



A Wedding Service Guide
for the Bride and Groom

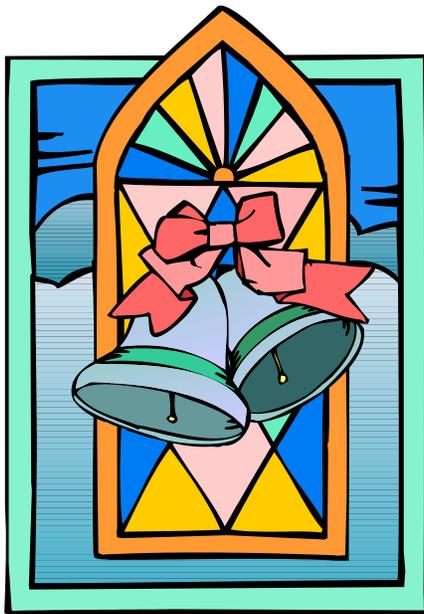
Trinity Lutheran Church
1650 Church Street
Arkdale, Wisconsin

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Wedding Vows

A Christian wedding should not only be your love for one another but beyond to the love of God. By making your promises before God and in the presence of the congregation, you will bind yourselves to one another as husband and wife. It is the desire of the church your reflection of God's love be in the music and readings as well as all other parts of the service.

This booklet is to help you as you prepare for your Christian marriage at Trinity Lutheran Church in Arkdale.



- A. 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.
- B. I take you _____ to be my wife/husband. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful husband/wife 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.
- C. 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 worst of what is to come until death parts us.
- D. _____, I take you to be my wife/husband from this time 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.
- E. In the name of God, I _____ take _____ 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.
- F. I, _____, with love and joy make you, _____, this covenant of marriage before God and this community of friends and family: I promise to love and trust you, as we share hopes and failures, and to support and encourage you so that we might grow individually and as a couple. I promise to nurture you with faith and tenderness in the name of Christ. I shall always try to speak the truth to you and to listen to you. I promise to be faithful to you throughout our lives together.

Pre-marriage Sessions

A minimum of three sessions between bride, groom and pastor are expected.

The first meeting with the pastor is to gather information about the wedding plans, schedules and general desires and expectations. Initial questions will be answered at that time. The session can be rather brief.

Trinity Lutheran Church uses the *Pre-marriage Awareness Inventory*. This program helps couples become more aware of their similarities and differences, encourages discussion about matters they may not have considered and helps to identify areas of possible conflict in a marriage relationship.

Costs

The fee of \$150 for the pastor should be paid by the time of the rehearsal.

A \$125 fee will be charged for the church organist. It is up to the bride and groom to contact the organist and make arrangements to review the music.

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A \$50 fee is charged for the custodian for cleaning up after the wedding ceremony. This fee should be paid by the time of the rehearsal.

Active members of the congregation for at least a year are asked for \$50 fee for the use of the building.

Non-members of the congregation will have a fee of \$150 for the use of the church and should be paid by the time of the rehearsal.

The Service of Marriage

The outline of the service of marriage will be found in **The Lutheran Book of Worship**. It is possible to use other forms of marriage service *if* they have been discussed with and approved by the pastor.

After the wedding party has entered the sanctuary the service begins.

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer

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 _____ & _____ and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end.

Amen.

Scripture Readings

Usually two or more lessons are selected from the Bible by the bride and groom.

If other brief and appropriate readings which have been approved by the pastor will be included at this time.

Response to the Readings

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Marriage Homily

This is a brief sermon given by the pastor reflecting the scripture which has just been read.

The Vows of Marriage

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 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.

_____ & _____, if it is 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 Exchange of Vows

This is a personal promise made between two people it is permissible and appropriate to write your own vows if you wish. However, this must be done with careful guidance. Care should be taken not to make promises that are impossible to fulfill or that are nothing other than romantic sentimentality. There are several options for marriage vows included in the back of this booklet from which you may choose.

The Exchange of Rings

Pronouncement of Marriage

_____ and _____, by their promises before God and in the presence of those here assembled,

Unity Candle

If you choose to use a unity candle it is up to you to provide that candle and the individual tapers for lighting it.

Rehearsal

It is important for the wedding participants to be in attendance at the rehearsal, so plan it at a realistic time when all can attend. Do not set a rehearsal time until you have cleared it with the pastor. The rehearsal normally lasts an hour. Please be on time.

While it seems that often times the rehearsal is done the evening before the wedding, there is nothing that dictates that this is the way it has to be.

Paraments, Flowers and Decorations

The paraments used in the chancel (the cloths that hang on the altar, lectern and pulpit) do not change for weddings. The color of the liturgical season in which the wedding happens will be the color used on the chancel furniture.

A white wedding banner is available for hanging if you desire.

Stands are available for flower arrangements.

Decorations that are used for a wedding must be removed immediately after the wedding so that the sanctuary can be cleaned and made ready for worship.

Other Details

Wedding License

It is your obligation to know the law and make arrangements for obtaining your license from the county clerk's office within the time limits established. The standards vary from one county to another in Wisconsin.

You need to apply for the license in the county where you reside.

Alcohol and Smoking

There is simply **NO** alcohol to be consumed in the church building or on the church property. Please do not put yourself in an embarrassing position by bringing alcoholic beverages to the church on the day of the rehearsal or the wedding.

If there has been inappropriate use of alcohol by members of the wedding party on the day of the rehearsal or wedding it is the privilege of the pastor to refuse to perform the wedding.

Please also observe the no smoking policy in the church building.

Wedding Bulletins

Frequently couples wish to have bulletins printed which include the order of service and list the members of the wedding party. You may have this done at any printer, but please do not have anything printed in final form without having consulted with the pastor.

Bulletin cover designs are available through the church. The cost of the bulletin cover and the church printing will be paid prior to the wedding.

have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife.

Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

Those whom God has joined together, let no one separate.

Amen.

The Lighting of the Unity Candle

It is the decision of the bride and groom to include this in the service.

The bride and groom kneel.

The Marriage Blessing

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.

Amen.

The Prayers

Let us pray for _____ and _____ in their life together.

Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your grace upon _____ and _____, 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 member with them of the body of Christ, use us to support their life 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.

Amen.

Let us pray for all families throughout the world.

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 may 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.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
keep you in his light and truth and love now
and forever.

Amen.

Presentation of Couple

Recessional

There are numerous places within the service for appropriate music to be included. The pastor will help you decide how and where to place solos, instrumental music, congregational singing, etc.

Holy Communion is an option for a wedding service in the Lutheran Church. The following must be understood if communion is to be celebrated:

Holy Communion is a sacrament in the Church and is not to be taken lightly or viewed as a mere decoration or just a "nice touch".

Holy Communion is an expression of faith, to be received with joy and celebration, but also with reverence and thanksgiving.

Wedding Music

It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to contact the musician/organist. The church office can offer some suggestions.

The music should embody high standards reflecting a love which is more than romance. It is expected that the music be sacred of which there is much to choose from. The music used ought to be within the musicians' abilities to sing or play.

Pre-recorded music is discouraged.

The singing of hymns by the congregation is a fitting option worth considering. There are many traditional and contemporary hymns which provide a beautiful expression of celebration for the marriage service. This also allows the congregation to more fully participate in the wedding. A suggestion of hymns is available should you want to use them in the service.

Scripture Readings

The bride and groom are encouraged to select one to three readings from the Old Testament and New Testament. The pastor will select texts if you desire that.

Some texts that are fitting could be selected from the following list:

Psalm 133	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	1 Corinthians 13:4-8a
Psalm 100	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	Matthew 19:4-6
Psalm 117	Ephesians 5:21-33	Matthew 22:34-40
Psalm 127	Galatians 5:22-26	Mark 10:2-9
Psalm 128	Colossians 2:6-7	John 2:1-10
Psalm 136	Colossians 3:12-17	John 15:9-12
Psalm 150	Hebrews 13:1-6	John 17:11, 15-19
Genesis 1:26-32		
Genesis 2:18-24		
Isaiah 60:19-22	1 John 2:12-17	
Isaiah 63:7-9	1 John 3:18-24	

Do not feel limited by these passages, but consider them as a starting place as you make your choices.