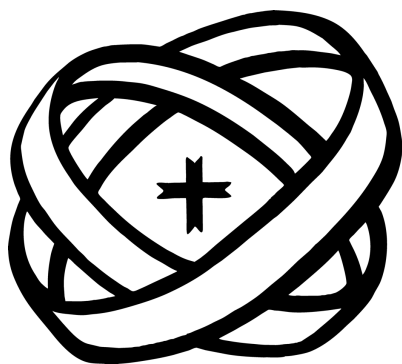


Wedding Handbook



LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

We rejoice that you have chosen to be married at Lord of Life. As you prepare to enter into marriage, it is our privilege to share with you some principles and practices which will assist you in your preparations. A wedding ceremony is to be characterized with dignity, reverence, joy and the very presence of Christ. Therefore, it is important to remember that the Christian wedding service is an act of worship.



Lord of Life Lutheran Church welcomes the use of its facilities by Lord of Life members and others whose objectives are consistent with our values and mission: "To inspire a deeper and richer connection to Christ, our community and each other."

SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

Please contact the church office to begin the reservation process for your wedding. The Ministry Operations Manager will check the calendar to see if the requested date is available, but your reservation will not be confirmed until after the office has received your online Wedding Request form at <https://bit.ly/LOLBWeddingRequest>. Please allow 1-2 business days for a response to your request.

Lord of Life Members and potential members - Weddings should be scheduled a minimum of 6 months in advance. Twelve months is preferred to allow adequate time for attending pre-marital counseling/retreat, new member classes (if necessary) and other marriage preparation activities. LOL Pastors are not available to officiate weddings on major holiday weekends.

Non-member wedding rentals utilizing an outside Officiant may request use of the building 6 months prior to their requested date, allowing for preference to be given to member weddings and other Church activities. Lord of Life reserves the right to refuse couples whose religious affiliation is incompatible with ELCA teachings.

Use of church facilities will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Lord of Life reserves the right to schedule additional activities in the building on the date of your wedding. These activities will rarely occur at the same time as the ceremony and will not disturb the worshipfulness of the marriage event.

FEES

Applicable fees are listed below are all inclusive and payable to Lord of Life unless noted otherwise. A \$300 deposit is due within 30 days for your request to be confirmed. Full payment is due six weeks before the date of your wedding. Children and grandchildren of active church members qualify for the Member rate. Additional fees may apply. The initial \$300 deposit becomes non-refundable 30 days prior to the date of your wedding.

Member Wedding (On-site) - \$600

Building Usage, Officiant, Wedding Coordinator, Sound Technician and Custodian

Member Wedding (Off-site) - \$150 plus mileage

Officiant and mileage at current IRS rate

Non-Member Wedding (On-site) - \$1,100.00

Sanctuary Usage, Wedding Coordinator, Sound Technician and Custodian and Refundable \$250 Damage Deposit

Additional Fees - Paid Separately to Vendor

Officiant (Non-member Wedding) - Ask officiant for their going rate

Prepare-Enrich Inventory - \$35

Pre-Marriage Retreat - \$125 (subject to change)

Musician/Soloist - No suggested amount, as the price can vary significantly based on the experience level and number of musicians/soloists involved.

OFFICIATING PASTOR

The Pastor who will officiate at your wedding service has been called to “preside at rites of the church.” That means it is the responsibility of the Pastor to see that your marriage service is performed in keeping with the policies of the congregation and within the tradition of the Christian church.

If you would like a particular pastor to officiate at your wedding, please say so at the time you make the reservations for your wedding. We will try to honor your request, but cannot guarantee that it will be granted. The pastors also reserve the right to substitute for one another when necessary.



If you wish the pastor and/or their spouse to attend and/or offer a prayer at the Rehearsal dinner/Reception, please send them an invitation at least one month in advance.

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

All couples, regardless of membership status, are required to receive a minimum of 12 hours of pre-marital counseling, including a weekend Couple’s Retreat and appointments with the pastor to discuss the results of the PREPARE/ENRICH inventory and to plan the wedding service. Pre-marital counseling also qualifies you for a \$75 discount off your marriage license (contact the pastor for the Educator’s statement form.)

Pre-marital counseling can assist to solidify your relationship, by helping you and your fiancé to explore strength and growth areas; strengthen communication skills, identify and manage major stressors; resolve conflict; develop a more balanced relationship; explore family of origin issues; discuss financial planning and budgeting; establish personal, couple and family goals; and understand and appreciate personality differences.

DESTINATION WEDDINGS

The pastors are available to officiate at your wedding away from Lord of Life. Mileage will be charged for weddings outside of the Brainerd/Baxter city limits. If the wedding destination is more than 120 miles away from Baxter, the wedding couple is expected to pay for lodging, transportation and meals for the pastor for the nights of the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. The pastor will be responsible for any additional charges for personal guests who accompany them to the destination.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

All Lord of Life weddings must utilize the service of our wedding coordinator. The wedding coordinator should not be confused with a personal attendant. Rather, the wedding coordinator is primarily a pastoral assistant. They can be of assistance to you by answering many questions regarding the wedding process when the pastors are not available. The primary task of the wedding coordinator is to assure that your wedding service flows as smoothly as possible. For weddings occurring at Lord of Life, they will be on site to assist the pastor and wedding party at the rehearsal and on your wedding day until the service is over.

ALCOHOL/SMOKING

It is not uncommon for alcoholic beverages to be consumed at the occasion of a wedding. However, while weddings are a cause for celebration, they are also solemn occasions of worship, requiring a certain standard of behavior. Therefore, it is highly recommended to limit the amount of alcohol consumed at the rehearsal dinner and to abstain completely prior to the wedding ceremony. Recreational alcoholic beverages are not permitted on Lord of Life property. Under no circumstances may any member of the wedding party come to the rehearsal or the wedding under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Intoxicated individuals will not be permitted to participate in the wedding service.

Lord of Life is a smoke-free building. In consideration of other guests as they enter or exit the building, no smoking is allowed within 25 feet of the entrances. Please communicate this to your guests.

DECORATIONS

You may add to, but not subtract from, the Sanctuary décor. The color of the paraments/banners in the Sanctuary is determined by the church calendar year and cannot be changed for any reason.

You may begin decorating the Sanctuary after 12 noon on the day prior to your ceremony. Decorations should be in good taste and should not damage floors, walls or furniture. Please use fresh flowers on the altar. Live flame candles can be used on the altar, but for safety reasons, all other candles used in the Sanctuary must be LED. Flower petals must be silk, as real petals may stain the flooring or cause someone to slip and fall. Bubbles are allowed outside the building. Rice, confetti, or birdseed should not be used anywhere on-site as it may be hazardous to birds and/or difficult to clean up.

You will need to designate someone to oversee removal of your items after the ceremony. This person will be responsible for removing all decorations from the sanctuary, all personal items from the dressing rooms, and transporting any wedding gifts brought to the church. It is recommended that this person not be a member of your immediate family or in the wedding party, as those individuals need to be available for other activities immediately following the service. All items brought into the church for use during your event must be removed from the building promptly. Lord of Life Lutheran Church is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items, or any items left after an event.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The wedding couple is responsible for obtaining a valid Minnesota marriage license. The marriage license is valid for six months and must be applied for at least 5 business days in advance. If you have completed at least 12 hours of pre-marital counseling, remember to ask the officiant for a copy of the Educator's Statement of Premarital Education to save \$75 off the cost of your marriage license (\$40 instead of \$115).

Couples are required to bring their marriage license with them to the rehearsal. Without a valid license, the pastor cannot conduct the wedding. The officiating pastor is responsible for mailing the signed marriage certificate to the county recorder after the wedding ceremony. You will be contacted by the county once they have received the marriage certificate.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

Photography and/or videography can be an important part of remembering this occasion, but your photographer/videographer must not distract or draw attention away from the ceremony itself. No flash photography is allowed during the service. It is suggested that all formal pictures of the bride and groom, as well as all formal group pictures, should be completed 45 minutes before the start of the ceremony, so they are done before guests arrive.

While Lord of Life live streams our regular worship services, live streaming is not included in the duties of the sound technician during the wedding. If live streaming your wedding is an important detail, please contact the church office at least 3 months in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. There will be an additional charge for a video technician. Lord of Life does not offer videography services.



REHEARSAL

The rehearsal date is set in consultation with the officiating pastor. The wedding rehearsal generally occurs the evening before your wedding and lasts approximately one hour. Be sure to inform the musicians, wedding party, parents, and family of the date and time of rehearsal, and be punctual.

During the rehearsal, complete, detailed instructions will be given by the Pastor and/or Wedding Coordinator concerning the responsibilities of each person taking part in the service. The wedding party, parents of the bride and groom, ushers, and musicians should all attend the rehearsal. If a member of the wedding party cannot be present, please select a substitute who will then inform the wedding party member as to their responsibility during the service.

LORD OF LIFE CONTACTS

Officiating Pastors 218-828-9374

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Erika Nilsen erika@lolbaxter.org

Wedding Coordinators

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WEDDING SERVICE ORDER

Completed in consultation with the Pastors/Wedding Coordinator, this form will be the basis for your wedding bulletin. Optional items are contained in parenthesis. *While it has become common to not provide guests with a printed program, printed copies of the service order should be provided to the Officiant, Wedding Coordinator, Sound Technician and Musicians.*

The Marriage Service of

Prelude_____

Processional/Entrance_____

Greeting/Declaration of Intention/Prayer of the Day

Scriptures_____

(Musical Offering/Hymn)_____

Meditation/Message

(Musical Offering/Hymn)_____

Exchange of Vows

Exchange of Rings

Acclamation

(Lighting of Unity Candle/Unity Sand/Other Symbol of Marriage)

(Musical Offering)_____

Marriage Blessing

Prayers of Intercession/Lord's Prayer

(Holy Communion) - Bride & Groom assist Pastor in serving Holy Communion

Blessing/Presentation

Recessional/Departure_____

Postlude_____

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING SERVICE

We encourage originality and creativity in planning the wedding service to reflect the personalities of the couple being married. There are some basic elements which are part of the service (e.g. prayer, scripture reading, vows, rings, presentation, blessing, etc.)

While good taste and liturgical propriety are expected, much latitude is allowed to provide individuality.

It is also helpful to remember your guests as you plan the service. Because all are participating in worship, let your guests join in expressing their praise. The reading of a Psalm, responsive prayer or singing a congregation hymn is some ways for your guests to actively participate in the service.



SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS

Usually, two scripture readings are read during the wedding service. You may choose to have more or less. The following is a list of scripture passages couples frequently ask to have read. It is not meant to be exhaustive, merely to stimulate your thinking. Lord of Life uses the New Revised Standard Version as our preferred Bible translation.

Old Testament

Genesis: 1:26-31, 2:18-24

Ruth: 1:1-19a

Psalm: 1, 23, 33, 34, 42, 61, 65, 89, 100, 117, 127, 128, 136, 145, 146 and/or 150

Song of Solomon: 2:10-13, 8:6-7

Isaiah: 55:6-11, 62:1-5, 63:7-9

Jeremiah: 29:11-14

New Testament

Matthew: 2:13-15, 2:19-23, 5:20-37, 13:13-17; 19:4-6, 25:1-13

Mark 1:9-11

Luke: 2:25-40, 3:21-22, 12:22-31

John: 2:1-10, 4:1-11, 15:1-5, 15:9-12, 20:19-23

Romans: 12:1-2, 12:9-21, 15:5-7, 15:13

1 Corinthians: 12:31-13:13

Ephesians: 4:30--5:2, 5:21-33

Colossians: 3:12-15

1 John: 4:7-12, 4:16-21

In addition to readings from the Bible, a selection from a secular source may be used if it is in harmony with the spirit of a Christian worship service and with the biblical understanding of marriage. Be especially careful with poetry. Many love poems are personal and private expressions not appropriate for public reading at a wedding. All readings to be included in your wedding service must be approved by the pastor in advance.

SELECTING WEDDING MUSIC

Throughout the centuries music has been one of the primary ways that the church has employed to praise and thank God. There is a vast selection of music that is particularly appropriate for wedding ceremonies. If you are wondering whether a vocal selection is appropriate for your wedding, here is a tip: If you can answer “Yes” to any of the following questions, the music is probably appropriate:

- 1 - Does the music/text reflect praise and/or thanksgiving to God?
- 2 - Is the song based on, or does it reflect a scriptural theme?
- 3 - Is this song in the form of a prayer?

Purely secular music or music that detracts from the Christ-centered theme is best left to be used at your reception or wedding dance.

Some couples ask to use recorded music. While there is nothing inherently wrong with recorded music, you should know that live accompaniment can head off many of the technical difficulties associated with recordings. Missed cues and long pauses are uncomfortable for everyone and ultimately detract from the beauty of the occasion.

WEDDING VOW EXAMPLES

- 1 - _____, 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.
- 2 - 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.
- 3 - 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 as long as we live.
- 4 - 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.
- 5 - 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.
- 6 - I, _____ take you _____, to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or 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 thereto I promise you my faithfulness.
- 7 - I, _____ take you _____ to my wedded wife/husband, and promise you my faithfulness, till death us do part.

Because the marriage vows are personal promises made by the bride and groom to one another, you may write your own vows. This should be done with the guidance of the Pastor to ensure that the vows reflect the complete sharing which marriage implies and include a lifelong commitment of faithfulness.