

# First Lutheran Church



## Wedding Handbook

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

-1 Corinthians 13:1-13

## Thoughts on Marriage

“Marriage is that order of creation given by God in love which binds a couple in a lifelong union of the most intimate fellowship of body and life. This one-flesh relation, when properly based on fidelity and love, serves as a witness to God's grace and leads husband and wife into service one of the other. In their marriage, husband and wife are responsible to God for keeping their vows and must depend upon his love and mercy to fulfill them.”

*(Statement on Marriage and Family)*

“A wedding is not a pageant or a theatrical performance.”

*(John Chrysostom)*

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

*(Ephesians 4:32)*

“Marriage is a social contract, the basis of which is the commitment that the man and the woman make to each other. Contrary to the popular understanding, the basis is not love, for human love is changeable and cannot be depended on as a reliable foundation. One cannot promise to be in love years hence, but one can make a commitment...In God (faithfulness and love) are joined, and it is in his ‘steadfast love’ that we seek to root our covenant of fidelity as well as our emotions of love. In the flux of experience, one thing holds true – the vows of fidelity grounded in the love of God which abides forever.”

*(Lutheran Book of Worship – Manual on the Liturgy)*

## A Note from our Wedding Consultant

The following booklet has been prepared to guide you as you plan your ceremony at First Lutheran Church. Please read this information carefully.

This important occasion in your life should remain a source of pleasant memories for you and your guests. We trust that the guidelines in this booklet will be useful in meeting that goal. We have put this booklet together with many years of experience addressing the needs and concerns of both the church and the couple in mind.

I look forward to meeting with you and please feel free to call with any questions you may have.

First Lutheran Wedding Coordinator

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## A Note from the Pastor

Weddings are a time of great joy; they can also be a time of great stress. This booklet has been put together to help you focus on the necessary items, and give you a basis from which to make informed decisions.

Having said that, it is important that you, as a couple, understand that a wedding is a single event; a marriage is intended to be a covenant willingly entered into before God and community. As much as we would love for your wedding to be the celebration you wish it to be, it is the pastors' primary concern that you be even more ready for the day after the wedding. We want you to be prepared, as much as possible, to wake up on the morning after your ceremony ready to take on the years ahead with joy and peace.

It is to this end that we require premarital counseling for all couples being married at First Lutheran. We want you to be able to think through and talk openly about communication, conflict resolution, finances, family, stressors, and more. In a safe environment you will begin conversations that will continue throughout your lives together. The goal of this time is to provide you with the tools to succeed in your marriage. The more energy and effort you put into this time, the more you be blessed in the coming year.

God has blessed you with each other.

You have chosen each other.

Now it is time to commit to each other.

# Wedding Preparation Checklist

~6 Months to 1 year before your wedding~

- Pay deposit
- Choose ceremony date

~6 months before your wedding~

- Meet with your wedding coordinator
  - Set ceremony time
  - Make pastor request if desired (not guaranteed)
  - Tour church facilities
- Start pre-marital counseling (required)
- Contact Organist
  - Choose music selections

~1 month to 2 weeks before your wedding~

- Meet with Pastor
  - Select Scriptures
  - Final order of worship

~1 week before your wedding~

- Obtain marriage license from courthouse
- Meet with your wedding coordinator
  - Couple only
  - Turn in final payment, license, and license form
  - Set rehearsal time
  - Set ceremony and rehearsal details

## Wedding Fees:

First Lutheran Church has long held the belief that membership is not a privilege, but a responsibility. It has also become a refrain of the leadership that you don't have to be a member to take part in anything short of voting. We also freely acknowledge that the reason the church exists is to teach the Gospel to people who don't yet know the promise of God. Having made this a priority in our congregation over the last decade, we now have the interesting reality of some very active contributing non-members as well as some rather inactive non-giving members. In recognition of this new reality, and in response to our call from God to spread the Gospel, our wedding fees contain no additional fee for non-members

Weddings are a stressful time, and finances may be a concern for you. If this is the case, you are invited to setup a time to meet with the Senior Pastor to address your concerns. The church is not meant to be a place where expenses prevent ministry or the preaching of the Gospel. Identifying this ensures that no one will be refused a wedding at First Lutheran due to monetary concerns.

The base fee listed to the right of each wedding setting is also the required deposit at the time of reserving/scheduling your wedding date. See below for the wedding fees at First Lutheran:

Sanctuary Wedding \$300

Includes:

Wedding Consultant

Janitorial Services

Sound Technician

FLC Wedding (non-sanctuary) \$150

Includes:

Wedding Consultant

Janitorial Services

Off-Site Wedding \$75

Includes:

Wedding Consultant

Travel Costs to include:

Mileage at IRS rate.

Lodging and meal costs as needed.

Regularly Scheduled Worship Service Wedding \$0

This would incorporate a wedding service into a regularly scheduled worship service of the congregation. As such, the sermon, music, readings, etc will reflect the appointed theme of the day. If desired, one piece of special music may be requested as a part of the service.

## PLEASE NOTE:

Not included in the base fee schedule are the following:

\_\_\_ Organist/Pianist/Musician     \$125

Guest organists are allowed only at the discretion of the FLC Organist.

If FLC provides the organist/pianist, fee is paid to FLC.

Guest pianists do not need prior approval from the FLC Organist.

\_\_\_ Required Premarital Counseling

First Lutheran offers these classes, but will accept alternative counseling options with prior FLC pastor approval.

If First Lutheran provides the counseling, the fee will be \$150 for a minimum of 2 sessions (includes online relationship inventory).

\_\_\_ Vocalist/Soloist                 \$100

This fee will apply only when First Lutheran identifies and provides the soloist.

\_\_\_ Pastoral Gratuity                 \_\_\_\_\_

There is no set fee for this service. Guest pastors are welcome to preside at service only by permission of the FLC Senior Pastor prior to contacting the potential guest pastor.

\_\_\_ Pew Candles                         \$2 per pew candle

There are 18 pew candles available.

\_\_\_ Candelabras                         \$20 per pair

There is one pair of candelabras, each holding seven candles.

# Important Information and Details

## Wedding Date & Times:

- Certain Holidays are not available for weddings.
- Saturday weddings cannot begin after 5:00pm
- Friday weddings cannot begin after 7:00pm

## Rehearsal:

This will be one of the most important steps to ensure a smooth wedding ceremony. It is essential that all persons directly involved with your wedding attend the rehearsal.

- Typically held the evening before your wedding.
- Who should attend:
  - Bride & Groom
  - Bridesmaids, Groomsmen, Ushers
  - Child Attendants and their parents
  - Parents of the couples (Grandparents welcome)
  - Personal Attendants, Readers, Musicians
- Tell everyone to be at the church 15 minutes early.
- The rehearsal will be 30 to 45 minutes long
- Musicians and readers do not need to practice, but those people will need to know when their role takes place.

## Flowers:

- A small vase or other remembrance is allowed on the altar, others may be placed on the flower tables next to the altar
- Flower girls must use silk flowers

## Decorations and Equipment:

- Available at First Lutheran:
  - 18 pew candelabras (\$2 each)
  - 2 candelabras (\$20 for the pair)
  - unity candle stand
  - 2 plant stands
  - guest book table
  - Wedding paraments for the altar
- Refrain from using nails, staples or tapes for securing décor.
- Open candles may not be used along the aisle.

Because funerals are inevitable and unpredictable and other events can arise, decorating is permitted up to 2 hours prior to the rehearsal.

## Dressing Areas:

- The bridal party may dress in the ladies restroom area in the lower narthex at the far south end of the fellowship hall as well as the neighboring room.
- The groom and groomsmen may use the parlor.

## Valuables:

- Please do not leave valuables at the church.
- The church will not be held responsible for lost or stolen items.
- All items left in the restrooms, dressing rooms, and all wedding decorations are the responsibility of the wedding party and should be removed from the church prior to or immediately following the ceremony.
- Please delegate others to be in charge of clean up and removal of personal items and decorations. Decorations not removed immediately after the ceremony is subject to disposal.

## Alcohol and Smoking:

- Alcohol is not allowed on church premises.
- Alcohol consumption is not allowed prior to your ceremony. Any person smelling of alcohol will be asked not to participate.
- Smoking is permitted outside and away from the building.

## Food and Beverages:

We encourage you to bring a light lunch or snack for the wedding party to eat while getting ready and while pictures are being taken.

- Food and beverages should be kept in the parlor or fellowship hall.
- You will be responsible for your own equipment and clean up.
- We also suggest only clear beverages as others could leave stains.
- No food or beverages are allowed in the sanctuary.

## Rice, etc...

- Refrain from throwing of rice, birdseed, or confetti.
- We suggest the use of bubbles, releasing of balloons, or the ringing of small bells. Bubbles must be used outside due to the possibility of slipping and spilled liquid.
- Other suggestions will be gladly considered.
- If you'd like real petals to be thrown outside, let us know and we will arrange for extra clean-up for \$25.

## Photography and video:

- No flash pictures are to be taken in the sanctuary during the ceremony. Flash pictures may be taken before and after the ceremony, as well as during the processional and recessional.
- Non-flash pictures may be taken from the balcony or rear of the church at any time during the ceremony.
- Photographers must stay stationary during the wedding ceremony.
- Please include “No flash pictures during the ceremony” printed discreetly on your programs.
- Our sound coordinator will hook you into the church’s sound system. You will need to provide necessary cables (1/4 inch instrument cable or XLR cable for musicians). This is for musicians only not for recording the service. Recording of the service must be done professionally – we are not recording the service.
- Photos should be finished at least 45 minutes prior to the wedding to allow for all the final preparations in the sanctuary.
- The wedding party, including parents and grandparents should be out of sight to the arriving guests. This will help to keep your wedding schedule on time. Feel free to gather in the fellowship hall or parlor, whichever suits your needs.

## Ceremony Music

Music plays a very important part of your ceremony. We remind you this is a worship service and your choices should reflect this. There are many beautiful love songs in modern publication, but we ask you to reserve this type of music for your reception.

- Contact the FLC office at least 6 months prior to your ceremony (phone # 605-692-6251) in order to contact the FLC Organist.
- The Organist will help you with your selections – please note that approval is needed for all musical selections.
- First Lutheran Church does not allow any recorded music during weddings.
- While a soloist is not provided, a list of soloist suggestions is available upon request.
- A guest organist must be approved by the FLC Organist.
- We welcome use of the piano by musicians of your choice.

## Music Suggestions

### Hymnal - With One Voice (WOV)

As Man and Woman We Were Made 751

Bind Us Together 748

When Love is Found 749

### Hymnal - Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW)

O Perfect Love 287

Hear Us Now, Our God and Father 288

Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer 289

Love Divine, All Love Excelling 315

Cd#1. Two Become One

One Love

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Join Our Hearts

Awesome in This Place

Father We Commit to You

The God of Peace

I Offer My Life

Cd#2. Christian Wedding Duets and Solos

Cherish the Treasure

Household of Faith

The Lord's Prayer

Love of the Lasting Kind

Only God Could Love You More

Perfect Union

Seekers of Your Heart

Wedding Prayer

Cd#3. Our Lives are Thine

Lord, Make Us One

O Jesus, We Have Promised

Serving the Lord Together

Our Prayer

Our Father

Our Lives Are Thine

Father, Lead Us

Speak, Lord, In the Stillness

United to Serve

Cd#4. Wedding Music

Household of Faith

In This Very Room

Parent's Prayer

How Beautiful

Doxology

Seekers of Your Heart

Shine on Us

## Scripture Suggestions

One or more readings from Holy Scripture are read. You may choose a lector/reader or the pastor will read these passages. Scripture selections will be discussed with the pastor conducting your wedding at your meeting with him/her 6 weeks prior to your wedding date.

Proverbs 31:10-31

Genesis 2:18-24

Matthew 19:3-6

I Corinthians 13 (4-8)

Colossians 3:12-15

I John 4:7-12, 16-19

Ruth 1:16-17

Genesis 1:26-31

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Isaiah 63:7-9

Matthew 22: 34-40

Matthew 7:24-27

Psalms 100, 117, 127

Psalms 128, 136, 150

Romans 12:1-2

Galatians 5:22-26

Ephesians 2:8-10

Ephesians 3:14-21

Ephesians 5:22-32

Philippians 4:4-7

Philippians 1:3-7

John 15:9-12

Romans 8:31-39

John 2:1-11