

# *Our Savior's Lutheran Church*

1400 S STATE ST  
NEW ULM, MN 56073  
(507) 233-4430

## Wedding Handbook



Dear Friends,

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! Marriage is a great gift and a very significant commitment. We look forward to working with you to plan and celebrate your marriage. After the ceremony, we promise to support your relationship and efforts to honor the vows you have made to each other in this community of Christian faith.

We want to work with you. Please come and see one of the pastors. This booklet is intended to be for your information.

God's blessings as you prepare for your marriage ceremony and life together.

Sincerely,

Pastor Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner

Pastor David Nissen



# OUR SAVIOR'S

**Lutheran Church**

NEW ULM, MN

*A Welcoming Community, Experiencing God, Reaching Out  
and Raising up Followers of Jesus Christ.*

## Planning Your Marriage Service

A marriage service is a worship service. The service includes Scripture reading(s), a sermon, the exchange of vows, blessings and prayer. A typical order of service is listed here to assist you. We will provide whatever guidance you need in making decisions about readings, music and other elements of the service. We can, for example, include additional blessings, such as those by or for parents or stepchildren, if you wish.

## Preparing for Marriage

Marriage is a serious, lifelong commitment and we are so excited to be a part of this journey with you. In order to prepare you for your wedding day and your life together as a married couple, we highly recommend Premarital Counseling. Not only does this give you a discount on your marriage license; it also provides you with tools that will serve you well in this new stage of your life. This class is offered once a year at Our Savior's. If you cannot attend, we recommend the Premarital courses offered by Lutheran Social Services, Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, or Shetek Lutheran Ministries. Other options are available, but before you decide on any, talk with the pastor officiating your wedding to find the best option for you.

### ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

\*🎵 Music (optional)

Processional

Welcome

Invocation

\*Intention of Marriage    \*Who blesses this marriage?

Prayer

Reading of Scripture

\*🎵 Music (optional)

Sermon

\*🎵 Music (optional)

Vows

Rings

Unity Candle or Other Illustration of Marriage (music optional)

Blessing & Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Presentation

Recessional

The \* indicates optional portion of service.

The  indicates appropriate places for adding music.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

A marriage service typically includes 2 or 3 readings from the Bible. The pastor can help you select readings if you wish, but there is no hard and fast rule about which lessons should be included in a marriage service.

Many couples have found passages emphasizing joy, love, thankfulness, faithfulness and commitment meaningful and appropriate. The following passages are examples of readings sometimes selected for marriage services:

#### Old Testament:

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:18-24

Ruth 1:16-17

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalms: 33, 100, 117, 121, 127, 128, 136, 150

#### New Testament:

Matthew 19:4-6

John 2:1-10

John 15:9-12

Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 13

Ephesians 5:21-23

Colossians 3:12-17

1 John 4:7-8

### VOWS

Here are some sample of vows. You may select any of these. If you prefer to write your own, please review them with the pastor at your last pre-marital session.

1. 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.
2. In the presence of God and this community, I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_ 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.
3. I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wedded *wife/husband*, to have and to hold from this day forward, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish as long as God gives us life, and to you \_\_\_\_\_, I pledge my love.
4. 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 the worst of what is to come until death parts us.
5. \_\_\_\_\_, I want to live with you just as you are. I will be honest with you and forgive you, just as God has forgiven me. I love you for what you are to me and for what you are to others. With Christ as my guide, I will attempt to provide the unconditional love needed for

your health and growth. I choose you above all others, and promise to be faithful to you as long as life endures.

6. I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my *wife/husband*, from this day forward. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful *husband/wife*, 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 to respond, and in all circumstances of our life together, to be loyal to you with my whole life and all my being.
7. I \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my *wife/husband*, and in doing so, commit my life to you, encompassing all sorrows and joys, all hardships and triumphs, all experiences of life; a commitment made in love, kept in faith, lived in hope, and eternally made new.
8. In the name of God and with Christ as my witness, I \_\_\_\_\_ take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my *wife/husband*, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

### **GIVING OF RINGS - Choose one**

1. \_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.
2. \_\_\_\_\_, 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.

### **MUSIC**

A wedding ceremony in a church is an act of worship. The music in worship points to God and invites God's blessing on the relationship. Within these guidelines there is great freedom. Your music may be instrumental and/or vocal and include pieces by a soloist, group and/or congregational hymn(s).

Our Savior's Director of Music Ministries, Shannon Stuckey (507-233-4434 or [shannon@oursaviorsnewulm.org](mailto:shannon@oursaviorsnewulm.org)) will help you plan your marriage service music and/or discuss the use of the sound system. If you have questions about or would like help choosing the processional, recessional, hymns and or special music, she will guide you through the options available to you. Shannon can also help you find musicians if needed.

If you would like to have prerecorded music played, please have that ready to practice at the rehearsal. We can provide a headphone jack which can be plugged into a device such as a phone, mp3 player, or cd player (not provided). You will need to find someone to play the music and control the device during the service.

# Wedding Service Details

## **Expectations**

- The church does not assume responsibility for items left in dressing rooms, gifts, or other items brought to the church.
- Parties using the church are responsible for all damages.
- The church has 2 brass candelabra, which you may use. You will need to supply 14 10-inch candles. Candles may be lit informally by an usher prior to seating guests or immediately before the processional. Glass holders might need to be cleaned.
- Rice and birdseed are a serious safety hazard and custodial problem. We respectfully ask you not to use them.
- Please have formal photographs taken before your ceremony. We ask that there is no flash photography during the ceremony.
- Bulletins may be purchased and printed at stationery stores or print shops. They are the wedding couple's responsibility.
- If you are planning to use a guest book, please wait to get signatures until the reception.
- We ask that no alcohol be brought on the premises. Anyone under the influence of alcohol will be asked not to participate in the service.
- We are a smoke-free facility. We ask that no smoking be allowed on Church property.

## **Day of Your Wedding**

- The church building will be open as needed on the day of the service.
- Please arrange the set-up details for flowers at the rehearsal on the previous day.
- Photographers and videographers are expected to be discreet and out of view.
- Bridal attendants may use the Bride's Room to store personal belongings.
- Grooms attendants may use The Upper Room to store personal belongings.

## **After the Ceremony**

- Bride, Groom, and Witnesses should meet with the Pastor immediately to sign the marriage license before greeting guests.
- There is a worship service every Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m during the summer. We ask wedding participants to clear the sanctuary and Social Hall by 4:00 pm so the custodian can make final preparations for worship.
- At least one member of the wedding party should be designated to check pews, tidy rooms used, and be sure all personal belongings are picked up after the wedding.
- Rice, bird seed, and confetti are not allowed. (see Expectations above)
- Candelabra and all décor needs to be removed from the sanctuary following the wedding.

\*Note: We recommend you have your receiving line at the wedding reception if you expect more than 100 guests.

## Wedding Service Worksheet

- Anticipated number of guests # \_\_\_\_\_
- Time of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM
- Number in Bridal party: Bridesmaids \_\_\_\_\_ Groomsmen \_\_\_\_\_
- Others in processional (juniors, ringbearers, etc, include names and ages)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Processional attendants as couples \_\_\_\_ OR bridesmaids alone \_\_\_\_\_
- Escort for the Bride \_\_\_\_\_
- Aisle runner yes\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ (must be provided by couple)
- Wedding Banners yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
- Candelabra yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
- Illustration of Marriage yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

### Wedding Party

- Names of Ushers \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Prelude music \_\_\_\_\_
- Candles lit by (name) \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM
- Ushers take places at door Time \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM
- Escorted guests
  - Grandparents of the Groom
    - (M) Names \_\_\_\_\_
    - Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_
    - (P) Names \_\_\_\_\_
    - Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_
  - Grandparents of the Bride
    - (M) Names \_\_\_\_\_
    - Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_
    - (P) Names \_\_\_\_\_
    - Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_

- Bride's parents
  - Names \_\_\_\_\_
  - Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_
- Groom's parents
  - Names \_\_\_\_\_
  - Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_
- Groomsmen (names in order)
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Bridesmaids (names in order)
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Best Man
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Maid/Matron of Honor
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Flower Girl & Ring Bearer
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Order of Service Worksheet

Prelude \_\_\_\_\_ (music title)

Processional \_\_\_\_\_ (music title)

Welcome

Invocation

\*Intention of Marriage

\*Who blesses this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ (names of who will bless)

Prayer

Reading of Scripture

Scripture(s) chosen \_\_\_\_\_

Lector(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon

Vows \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate which vows, from page 2)

Rings

\*Illustration of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_ (music title)

Blessings and Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Presentation \_\_\_\_\_  
(how do you wish to be presented eg. Mr. & Mrs. Doe, Jane & John Doe, etc.)

Recessional \_\_\_\_\_ (music title)

The \* indicates optional portions of service.