



House of Hope Lutheran Church
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HOUSE OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH WEDDING GUIDE

This booklet has been compiled in order that House of Hope Lutheran Church might better serve couples contemplating marriage. A Christian wedding, as distinguished from a civil wedding, is a worship service in which the bridal couple has invited their guests to join them in asking for God's blessing on their marriage. It is festive and joyous, with all present participating in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving to God.

A thorough reading of these guidelines will assist you in preparing for your wedding.

THE PASTOR

A wedding at House of Hope Lutheran Church must be performed by a pastor of this congregation. Where either the bride or groom belongs to another congregation, clergy of that congregation may be invited to participate in the service if you should so desire. However, the pastor from House of Hope will be the officiant for the service since this is an official act of this congregation. The guest clergy will be the assisting minister.

Pastor Mark Vinge will want to see you for pre-marital counseling sessions. Please contact him for further arrangements and questions.

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

The purpose of pre-marital counseling is to help prepare the bridal couple for the spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, and economic adjustments common to marriage and, at the same time, to explore the benefits of a Christian marriage. Because of the nature of the counseling sessions, it is expected that the prospective couple attend three counseling sessions with the pastor. Our pastors use "PREPARE", a pre-marital inventory, in their counseling. The processing fee charged for the inventory is \$35.00. Today most couples take the inventory online at home and pay with a credit card. The fee is \$35. If you choose to take the inventory manually (with paper and pencil) the fee is \$40 and checks should be made payable to "Life Innovations".

SCHEDULING

- A. Weddings & Receptions - Weddings and reception plans shall be scheduled through the church office according to available dates and times on the church calendar.

- B. Rehearsals - The purpose of the rehearsal is to acquaint the bridal party with their respective roles in the wedding service so that the service itself can be conducted in a relaxed and worshipful manner. It is therefore required that all members of the bridal party, including the ushers, be present at the rehearsal. All participants should be punctual and expect to rehearse for approximately 1 hour. Remember that the rehearsal is taking place in the sanctuary and that conduct in keeping with these surroundings is expected.

WEDDING SERVICE

As has been stated, the Christian wedding service is, above all, a worship service in which guests, as well as the bride and groom, should participate. Opportunities for congregational participation include hymns, responsive readings, Scripture readings, prayers and Holy Communion.

The order of service will follow *The Lutheran Book of Worship*.

MUSIC

Music is an important part of the Christian life. You will want to choose music for your service which will be appropriate and worshipful. The organist is available to meet with you and discuss the type and placement of music for your wedding, and is available for a rehearsal with the soloist, the wedding rehearsal, as well your wedding. It is recommended that you make an appointment with the Music Director of the church as soon as possible. His name is George Brooke and he may be contacted at the church office—(763) 533-3341.

House of Hope's organist will play for all weddings unless services of a guest organist are requested by the bridal couple or if other instrumentalists are providing music. Pre-recorded music is not appropriate for a wedding.

Special Music - If you have chosen someone to sing or play an instrument, ask that person to contact the organist. If you need help finding someone, the organist can help you.

PLAN TOGETHER

It is not unusual for one partner to have greater interest in the details of the wedding ceremony and the celebration. Even so, it is encouraged that you find a way to review your plans together.

Some options for your wedding vows include:

I take you, *name*, to be my wife [husband], and these things I promise to you: I will be faithful to you and honest with 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 better to understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and worst of what is to come until death parts us.

I take you, *name*, 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 and long as we both shall live.

name, 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.

I take you, *name*, 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.

I, *name*, take you, *name*, to be my (wedded) 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, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance' and so (thereto) (thereby) I pledge you my love.

An alternative where all you say is “I do.”

Do you, ____ [____], take _____ [_____] to be your wife
[husband] from this day forward, to join with you and share
all that is to come, and promise to be faithful to her [him]
until death parts you?
_____/_____: “I do”

SCRIPTURE READING IDEAS

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

Psalms 33:5, 112:1

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:18-24

Song of Solomon 2:10-13, 8:7

Isaiah 63:7-9

Romans 12:1-2, 15:6-7

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Matthew 19:4-6

John 2:1-10, 15:9-12

A SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP

(The order of worship: p.202 in the LBW or p. 286 in the ELW)

Pre-Service Wedding music (solo/instrumental)

The Processional (solo/instrumental/hymn)

The Invocation

Solo or congregational hymn (optional)

The Scripture Reading

The Homily

Solo/hymn (optional)

The Exchange of Vows

The Exchange of Rings

The Blessing

The Lighting of the Unity Candle (optional)
(solo/instrumental)

Parental Blessing (optional)

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Recessional

The Postlude (instrumental/hymn)

1. Variations of the Order of Worship may be used by agreement with the pastor.
2. Holy Communion may be celebrated following the prayers.
3. The wedding service may also be used in conjunction with the Order of Matins or the Order of Vespers.

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE OF:

Date _____ Time _____

Place _____

Prelude

Processional _____

Invocation

Solo _____

Scripture _____

Homily

Hymn _____

Exchange of Vows

Exchange of Rings

Blessing

Lighting of Unity Candle (optional)

Solo _____

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Recessional _____

Postlude

USHERS

Ushers should be at the church at least 45 minutes before the wedding. They will be responsible for lighting the candles, seating the guests, and ushering in the family.

It is not always necessary that the bride's friends and relatives sit on the left, and the groom's friends and relatives sit on the right. Very often it is desirable to have as many people sit on the right as on the left side of the church.

THE SETTING

No decorations are to be used that will hide any of the symbols of worship from the view of those in the sanctuary nor shall the seasonal church colors be changed for a wedding service. The decor of the church shall not be changed.

Flowers - Floral decorations will be planned with your florist. It is a good idea to have a copy of the floral order along the day of the wedding to be certain that all flowers are delivered.

Aisle Cloth - Not necessary, but may be rented from florists. Our aisle is 60 feet from the sanctuary door to the altar.

Unity Candle - The three-candle holder is often used at weddings. (The couple together light the center candle using the other two.)

Candelabra - Large seven-candle. Two are available.

Unity Candle Holder and Candelabra are available at House of Hope for your use. There is no charge for the Unity Candle Holder and you would need to supply your own candles. The candelabra requires mechanical refills. There is a small fee for the refills.

BULLETINS

Since it is possible that you will have people present who are not familiar with the participants or order of the wedding service, you might consider a printed format so that the entire congregation may participate. Samples may be obtained from the church office. The church office does not prepare wedding bulletins.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs may be taken in the narthex preceding the wedding service and in the sanctuary before or after the ceremony. Pictures may be taken of the bridal party as they walk down the aisle at the beginning of or following the service. Flash pictures should not be taken at any time during the ceremony.

Thought should be given to having the picture taking sessions **BEFORE** the ceremony so that the time of the reception could be spent with family and friends.

RECORDING

If you are considering having your wedding service recorded, either audio or video, please check with the pastor.

RECEPTION

House of Hope has the capacity to serve a **MAXIMUM** of 300 guests. You may choose to handle the reception yourself or to have an outside caterer. All outside caterers **MUST** be licensed and bonded. You are responsible for making sure that the Fellowship Hall is left in good order following the reception.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- * The marriage license should be brought to the church office at least two business days prior to the wedding.
- * Space is available for use as a dressing room for the bride and attendants.
- * No smoking in any area of the church.
- * No flower petals thrown in sanctuary.
- * No rice or birdseed is to be thrown inside or outside of the church.
- * ABSOLUTELY no alcoholic beverages or mood-altering chemicals are allowed in the building or on the church grounds.
- * The church is NOT responsible for lost items. Take care to secure valuables at all times.

WEDDING BANNES

The following announcement will be published in the bulletin for members of the congregation unless otherwise requested: " name and name will be married on date and ask for your prayers."

The church is happy to celebrate with you. The staff and members of the congregation hope to serve and support you in planning and preparing for your wedding day and the years to come.

CHECKLIST

- * See your pastor
 - ___ set a date for the wedding
 - ___ schedule pre-marital counseling sessions
 - ___ determine criteria and customs to be kept in mind while planning wedding service and reception

- * Discuss with your pastor various aspects of your wedding ceremony
 - ___ liturgy ___ music
 - ___ wedding party members

- * Outline your reception plans
 - ___ where? ___ catered?

- * Contact people
 - ___ wedding party members ___ photographer
 - ___ organist ___ florist
 - ___ vocalist ___ instrumentalist

- * Order food for reception or contract with caterers

- * Order wedding bulletins

- * Marriage license

- * Before rehearsal:
 - ___ meet with your pastor to go through procedures.
 - ___ alert party members, organist, soloist, etc. as to starting time: ask them to be prompt.
 - ___ give marriage license to your pastor.

WEDDING FEE SCHEDULE
Building Use Fee Schedule

	<u>MEMBER**</u>	<u>NON-MEMBER</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>
Non-Refundable Fee required to hold date	\$100*	\$100*	Church
A. Sanctuary	No Charge	\$100	Church
B. Fellowship Hall	No Charge	\$150	Church
C. Custodial	No Charge	\$ 50	Church
D. Staff Organist: George Brooke			
1. Includes meeting with couple & soloist to plan wedding Includes 1 rehearsal	\$200	\$200	Organist
2. With no rehearsal	\$150	\$150	Organist
Cost may vary on amount of music and rehearsals. (Prices based on minimum guidelines, American Guild of Organists.)			
E. Staff Soloist (None at this time)			Soloist
F. Pastor Pastor Mark Vinge	\$200 min.	\$200 min.	Pastor
G. Test Only Fees	\$ 75	\$ 75	Pastor

***\$100 NON-REFUNDABLE FEE REQUIRED**

****Member is one who is registered and active for at least 6 months before setting wedding date.**

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