



UNITED IN CHRIST

Preparing for Christian Marriage



LOVE

Love is *patient,*
love is *kind.*
It does not *envy,*
it does not *boast,*
it is not *proud.*

1 Corinthians 13:4

Your Wedding

at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is a community of Christians called, washed and fed by the Spirit, sent into God's world to follow Jesus and invite others to walk in faith, hope and love.

610 13th Street North, Moorhead, MN 56560
(218) 233-2412
oslc@oursaviorsmoorhead.org
www.oursaviorsmoorhead.org
www.facebook.com/oursaviorsmoorhead

Pr. Loren Mellum: pastorloren@oursaviorsmoorhead.org
Pr. Patrick Loree: pastorpatrick@oursaviorsmoorhead.org
Wedding Coordinator, Norma Swanson: normaswanson@cableone.net

1 Chapter 1

Checklist	1
Your Church Wedding and the Christian Marriage Rite	2

2 Chapter 2

Preliminary Decisions	2
Wedding Date	2
Pastors / Pre-marital Counseling	2
Rehearsal Date	2
Wedding Coordinator	2

3 Chapter 3

The Wedding License	3
The Wedding Rehearsal	3

4 Chapter 4

Decorations	4
Photos	4

5 Chapter 5

Wedding Ceremony	5
Scripture Lessons	5
Wedding Vows	6
Order of Worship	7
Additional Notes	8
Organist and Music	8
Wedding Information for the Pastor	9
Personal Information for Pre-Marital Meeting	10
Wedding Information of the Custodian	11

6 Chapter 6

Wedding Fees	13
Questions Bridal Couple May Have	14
Nurturing Your Marriage After Your Wedding Day	15

Checklist for matters pertaining to the church

- Yes No Has this book been carefully studied?
- Yes No Has the church been reserved with definite date and time?
- Yes No Has the pastor been contacted and counseling been arranged?
- Yes No Has the wedding coordinator been contacted?
- Yes No Has the rehearsal date and time been set?
- Yes No Has the entire wedding party (including parents) been notified to be at the rehearsal?
- Yes No Has the organist/pianist been secured for the wedding and rehearsal?
- Yes No Has the music for organ or piano, soloist(s) and/or congregation been agreed upon?
- Yes No If the reception is to be held at Our Savior's, has the wedding reception coordinator been contacted and all arrangements made?
- Yes No If a florist will be coming in to decorate, has a specific time been arranged?
- Yes No Have you arranged for a photographer and set up a time for pictures?

Needed by the pastor before your meeting together

- 1 Pages 11 and 12 of this booklet *Questions must be answered separately by both bride and groom*

Needed by the church three weeks before the wedding

- 1 Copy of the order of worship (this can be a rough draft) *See page 9 of this booklet*
- 2 Wedding license
- 3 Scripture *See page 7 of this booklet*
- 4 Vows *See page 8 of this booklet*

1 Chapter 1

Your church wedding and the Christian Marriage Rite

Congratulations! You have asked for the privilege of being married in the church. It is to God's house that God's people come for the holiest experiences of their lives. It is the Word of God and prayer, in the house of the people of God, which sanctifies the establishment of your home through the Christian wedding ceremony.

You can be married elsewhere and without a Christian ceremony. Pastors are not the only people licensed to perform marriage ceremonies. However, your desire to be married in the Christian Church by a Christian pastor with a Christian marriage rite indicates a desire for your wedding and your marriage to be Christian. Therefore, it is assumed you will want to follow only those practices and procedures in your wedding which are in keeping with the Christian view of marriage and which are appropriate in a Christian church.

2 Chapter 2

Preliminary Decisions

The following matters should be decided by the bride and groom before proceeding with complete plans for the wedding.

1) Wedding Date

Call the church office (218-233-2412) to set the date for your wedding no later than 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays, if possible. This should be as early as possible to avoid conflicts on the church schedule. Have the time of day for your wedding in mind when you call, as this will facilitate securing the date. We do not schedule weddings for the weekends of Christmas and Easter.

2) Pastors/Pre-Marriage Counseling and Guidance

Our Savior's pastoral staff looks forward to helping you with your wedding plans. If you prefer a specific Our Savior's pastor, please state your preference at the time you request a date for the church so the Administrative Secretary can check with the pastor's calendar. The pastors reserve the right to substitute for each other in case of necessity or according to schedules and commitments.

Our Savior's welcomes pastors from other churches to be our guests and to help lead worship at weddings. All sermons, meditations, homilies, and messages at these services will be given by the pastors of Our Savior's Lutheran Church or other pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Pastors of other denominations may be invited to preach at the discretion of the pastors of Our Savior's.

All couples being married at Our Savior's must participate in pre-marriage counseling with the pastor leading the wedding worship service. Couples will participate in eight hours of pre-marriage counseling in a workshop format led by community professionals or meet with an Our Savior's pastor to do the Prepare and Enrich Program.

3) Rehearsal date

Time for the rehearsal should be set at the time the wedding date is determined. The rehearsal should be usually held the day/evening before the wedding. The rehearsal takes approximately one hour.

4) Wedding Coordinator

Call the wedding coordinator, Norma Swanson, to arrange a meeting with her to proceed with your wedding plans at Our Savior's. Please read the wedding booklet over carefully so any questions you may have may be addressed in your meeting with her. She may be contacted at (701) 239-9131, normaswanson@cableone.net, or 1908 23rd St S, Fargo, ND 58103.

3 Chapter 3

Marriage License

There is a five-day waiting period in Minnesota from the time the marriage license is purchased until the wedding can take place. However, the wedding license is considered current for six months from the time of purchase. **The wedding license must be obtained in the state in which the wedding is held.** The current wedding license fee in Clay County is \$115. However, the cost is lowered to \$40 with proof of 12 or more hours of pre-marital counseling. **Please bring the marriage license to the church office three weeks before the wedding.** This facilitates filling out the marriage license and wedding certificate. Witnesses must be at least 16 years of age or older. For further information about the marriage license, please contact the Clay County Recorder.

The Wedding Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal is important so everything will be done, as the Scripture says, "decently and in order," during the ceremony. **Our Savior's pastor and the wedding coordinator shall be in charge of the wedding rehearsal.**

See that all the participants are present **and on time. This is imperative.** These include, in addition to the couple, the parents of the bride and groom, the best man and maid or matron of honor, the bridesmaids, groomsmen, flower girl and ring bearer (if used), ushers, the candle lighters (if used), and the organist/pianist. Grandparents are most welcome at rehearsals, as they will be ushered in at the wedding, and it is helpful if they can practice beforehand. **Be sure to choose responsible people to be ushers, as they hold important roles in making things run smoothly. They are responsible for any emergencies that might arise before, during, and following the wedding, as well as the regular ushering duties.**

The wedding coordinator needs a copy of the order of the ceremony **at least three weeks** before the wedding. The pastor needs to be informed of the couple's choice for Scripture for their wedding **at least three weeks** before the wedding.

The use of alcoholic beverages before and during the rehearsal and wedding is "out of order" in either the church or parking lot! The church is a non-smoking facility. Everyone is asked to wear appropriate attire at the rehearsal. Men are asked to not wear hats or caps in the church. There shall be no gum chewing during the ceremony. Also, please refrain from having any type of beverage in the sanctuary during the rehearsal or wedding.

Suggested placement of the members of the wedding party may be discussed with the wedding coordinator and pastors. If very young flower girls and/or ring bearers are participating, it is suggested they sit with family members during the ceremony rather than be in the altar area with the rest of the bridal party.

Since there are a number of variations for the processional, this can be discussed with the wedding coordinator. Ring bearers should be at least five years of age. If a flower girl is used, she precedes the bride, following the maid or matron of honor.

The entire party usually faces the altar during the ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the bride and groom leave together, followed by the rest of the party. The parents of the bride and groom follow the bridal party. The ushers dismiss the congregation pew by pew, unless the couple is ushering out their own guests, in which case the couple will go back down the aisle and greet guests row by row. A receiving line, which can include the couple alone or the couple and parents, can be formed at the rear of the sanctuary, in the west narthex (entrance) or outside the church in warm weather months.

Two ushers or candle lighters should be designated to light the candles before the ceremony. This can be from 30 minutes before the ceremony, right before special guests (grandparents/parents) are seated, or anytime in between. These same ushers or candle lighters should extinguish all candles after the congregation has left the church. **If the candles are lit while pictures are being taken prior to the ceremony, please extinguish them to be lit again before the ceremony.**

4 Chapter 4

Decorations

The church provides the kneeler for the ceremony. All floral decorations, candelabra, and candles (in addition to those permanent in the church) must be provided by the bridal party. Since the center aisle is carpeted, an additional aisle runner **shall not be used**. This is for the safety of wedding participants and guests.

Decorations should be put up the day of the wedding or after the wedding rehearsal, unless another event, such as a funeral, is scheduled for the sanctuary earlier on the day of the wedding. All decorations should be in place at least one hour before the wedding begins. No decorations may be fastened to the woodwork of the chancel or nave. The church has clips for fastening bows to the pews. (There are 56 pews in the church, although pew bows are not necessary for all pews.) Only candelabra and flowers are to be placed in the chancel. **No flowers are to be placed directly on the altar or on the piano.** Flower stands in two heights are available. **Please have someone assigned to take down all decorations immediately after the guests are out of the church.**

The city fire code forbids placing candles on pews or along aisles. Small jewel candles with glass containers may be placed on the east wall of the sanctuary, which is concrete.

If a unity candle is used, the church has a stand, a cloth for the stand, and a holder for the unity candle available. We also have a unity candle, should you wish to use this.

No rice or confetti is allowed in the building or on the church grounds.

Photos

The photographer or guests shall take no flash pictures during the ceremony after the pastor has said the opening prayer. Please print the words "no flash pictures or videos shall be taken during the ceremony" in the wedding bulletin. Videos may be taken by a photographer, who *must* be in the balcony or beside a stationary video stand in the altar area. An *unattended* video camera may be set on a *stationary stand* on the west side of the altar area. Video cameras in other areas detract from the solemnity of the occasion. Please ask the photographer (s) to check with the pastor or wedding coordinator before the ceremony.

All photographs to be taken in the sanctuary are to be completed AT LEAST ONE HOUR before the ceremony.

5 Chapter 5

Wedding Ceremony

The order of service from the *Lutheran Book of Worship* shall normally be used. Variations and alterations may be made in consultation with the pastor.

It is suggested the wedding be planned with an eye toward "involving" the wedding guests in as many ways as possible. Responsive reading of a Scripture passage, the singing of a hymn, and joining in praying the Lord's Prayer are encouraged. You are encouraged to use lay persons to read scriptures or prayers.

Scripture Lessons

One or more lessons from the Bible will be read.

The following are suggested:

- Psalm 33
- Psalm 67
- Psalm 95:1-7
- Psalm 100
- Psalm 103:1-5
- Psalm 117
- Psalm 127
- Psalm 128
- Psalm 136
- Psalm 150
- Genesis 1: 26-31
- Genesis 2: 18-24
- Numbers 6:24-26
- Ruth 1:16-17
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
- Song of Solomon 2: 10-13
- Song of Solomon 8: 7
- Isaiah 63: 7-9
- Jeremiah 32:38-39
- Matthew 6:33
- Matthew 7:24-27
- John 15: 9-17 or 9-12 or 1-12
- Philippians 2:1-5
- Philippians 4: 4-9
- Ephesians 4: 1-7
- Romans 12: 1-2
- 1 Corinthians 12: 31-13: 13
- 1 John 4: 7-12
- Matthew 19: 4-6
- John 2: 1-10
- Colossians 3: 12-17
- Philippians 2: 1-11

Hymns

The following hymns are suggested:

- O Come, All Ye Faithful ELW #283
- Jesus, Come! For We Invite You ELW #312
- Where Charity and Love Prevail ELW #359
- The Kind of Love My Shepherd Is ELW #502
- Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now ELW #527
- Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty ELW #533
- Sent Forth by God's Blessing ELW #547
- Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer ELW #618
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ELW #631
- Beloved, God's Chosen ELW #648
- O Holy Spirit, Enter In ELW #786
- Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee ELW #836
- Beautiful Savior ELW #838
- Now Thank We All Our God ELW #840
- Praise to the Lord, the Almighty ELW #858/859
- All People That on Earth Do Dwell ELW #883



Please indicate your choice of scripture and enter this information on page 11 of this packet for the pastor.

Wedding Vows

The vows are those of the bride and groom, and provision may be made for those who wish to write their own in consultation with the pastor. The promises must indicate the complete sharing which marriage implies and make clear the promises are a life-long commitment.

VOWS (from ELW pg. 288)

The couple may join hands. Each promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words.

**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.**

or

**In the presence of God and this community,
I, *name*, take you, *name*, 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.**

If you wish to write your own vows or use different vows, an OSLC pastor needs to review these in pre-marriage counseling.

Giving of Rings (from ELW pg. 288)

The couple may exchange rings with these or similar words.

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

or

***Name*, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow. With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**



Order of Worship Service

Please follow this order as closely as possible

Prelude

Processional

Invocation

Prayer

Special music or hymn (optional)

Scripture reading

Homily

Special music or hymn (optional)

Vows

Exchange of rings

Announcement of Marriage

Special music (optional)

Lighting of unity candle (optional)

Prayer for the Couple

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

Postlude

Additional Notes Concerning the Ceremony

The Christian wedding ceremony is a joyous and happy occasion. The conduct of all participants, however, should be in keeping with the solemnity of the service.

No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the church building or parking lot. No smoking is allowed in the church building. No beverage of any kind is to be brought into the sanctuary during the rehearsal or wedding. However, we encourage you to bring in food/beverages to the Larsen Lounge (across the hall from the back of the sanctuary) the day of the wedding, as the lounge is open for your use.

It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to inform their wedding party and guests of all the information in this booklet which pertains to them.

The dressing room for the bride and her attendants is the Music Room, located at the northwest corner of the main floor of the church. This room can be locked. At the wedding rehearsal, the wedding coordinator will give a key to the Music Room door and the outside door to the bride. After the wedding, these keys can be left in the mailbox beside the office manager's door in the east hall of the main floor of the building or given to the wedding coordinator. Please have all items brought into the dressing room before the wedding removed from the dressing room immediately after the wedding.

The dressing room for the groom and his attendants is the Youth Room, which is located at the north end of the church basement. Please have items brought into the dressing room before the wedding removed from the dressing room immediately after the wedding.

The guest book is removed 5-10 minutes before the ceremony is to start to allow all guests to be seated so the wedding starts on time.

Please have someone assigned to remove the wedding gifts from the church. This needs to be done before the bridal party leaves the premises. The wedding coordinator prefers to meet the person(s) responsible for removing the gifts from the church, so that thefts do not occur. If the reception is to be held at Our Savior's, the gifts cannot be left in the sanctuary during the reception.

The bridal couple need not feel obligated to invite the pastor to the rehearsal dinner or reception. However, if they are to be included, the invitation should be extended before the rehearsal date and indication should be made as to whether this includes the pastor's spouse, if the pastor is married.

Organist/Pianist and Music

Our Savior's organist/pianist is Mary Maynard (701) 361-1736, clairepiano@aol.com. Please contact her to arrange a meeting to listen to examples of wedding music available; this is included in her fee. The organist/pianist *shall* be present at the wedding rehearsal.

The selection of music should be done with special care and in consultation with the pastor and organist/pianist. Our Savior's has a fairly flexible approach to this. We prefer music that glorifies God, sees God as the source of all love, and asks God's blessing on the marriage. Music with a more secular tone may be okay to use, as long as it doesn't contradict the Christian view of love and marriage.

Possible Wedding Solos/Congregational Hymns

If you need ideas for congregational hymns or solo selections, please talk to Mary about this.

Soloist

Should you need help in finding a soloist, Our Savior's wedding coordinator has a list of members available for solos, duets, etc.

Photocopied music

Since it is against the law to photocopy music, we are unable to use photocopied music in the church.

Information for the Pastor



Bride

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Date of wedding _____

Date of rehearsal _____

Scripture lesson(s) to be used see page 5

Groom

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Time _____

Time _____

Vows to be used see page 6

Please complete this form and return it with the order of worship for the service and the wedding license to the pastor or wedding coordinator at least three weeks before the wedding.

Personal Information for Pre-Marital Meeting

Please bring completed page with you to your first pre-marital meeting with the pastor.

Bride

Grandparents

Parents

Siblings

Childhood

Friends

Sports

Education

Occupation

Hobbies

Goals & dreams

What do you like about him?

Groom

Grandparents

Parents

Siblings

Childhood

Friends

Sports

Education

Occupation

Hobbies

Goals & dreams

What do you like about her?

Courtship

Where did you meet?

How long have you dated?

What do you enjoy doing together?

These questions can be answered on separate pages and brought to the pastor.

Information for the Custodian



Bride

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Date of wedding _____

Date of rehearsal _____

Reception at the church? Yes No

Do you wish to have a gift table at the rear of the Sanctuary?

Groom

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Time _____

Time _____

If yes, # of Guests _____

Yes No

Yes No

What time should the church be unlocked the day of the wedding? _____

The church cannot be unlocked until a representative of the family or wedding party is present and remains at the church whenever it is unlocked.

The church has a unity candle, a unity candle stand, a table for the unity candle, and a tablecloth for the unity candle table. Please check which items you wish to use:

- Unity candle
- Candle holder (which holds the unity candle and two side candles)
- Table
- Tablecloth

The couple must provide tapered candles for lighting the unity candle. The church has a candleholder for the unity candle, which the wedding consultant will show you.

Do you wish to use the "mailbox" for cards? Yes No

Do you wish to use the "treasure chest" for cards? Yes No

Do you wish to use the church's pew bows? Yes No

6 Chapter 6

Wedding Fees

The wedding may be held in the sanctuary, chapel, or Larsen Lounge. There is no fee charged for the use of any of these locations, nor is there a charge for the use of the unity candle holder, stand, or unity stand cloth.

All fees are due three weeks before the wedding. An itemized list will be sent to you by the wedding coordinator.

Custodian Fee for Wedding:

Sanctuary	\$50
Chapel	\$20

Wedding Coordinator \$100(sanctuary)

Organist \$100

When organist also accompanies soloist \$125

Soloist (suggested fee) \$25-\$75

(Depends upon the number of songs and preparation time)

Pastor (suggested fee) \$150

Sound Technician \$50

“Prepare” Marriage Compatibility Test \$35 (online payment to *Life Innovations*)

(To be paid when testing is completed.)

Non-Member Deposit \$250
(none-refundable)

Bridal Couple's Questions For:

Pastor

Organist/Pianist

Wedding Coordinator

Custodian

Nurturing Your Marriage After Your Wedding Day

Daily devotions

We have often heard "Homes that pray together, stay together." This is true! A good first step in establishing this cementing relationship is to have your daily devotions together. We encourage you to make a practice of reading the Scriptures and praying together. A devotional book can be a real help too. Our Savior's has a devotional booklet, *Christ in Our Home*, which is available quarterly. This includes meditations and prayers for each day. These are available in both church entrances.

Involvement in the church

We encourage you to participate actively in Our Savior's or a church in the community where you will be living or agree to support each other in continuing involvement in your respective churches, worshipping at each other's churches.

Marriage Counseling

The pastors are available for marriage growth counseling over the years OR pastors can be consulted about referrals for marriage counseling outside the church.

Marriage Encounter

You are encouraged to participate in Marriage Encounter weekends. Contact this organization at marriageencounter.org

