 12:9-18 - The Christian's duty to love
I Corinthians 13 - All about God's love (*Perhaps the most famous of all wedding Bible verses*)
I Corinthians 14:1-5 - "Make love your aim" in all that you do.
I Corinthians 16:14 - Be certain that everything you do is motivated by love.
2 Corinthians 5:14-17 - Through Christ's sacrificial love, we have become new creations.
Ephesians 2:4-10 - God's gracious love for us saves us through faith.
Ephesians 4:25-5:2 - "...do not let the sun go down on your anger..."
Ephesians 5:21-33 - This passage is about *mutual* submission! It's more equal than it sounds!
Philippians 2:1-5 - Guard against selfishness. Be humble and serve others.
Philippians 4:4-9 - Live honorably and justly, and God's peace will be a part of your lives.
Colossians 3:12-17 - The Christian life lived in love and harmony. Do all in Christ's name.
Colossians 3:18-20 - Encouragement for husbands to love their wives
I John 3:1 - "See what love the Father has given us..."
I John 3:16 - Christ's example of sacrificial love.
I John 3:18-24 - Believe in Christ, and keep His commandments by loving one another.
I John 4:7 - Love each other because love comes from God.
I John 4:16-19 - We are capable of love only because God loved us first.
Revelation 19:1; 5-9 - A glorious celebration in heaven for the marriage of the Lamb of God.

Gospels

Matthew 5:1-10 - The famous Beatitudes
Matthew 7:24-27 - A metaphor on establishing your home on a foundation in God.
Matthew 22:35-40 - The greatest commandment of love and the many ways it applies to life.
Mark 2:18-22 - Christ as the bridegroom and His followers as the bride.
Mark 10: 42-45 - It is better to serve than to be served.
John 2:1-11 - The wedding at Cana where Christ performs his first miracle (turning water to wine).
John 3:16 - The famous "For God so loved the world" verse.
John 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth, and the life..."
John 15:9-17 - An admonition to love one another. Christ's sacrificial love for us.

Pianist & Music

St. Luke's pianist, Karen Horowitz, is typically available for weddings that occur on Saturdays. If you desire to use the organ, you will need to find a trained organist. Pr. Matt has a few options for you if this is what you desire, or if Karen is unavailable on the day you have chosen.

However, it is important to note that it is your responsibility to get the sheet music for the musician. Again, if you have any questions, Pr. Matt will be able to point you in the right direction for finding music suitable for a wedding day.

Once music is chosen, you will need to schedule a meeting with the musician, typically at least six weeks in advance of your wedding day.

Wedding Bulletins

Wedding Bulletins should include all the information that attendees need so that they can follow along in the service. Typically, couples create the bulletin themselves and have them printed by a professional service. If you need to use the church copy machine, the cost is simply \$.05 per copy.

Photographs

Photographs may not be taken during the service, except for those of which the congregation will not be aware. They must be taken during the processional and the recessional. You may reconstruct the wedding scene for the pictures after the service. It is good to tell photographers what pictures you want at the church and at what time you want to leave church for the reception. Consider that there are significant advantages to having formal pictures taken prior to the service (you have more time to be with your guests at the reception, and your appearance and composure are usually at their best beforehand).

Video Taping

If you are having your service video taped, have the person taping check with the Pastor before the service. The bride and groom will need to decide if they want the video equipment and person in the front during the service or in the back of the worship room.

Audio Taping

Our sound system does allow us to burn any audio to a CD. If you desire this, simply mention it to Pr. Matt

Rehearsals

Everyone taking part in the ceremony should be present at the rehearsal. This is especially true of the ushers (who have more to do and remember than anyone else in the ceremony!) Pr. Matt will conduct the rehearsal, so you have nothing to worry about except showing up!

Decorations

All decoration arrangements are taken care of by those being married. Nothing can be used that mars or scratches the furnishings in the church.

You are at liberty to make arrangements with your own florist (though we do often use Nehm's Floral because they are close, and they are members of St. Luke! Their contact information is: 3639 State Road 175, Slinger - 262-644-5688).

One bouquet of flowers should be sufficient in the chancel. If you wish to use a white runner down the center aisle, this may also be obtained through your florist. The center aisle is 60 feet. The church provides the kneeling bench for use before the altar, if you desire that. The regular candles on the altar are provided by the congregation, as are the aisle oil candles if you choose to use them. Any additional candles must be provided by the bridal couple. We respectfully request that rice/seed not be used, and that bubbles only be used outside the church.

Marriage License

The state requires that you have a marriage license. Your license may be obtained from the county where you are a resident. In Washington County please call the courthouse.

As a general rule of thumb, you can start the process of getting your license one month before the wedding date. Remember there is a one-week waiting period between the time you apply and the time you may pick up your license.

The marriage license should be brought in several days prior to the wedding and turned over to Pr. Matt so that there will be ample opportunity to fill out the form before the wedding and thus not delay proceedings.

(And just an FYI: contrary to what you see in the movies, only the witnesses sign the actual marriage license).

Wedding Fees

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| Member Fees: | Church use fee | \$0 (<i>original deposit will be returned</i>) |
| | *Wedding Coordinator | \$150 |
| | *Pastor | \$150-200 |
| | *Musician | \$150-200 (\$200 if soloist involved) |

**Wedding Coordinator, Pastor & Musician are paid directly.*

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|-------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Non-Member Fees: | Church use fee | \$100 (<i>original deposit will be kept</i>) |
| | *Wedding Coordinator | \$150 |
| | *Pastor | \$150-200 |
| | *Musician | \$150-200 (\$200 if soloist involved) |

**Wedding Coordinator, Pastor & Musician are paid directly.*

If you have any other questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call me! I look forward to getting to know you even better as we prepare to celebrate this important milestone in your life! God bless you in your preparations...

-Pr. Matthew Short