

# CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE RESOURCES



St. John's Lutheran Church  
67 Litchfield Ave. Depew, New York 14043  
(716) 683-3947 ❖ pastor.galenp@gmail.com ❖ www.stjohns-depew.com

Rev. Michael C. Blackwell, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Galen M. Purpura Jr., Associate Pastor

## CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

God established marriage between a man and woman as the basis of family life, and for the wellbeing of human society. He said: 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner'. God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it'. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Haven't you read that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female', and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no-one separate. So then, our Lord promises to bless those who honor his purpose for marriage and remain faithful to each other in it.

God created us male and female and blessed humankind with the gifts of companionship, the capacity to love, and the care and nurture of children. Jesus affirmed the covenant of marriage and revealed God's own self-giving love on the cross. The Holy Spirit helps those who are united in marriage to be living signs of God's grace, love and faithfulness.

Marriage is also a human estate, with vows publicly witnessed. The church in worship surrounds these promises with the gathering of God's people, the witness of the word of God, and prayers of blessing and intercession.

## CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AS WORSHIP



Christians believe that the marriage service is a time of worship. It is a time when the couple being married enters a relationship of devotion and dedication with one another and before God. A Christian couple believes that God has given them to one another and they pray that by God's grace He would unite their lives in a spiritual union. In the marriage service that ask for God's blessing on their union and the support of His grace and love in their relationship.

In the worship service, the couple testifies to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They do this in the midst of the love and support of the Christian community, represented by the guests who assemble for the service. With, this support, a couple may have the faith and courage to meet the joys and challenges of their life together. With this support, they can dare to commit themselves to a life- long relationship of love and faithfulness.

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### THE CHURCH WANTS TO ASSIST YOU

The Marriage service culminates one of the most important decisions that a person makes in this life. Marriage is indeed a sacred trust. As such, we should not enter marriage lightly, but with reverence, maturity, and faith. The Church, through its Pastors and staff, are present to help you in your planning and preparations. This takes time, and for this reason, an agenda of planning steps is expected of every couple preparing for a wedding at St. John's. As a beginning point, **Dates for the wedding and rehearsal should be set as far in advance as possible!** Furthermore, couples should be prepared to **engage in a series of per-marital counseling sessions** with the officiating pastor. Usually there are three to five sessions. The objective of these sessions is, to discuss Marriage in general (origin, purpose, etc), to know one another better and to discuss the foundation of marriage, to discuss various situations that commonly impact marriage, and to plan your wedding service so that it may express the faith and witness of the couple involved.

Membership in the congregation is strongly encouraged – We will perform wedding services for those who are not yet members, but we urge couples to seriously consider making a commitment to joining our congregation prior to their marriage service. A solid faith foundation for your relationship is one of the most important steps you can take to prepare your marriage! We want to help! Please speak to a pastor regarding membership opportunities.

### PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

Holy Communion – may be celebrated as part of the marriage service. However, care should be taken in deciding to have Holy Communion if a significant number of those present would not participate because of differing beliefs.

We as Lutherans believe in the clear claim of Christ in Holy Scripture that His Body and Blood are truly present in the Sacrament and distributed to those who eat. The Bible also clearly states, "Let a man examine himself... Whoever, therefore eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of our Lord." One should therefore examine himself/herself prior to communing.

Do you believe you are a sinner?

Are you sorry for your sins?

Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

#### Photography and Video

Photographers are instructed NOT to take pictures during the service. Pictures may be taken during the processional and recessional, and natural light pictures may be taken from the balcony. All other pictures and poses may be reset after the worship service. Videographers may place themselves anywhere convenient during the processional and recessional, but once the bridal party is in place, they must record from a stationary position.

Rice, Birdseed, Bubbles, etc – The throwing of rice at the conclusion of your wedding is strongly discouraged. The church

encourages the use of birdseed, but highly favors the use of bubbles or bells. Should you decide to use birdseed bubbles, they must be used outside where cleanup is easiest. In no circumstance should they be used in the church building!

Music- Throughout the centuries, music has been one of the primary vehicles that the church has employed to praise and thank God. There is a vast selection of music that is particularly appropriate for wedding ceremonies. Remember that your wedding is a worship service! Therefore, it is important that you choose music that emphasizes praise and thanks to God. Secular music is best used at the reception.

Candles – The church will light candles during your wedding service. However, if you wish to utilize a unity candle you must supply it. Additional supplies should be brought to the rehearsal so they aren't forgotten on the wedding day.

Bulletins – A bulletin will be prepared by the church office for your marriage service. You may select the bulletin style from a catalog provided by the church. The cost of the bulletins is the responsibility of the bride and groom.

Flowers and Decorations – Decoration are NEVER to be placed on the altar. Decorations should not distract participants or attendees. Aisle runners and pew bows are acceptable decorations. If you have questions please speak to a pastor. Note: Chancel furnishing and the like should not be moved to accommodate decorations.

The Wedding Rehearsal – Should (typically) be held the day before the wedding. All service participants are required to attend! Please encourage your wedding party to arrive on time.

## **FEES AND EXPENSES**

The Service of marriage is enhanced by the support services provided by the staff and members of St. John's. Therefore, the following schedule is suggested. Please note all fees are recommended minimums. Should extra services be desired, additional compensation should be considered.

### **Fees for all Weddings:**

Organist - \$100.00  
Custodian - \$35.00

### **Non-Members**

must have approval of the board of elders before they can be married at St. John's. To the fees the fees above, they must add:

Building use - \$100.00  
Pastor - \$125.00

**All Fees must be paid at the time of the rehearsal!**

## SCRIPTURE SNIPPETS

Larger portions of these passages may be used.. This option can be discussed during a pre-marital session.

### OLD TESTAMENT

#### **Genesis 2:18**

And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

#### **Numbers 6:24-26**

"The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

#### **Deuteronomy 33:27a**

The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms.

#### **Joshua 1:8**

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

#### **Joshua 24:15**

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

#### **Ruth 1:16-17**

But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."

#### **Chronicles 17:27**

"Now You have been pleased to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You have blessed it, O LORD, and it shall be blessed forever."

#### **Psalm 23** (whole or selected verses)

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

#### **Psalm 27:4**

One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

#### **Psalm 31:3**

For You are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me.

#### **Psalm 37:5**

Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

#### **Psalm 103:1-2**

Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits.

**Psalm 118:14**

The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.

**Psalm 119:97**

Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

**Psalm 121:8**

The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.

**Psalm 127:1**

Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

**Proverbs 3:33**

The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the home of the just.

**Proverbs 18:22**

He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD.

**Proverbs 19:14**

Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the LORD.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

**Song of Solomon 8:6-7**

6 Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. 7 Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

**Isaiah 41:10**

Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

**Isaiah 54:10**

"For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

**Isaiah 62:5b**

As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.

**Jeremiah 17:7**

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD."

**Jeremiah 31:3**

The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with loving-kindness I have drawn you."

**Ezekiel 16:60**

"Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you."

## NEW TESTAMENT

### **Matthew 6:33**

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

### **Matthew 7:24-25**

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."

### **Matthew 19:6**

"So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

### **Matthew 28:20b**

"Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

### **Luke 10:41-42**

And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

### **Luke 12:15**

And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

### **John 2:2**

Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. [story continues with Jesus' first miracle: changing water into wine at the wedding]

### **John 10:11**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

### **John 10:27-28**

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they

shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

### **Romans 8:16**

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

### **Romans 8:28**

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

### **Romans 8:31-32**

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

### **Romans 12:12**

Be rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.

### **1 Corinthians 11:11**

Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord.

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there

is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

#### **Ephesians 4:32**

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

#### **Ephesians 5:20**

Give thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Ephesians 5:21-33**

21 Submit to one another in the fear of God. 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

#### **Philippians 4:7**

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

#### **Philippians 4:19**

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

#### **Hebrews 13:5**

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

#### **1 Peter 5:7**

Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

#### **Revelation 19:7-9**

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God"

#### **OTHER READINGS WORTH CONSIDERING:**

Psalm 33  
Psalm 100  
Psalm 117  
Psalm 128  
Psalm 136  
Psalm 150  
Colossians 3:12-19  
Philippians 2:5-11  
1 Peter 3:1-7  
John 15:9-12  
John 17:22-23



## ORGAN MUSIC

### PROCESSIONAL AND RECESSIONAL

Canon in D, Pachelbel.  
Wedding Music I, ed. Bunjes.  
Wedding Music II, ed. Bunjes  
Sonata I, Dre.  
Music for a Sunday Morning/2, Cundick.  
Parish Organist IX (Wedding Music), ed. Gieschen.  
La Rejouissance (The Rejoicing), Handel.  
Processional on Westminster Abbey, Wetzler.  
Ceremonial Music for Organ (optional trumpet), ed. Biggs.  
Baroque Composers of the Chapel Royal (optional trumpet), ed. Wolff.  
Baroque Music for Weddings (optional trumpet), ed. Wolff.  
Baroque Music for Manuals II, ed. Wolff.  
Baroque Music for Manuals V, ed. Wolff.  
Wedding Music I, II, III, IV, ed. Johnson.  
Organ Music for Weddings, Gieschen.

Note: Selections taken from *Celebrating Your Wedding*, Copyright © 1992 Concordia Publishing House.

### PROCESSIONAL (specific)

Canon in D - Pachelbel  
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach  
March (from Occasional Oratorio)- Handel  
Prince of Denmark's March - Clarke/Purcell  
Processional in C - Hopson  
Processional (from Water Music Suite) - Handel  
Trumpet March - Lully-Wolff  
Trumpet Tune in C - Lau  
Solemn Processional (from Water Music Suite) -

Handel  
Wedding Music and Air - Bach-Leupold

### RECESSIONAL (specific)

Allegro (from Symphony #4) - Boyce  
Allegro Maestoso (Water Music) - Handel  
God of Grace arr. - Manz  
Hornpipe (from Water Music) - Handel  
Psalm 19 - Marcello  
Prelude in Classic Style - Young  
Now Thank We All Our God - Post  
Rigaudon - Campra  
Rondeau (Theme from Masterpiece Theater) -  
Mauret  
Trumpet Tune - Clark /Purcell  
Trumpet Finale - Manfredini-Wolff

Note: Specific Selections taken from *The Wedding Book*, Copyright © 2005 by Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Resource Center.



**PLEASE SPEAK WITH  
THE CHURCH  
ORGANIST TO MAKE  
SURE THESE MUSICAL  
PIECES ARE AVAILABLE.**

## SUGGESTED HYMNS

Please speak to the pastor for the appropriate placement of a hymn in the Order of Holy Matrimony. The Hymns listed below are found in Lutheran Worship.

1. Go my Children with my Blessing
2. Gracious Savior, Grant Your Blessing.
3. Holy God, we Praise Thy Name
4. Lord, When You Came As Welcome Guest
5. Love Divine, All Love Excelling
6. Now Thank We All Our God
7. O Father, All Creating
8. Oh, Blest the House
9. Praise to the Lord, The Almighty
10. The King of Love my Shepherd Is
11. Lord Jesus Christ Be Present Now
12. We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator
13. Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus
14. O Perfect Love
15. On What Has Now Been Sown
16. Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven.



## THE WORSHIP SERVICE

### OUTLINE- THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Seating of the Mothers..... *Music of your choice*

The Processional

❖ Bridesmaids.....*Music of your choice*

❖ Bride.....*Music of your choice*

The Invocation

The Wedding Prayer

Scripture Readings

❖ Reading One

❖ Reading Two

❖ Reading Three

Hymn..... *If Desired*

Homily

Special Music..... *If Desired*

The Wedding Vows

The Ring Exchange

The Announcement of Marriage

The Unity Candle Ceremony

Holy Communion..... *If Applicable*

The Prayers

The Benediction

Introduction of the Bride and Groom

Recessional.....*Music of your choice*

# THE WORSHIP SERVICE

## THE ORDER OF SERVICE (In Detail)

- The Bride and the Bridesmaids will have pastor's office for preparations before the ceremony.
- The groom and the groomsman will have the basement for preparations before the ceremony.
- Best man is always with the groom!
- Ushers (groomsman) will seat guests: bride's family on the lectern side and groom's family on the pulpit side.
- Usher's escort the Mother's in at the wedding start time, Once the mother's light the unity candle and are seated the runner is pulled down the aisle.
- The bell will be rung
- Groomsman will take their place on the pulpit side at the communion rail. Groom and best man will come out from the basement and take their place.
- Bridesmaids will process down the aisle and groomsman will meet them halfway. Once at the foot of the chancel the bridesmaids will take their place on the lectern side at the communion rail
- Once the Bride processes down the aisle the service begins...

*Congregation stands*

***Bridal party is at the foot of the chancel!***

P: We make our beginning in the name of the Father, and of the XSon, and of the Holy Spirit.

P: Let us pray:

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

*Congregation seated*

***Bridal Party at the foot of the chancel!***

## READINGS

P: As part of their preparations **NAME** and **NAME** have selected some passages from Scripture which have spoken to them. They have chosen very special people in their lives to read these lessons:

## HOMILY

*Congregation seated*

***The Bride and groom proceed to the kneeler (facing the Altar)***

***The Wedding Party Follows and Lines Up Along Side of the Bride and Groom***

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 of 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.

P: **NAME** and **NAME** if it 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.

***The Bride and the Groom now Turn and Face Each Other (holding both hands)***

***The Maid of Honor Will Hold the Bride's Flower Bouquet.***

The Vows:

I take you to be my (wife/husband) from this time onward, to join with you and share all that is to come, to give and 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 with all my being until death parts us.

***The Bride and the Groom Exchange Rings***

P: At this time N and N will be exchanging rings. The never ending circle of the ring being a sign of their love which will go on and on from this time forward. The hard metal of the ring serves as a reminder of the permanence of their love for one another. Each will place the ring halfway on their partner's finger as a sign of the love they give and they will slide it on the rest of the way themselves as a sign of the love they receive.

(Groom)

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

(Bride)

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

***After the Exchange of the Rings, With Hands Joined, the Bride and the Groom Face the Altar.***

P: **NAME** and **NAME** by their promises before God and in the presence of this congregation have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife.

P: Blessed be the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

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

P/C: Amen

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.

P/C: Amen

P: At the beginning of this ceremony **NAME** and **NAME** mothers each lit a candle on the altar as a sign of the individual lives that **NAME** and **NAME** bring to this marriage. They will now light the unity candle in the center of those two candles as a sign of the unity they now share in this marriage.

***The Bride and the Groom Light the Unity Candle, Once the Candle is Lit They Shall Return to the Kneeler, Facing the Altar.***

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

As part of their special day **NAME** and **NAME** have asked that Holy Communion be celebrated. As Lutheran Christians we believe that Christ's body and blood are truly present in the meal and given to those who eat. In this meal we are promised forgiveness and life forever with Jesus. If you believe that you are a sinner, are sorry for your sins and believe that Christ Jesus is truly present in this meal we invite you to come forward to receive this life giving meal.

Just a few notes regarding the distribution... Once the bride and groom have communed we will come down to the center at which point we invite the wedding party and family of the bride and groom forward. The congregation may come forward following behind the bride and grooms parents. Once you have communed please return to your seats by way of the side aisles.

Words of Institution

- The Bride and groom may assist with the distribution... One holds the Paten and one distributes the host
- During the distribution the wedding party may sit in the first pew on each side of the church
- Following the distribution the Bride, groom, and wedding party will again take places on the chancel...
- bride and groom at the kneeler.

Following the distribution, there will be the announcement of the blessing.

P: Let us pray for **NAME** and **NAME** in their lives together.

***The Bride and Groom Kneel at the Kneeler***

P: Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your grace upon **NAME** and **NAME**, 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 lives 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.

P/C: Amen

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

P: Gracious Father, you bless the family and renew your people. Enrich husbands and wives, parents and children more and more with your grace, that strengthening and supporting each other, they might 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 of Ages.

P/C: Amen

P: We pray the prayer our Lord has taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, 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.

***The Bride and Groom continue to Kneel***

P: Now may almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever.

***The Bride and Groom Rise and Kiss After They Kiss They Face the Congregation***

Congregation rises

P: Ladies and Gentlemen, for the first time **MR. and MRS. NAME**

***The Bride and Groom recess to the recessional music and the wedding party follows the Bride and Groom, followed by the Parents, etc. (each party will start down the aisle after the ones before them are about half way.)***

## WEDDING VOWS

I take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wife/husband from this day forward to join with you and share with you that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

I take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest to you; I will (obey) 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.

I take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wife/husband. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful wife/husband, 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 to be my wife/husband from this day 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 to 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.



# WORSHIP PLANNING

## SCHEDULE AND PARTICIPANTS

**Pre- Marital Sessions**

	Day of Week	Month/Day/Year	Time
Session 1			
Session 2			
Session 3			
Session 4			
Session 5			

**Wedding Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reception date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rehearsal Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rehearsal Dinner Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

Officiating Clergy: \_\_\_\_\_

Assisting Clergy: \_\_\_\_\_

Organist: \_\_\_\_\_

Soloist: \_\_\_\_\_

Florist: \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer: \_\_\_\_\_

Videographer: \_\_\_\_\_

Participants from the Bride's family: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Participants from the Groom's family: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**The wedding Party:**

Maid/Matron of Honor:	
Bridesmaid:	Bridesmaid:
Bridesmaid:	Bridesmaid:
Bridesmaid:	Bridesmaid:
Bridesmaid:	Bridesmaid:
Bridesmaid:	Bridesmaid:

Best Man:	
Groomsman:	Groomsman:
Groomsman:	Groomsman:
Groomsman:	Groomsman:
Groomsman:	Groomsman:
Groomsman:	Groomsman:

Junior Bridesmaid: \_\_\_\_\_

Ring Bearer: \_\_\_\_\_

Flower girl: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests expected: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section III**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE DETAILS**

General:

Order of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Bulletins: " Yes " No – Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Music:

Pre-Service Music: \_\_\_\_\_

" Organist " other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

" Organist " other: \_\_\_\_\_

Solo: \_\_\_\_\_ Performed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement in service: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregational Hymns : \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional: \_\_\_\_\_

" Organist " other: \_\_\_\_\_

Post-Wedding Music: \_\_\_\_\_

" Organist " other: \_\_\_\_\_

The Word:

Lesson 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Text: \_\_\_\_\_ Preacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Vows

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“ Option 1 “ Option 2 “ Option 3 “ Option 4 “ None (write own)

Bride’s Written Vows:

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Groom’s written Vows:

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Unity Candle:

“ Yes ” No – Must Be Provided by the Bride and Groom

*Individual Candles lit at the beginning of the service by:*

Groom’s representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship : \_\_\_\_\_

Bride’s representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Music: \_\_\_\_\_ Played by: \_\_\_\_\_

*Bride and Groom Unity Candle Lighting Service:*

Music: \_\_\_\_\_ Played by: \_\_\_\_\_

Holy Communion

We as Lutherans believe in the clear claim of Christ in Holy Scripture that His Body and Blood are truly present in the Sacrament and distributed to those who eat. The Bible also clearly states “Let a man examine himself... Whoever, therefore eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of our Lord.” One should therefore examine himself/herself prior to communing.

Do you believe you are a sinner?

Are you sorry for your sins?

Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

Would you like the Sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated at your wedding? \_\_\_\_\_

Other Service Notes:

## OTHER RESOURCES

### Part A- About Myself

If you mostly agree with the statement, check column A. If you mostly disagree check column D. If you are not sure or have not discussed, experienced the topic, check the ? column.

	A	D	?
Married couples should spend most of their recreation time together			
Couples truly in love hide their feelings in order to avoid fights			
At a party, I try to visit with at least one person I don't know			
We have adequately discussed the issue of children in our marriage			
I don't feel comfortable speaking to others about my personal faith			
We have a fairly accurate estimate of our first years income and expenses			
After a year of marriage, we won't have any arguments			
In spite of equality, some responsibilities are women's work			
I admire my future in-laws			
Getting married will solve most of my personal problems			
I should quite a given sport/recreation if my spouse doesn't enjoy it			
When we disagree now, one of us now always have to give in			
I don't enjoy reading for pleasure			
If/when we have children, they will not affect our relationship			
Going to church once or twice a week is enough for me			
We have already agreed about what we'll do with our after expense income			
Most of our arguments are about the same things, over and over			
Husband and wives should divide responsibilities for the home equally			
My family whole-heartedly supports our plan to marry			
At times I am afraid of my fiancée's temper			

### Part B –About My Fiancée

Now evaluate the same statements (slightly reworded) about the way you believe your future spouse feels.

	A	D	?
Married couples should spend most of their recreation time together			
Couples truly in love hide their feelings in order to avoid fights			
At a party, my fiancée tries to visit with at least one person I don't know			
We have adequately discussed the issue of children in our marriage			
My fiancée doesn't feel comfortable speaking to others about his/her personal faith			
We have a fairly accurate estimate of our first years income and expenses			
After a year of marriage, we won't have any arguments			
In spite of equality, some responsibilities are women's work			
My fiancée admires my parents			
Getting married will solve most of my fiancée's personal problems			
My fiancée will quite a given sport/recreation if I don't enjoy it			
When we disagree now, one of us now always have to give in			
My fiancée doesn't enjoy reading for pleasure			
If/when we have children, my fiancée's relationship to me wont change			
Going to church once or twice a week is enough for my fiancée			
We have already agreed about what we'll do with our after expense income			
Most of our arguments are about the same things, over and over			
Husband and wives should divide responsibilities for the home equally			
My fiancée's parents whole-heartedly supports our plan to marry			
At times my fiancée is afraid of my temper			

**Part A- About Myself**

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*Miss Manners*  
*Advice On*  
*Church Weddings*  
*By Judith Martin*

The Syndicated etiquette columnist has some thoughts on what's proper – and what's not – at the wedding service.

in a house of worship, which figure represents the higher authority: the presiding member of the clergy or the wedding coordinator?

Miss Manner's would not have thought this to be a particularly thorny protocol question. She would be mistaken. Everyone gets the answer wrong.

The wedding coordinator, whether she is in the business professionally or for the purposes of being married, thinks it is she. And if the clerics don't actually voice agreement, an amazing number of them behave as if they regretfully believe this to be the case.

"There is nothing we can do," they wail when admitting that some of the arrangements strike them as being undignified, if not sacrilegious. "That's what people want nowadays."

Well, sure. People want to commit all kinds of sins, not just against etiquette, but that doesn't mean that the clergy must condone it. They themselves may be tempted to do the wrong thing for the noble sake of accruing income or popularity for their congregations, but they are supposed to resist temptation.

In the interest of bolstering their resolve to insist on proper behavior, even if it means turning away couples who refuse to respect the terms, Miss Manners recommends clerical solidarity. Here is a suggested list of rules they might impose on those who wish to be married under what is, after all, their jurisdiction.

#1—No, you don't have a free hand in decorating the place. Rearranging the altar and replacing or supplementing the fixtures requires express permission, which may be withheld – and this even applies to flowers and (especially) candles. Much of what you may regard as decorating choices, and unfortunate ones at that, may have significant theological purposes and significance.

#2—Modest dress is required, in keeping with the dignity of the place as well as the solemnity of the occasion. Whatever you strip off the wedding dress afterward to turn, it into a party dress is not at issue; one does not show up for a religious ceremony in a plunging neckline or strapless party dress.

#3—That also bans costumes representing a different period in history, a fairy tale or a favorite cartoon. Does it mean that you can't try out your "theme" at the wedding? Yes. The theme of a wedding is marriage.

#4- Arguments about creating creatures great and small will not give your dog permission to be in the processional. Even though he is your best friend. And no doves, either, by the way.

#5—You may not rewrite the ceremony. You will be told if there are choices allowed in the wording, but you are not allowed to fool with the liturgy.

#6—Nor should you be thinking in terms of adding your favorite entertainment or original contributions. Choices about readings and music will be limited by the practice of the religion and the dignity of the occasion.

#7—The couple's kiss should be circumspect (prudent). It marks the conclusion of the marriage ceremony, not the commencement of the consummation.

#8—Photography and videophotography will be severely limited, if not banned. Although it is understandable that couples want keepsakes and memories of their wedding, they need to be able to concentrate on their vows well enough to remember them and keep them.

*Judith Martin writes the nationally syndicated etiquette column "Miss Manners"  
Taken from the Lutheran Witness, February 2002.*

## TWELVE AXIOMS FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE

1. Vocally and Frequently Declare Your Love.
2. Make Your Spouse Happy
3. Never Look At Another Man or Woman
4. Try to Include Your Spouse In Things You Think Will Be Fun.
5. Plan And Do Unexpected Things
6. When Away From Home, Contact Your Wife Everyday
7. Beware of Criticism of your Spouse.
8. Shun Gossip
9. Plan and Arrange Time Alone With Your Spouse
10. Beware of Money Problems
11. Never Compete With Your Spouse
12. Go Regularly to the SAME Church

## THE FIVE LANGUAGES OF LOVE

1. Words of Affirmation
2. Quality Time
3. Receiving Gifts
4. Acts of Service
5. Physical Touch



## A MODEL FOR SHARING SPIRITUAL TIME TOGETHER

Every Night set aside 15 minutes, turn off the TV, set the newspaper aside and GIVE YOUR FULL ATTENTION TO EACH OTHER.

1. Each person share with your partner your "High and Low" from the day. (What's the best thing and the worst thing that happened to you that day?)
2. Read a passage from Scripture out loud with each other. (Use a Calendar, Portals of Prayer, etc.)
3. Talk to each other about how that Bible reading might relate to your "Highs and Lows."
4. Pray for one another's "Highs and Lows."
5. Bless one another. perhaps make the sign of the cross on their forehead and speak one of these blessings:
  - \* I Love you and God loves you
  - \* The Lord bless you and keep you always in his care.
  - \* Name, Child of God, Jesus loves you.
  - \* May God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless and keep you.



"For this reason a man  
will leave his father & mother  
and be united to his wife,  
and the two will become  
**one flesh.**" Ephesians 5:1