



## **A Guide to Your Wedding at Faith Lutheran Church**

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## Your Wedding at Faith Lutheran Church

Thank you for allowing us at Faith Lutheran Church to assist you in the planning of your wedding service. Here is how we can help you:

1. We can help make your wedding a worship service where you, your family and your guests can celebrate God's love for us through Jesus Christ as we thank God for the gift of love in marriage.
2. Our pastoral staff can help you prepare for marriage. They have special training and give preparatory sessions in the context of the Christian faith.
3. Our wedding coordinator can answer many of your questions about the specifics for your wedding ceremony. She will also conduct your wedding rehearsal.
4. Our organist and wedding coordinator can assist you in selecting from a broad repertoire of music that will reflect your taste and be appropriate for a worship service.
5. Our Fellowship Hall is available for receptions.

We consider it a privilege to serve you in the planning of your service, for we believe that God has made a special investment in you and in your love for each other. We want your wedding day to be a joyful and blessed celebration, a reflection of God's love for you.

The rest of this booklet contains many helpful details and guidelines as you plan your wedding. Please call the church office if you have questions. May you experience God's blessings on all of your preparations!

## About Marriage

Choosing to be married in the Church is a reflection of your Christian faith and recognition that the Church is the community where Christians gather to worship, learn, witness, and serve. It is also recognition that the Church is your spiritual home and the place where many important steps in your life are celebrated and affirmed. Finally, you are stating that Jesus Christ and the Church will be a part of your life-long commitment to each other.

With your upcoming marriage, it is important to recognize that much more is happening than simply a wedding ceremony, important as that is. You are being married. The wedding is the public celebration of your life-long commitment before God and to one another. It begins the marriage. You are invited to make your focus not so much on the wedding as on the marriage.

Marriage has been around since the beginning of time! There is nothing essentially "Christian" about it. People of all faiths and cultures join in marriage. And yet, we as Christians celebrate the holiness of marriage by joining husband and wife together under the blessing of God.

### Covenant

Marriage is essentially a Covenant of Fidelity between a man and a woman made with society's sanction and grounded in the steadfast love of God. As God is faithful to us, so we can be faithful toward each other in love.

Marriage is also a Social Contract, the basis of which is the **commitment** that the man and woman make to each other. Contrary to the popular understanding, the basis in marriage is not just romantic love, for such love is changeable. You cannot promise to be 'in love' years hence, but you can make a loving commitment to each other. For people, faithfulness and romantic love do not necessarily go together. But in God the two are joined! Marital vows of fidelity grounded in the love of God will abide forever.

### The Marriage

It is not the pastor who performs the marriage, but the wedding couple. Both the Church and State have an interest in marriage. But the marriage itself is conducted by the two partners. Their vows of faithfulness and commitment serve as the heart of their marriage. In the wedding service, they ask for God's blessing and support.

## **First Steps**

### **Who Can Be Married at Faith Lutheran Church?**

Faith Lutheran pastoral staff and building are available for member weddings. Weddings may be scheduled by members and those who are actively worshipping and scheduled to attend a membership class. Non-member weddings are held only with approval of the pastors.

### **The Date and The Pastor**

Call the church office (319-377-9700) as early as possible to see if the date you have selected is available for your wedding. A \$175 deposit is required to hold your reservation. This will be applied to the \$100 church fee and the \$75 custodian fee.

We have two pastors at Faith Lutheran Church. The pastor you will work with will depend on the date you have selected. You may request a particular pastor and you will be notified if the pastor is available to work with you. If you would like additional clergy to participate, please first contact the pastor from Faith Lutheran who is presiding at your service.

Marriages are not celebrated during Holy Week, the day before Easter, the day before the church Christmas program or Christmas Eve.

Because we hold church year-round on Saturdays at 5:30 pm, we must ask that weddings work around that schedule. Make sure to allow time for pictures, etc. in your planning.

### **Wedding Coordinator**

Our wedding coordinator is Karen Cain. She is an invaluable part of the wedding planning and will help manage the use of the building and help answer any questions regarding a wedding at Faith Lutheran Church. Her contact phone number is 551-8930 and her email [kmcain61@hotmail.com](mailto:kmcain61@hotmail.com).

**Preparatory Sessions**

All couples who are being married at Faith Lutheran are required to attend a premarital workshop. Call the pastor 4-6 months prior to your wedding date to schedule your preparatory sessions with the pastor.

The preparatory sessions not only set the wedding in the context of God's Word and wisdom, but give the pastor an opportunity to become better acquainted with you and to address any special issues you may face in your future life as a married couple.

**Musicians**

The organist at Faith Lutheran normally plays at all weddings where organ music is desired. The organist can assist you with choosing appropriate music for your wedding. Should you desire a different organist, arrangements and approval must first be made through the Director of Worship.

You may provide your own soloist, and if you should need additional rehearsals, arrangements must be made directly with the organist. If you need suggestions for a soloist, please contact the church office.

**The License**

Iowa law requires couples to secure a license to marry. By law, application for this license must be made a minimum of 3 days before the wedding and up to six months prior at the Linn County Recorder at 830 1st St. SW, Cedar Rapids. For more information about the license process, contact the Linn County Recorder at 319-892-5420 or get written instructions and download an application for a marriage license at <http://www.linncountyrecorder.com/vitals.asp>. Cost for the license is \$35 and following the ceremony, the pastor will file the form with the County Registrar within fifteen days.

**Invitations**

If you wish to invite the pastor to your rehearsal dinner or to the wedding reception, please extend a written invitation.

**Rehearsal**

The time and availability of the church building for the rehearsal must be arranged with the wedding coordinator as far in advance as possible. It is important that the rehearsal begin at the scheduled time. Rehearsals do not last more than an hour- if you wish extra time for decorating, etc., please make arrangements with the church office ahead of time. The desired time for rehearsal would be 6:00 pm.

**Flowers and Decorations**

Please coordinate the delivery of flowers with the time the building has been reserved for the wedding, or make special arrangements with the wedding coordinator. If you desire a unity candle or aisle runner you must purchase them on your own.

**Bulletins**

It is helpful, but not necessary to have printed bulletins for your wedding service. Bulletins inform your guest as to the order of the service and identify the participants. A sample bulletin is available at the back of this booklet. Bulletins are provided if desired for an additional cost. Please go over this with the wedding coordinator.

**Photography/Videography**

We recommend that all formal pictures be taken before the ceremony and must conclude 30 minutes prior to the start of the service. Lights/flash may not be used during the ceremony, with the exception of the wedding party processional and recessional. Video cameras may be used without additional lights during the service, provided the videographer speaks to the wedding coordinator prior to set up to ensure they are placed unobtrusively. Photographers are expected to abide by the instructions of the church wedding coordinator.

**Church Seating**

The sanctuary seats 245 comfortably. Additional seating of approximately 60 seats may be arranged by setting chairs in the narthex and opening the dividers to the sanctuary.

**Receptions**

The church Fellowship Hall can accommodate a maximum of 150 guests for a reception. If you are interested in additional information regarding a church reception, contact the church office/wedding coordinator.

## Church Policies

Faith Lutheran Church is not responsible for personal items that are lost or stolen while you are in the church or on church property. While we do our best to help by locking doors, we need your help to ensure the safety of your purses, cameras, etc. Likewise, gifts that are brought to the wedding are not the responsibility of the church. Someone should be in charge of the gifts, purses and cameras at all times.

**The use of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs on the church grounds or premises is strictly prohibited. Smoking is only allowed outside; please extinguish your cigarette in the appropriate receptacle located outside the church.**



## The Wedding Service

The typical order of worship is found on page 286 of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship. A copy is found later in this booklet. Please review the service. At the Pastor's discretion, additions and changes can be made in the service as long as they are liturgically and theologically appropriate.

### **The Order of Service**

The following outline may be used in order to develop a bulletin for your wedding worship service. A sample bulletin is included on the next page.

Prelude

Procession (organ, instrumental, or congregation hymn)

Greeting and Introduction

Opening Prayer

*Hymn or Solo (optional)*

Bible Readings (usually two or three selections)

Sermon

*Hymn or Solo (optional)*

The Exchange of Vows

The Exchange of Rings

The Pronouncement of Marriage

Lighting of the Unity Candle (optional)

*Hymn, Solo, or Instrumental (optional, during candle lighting)*

Blessing of the Marriage

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (spoken or solo)

Benediction

Introduction of the Couple

Recessional (organ, instrumental, or congregational hymn)

Postlude

## **Bible Readings**

Because marriage is a gift from God and the Christian marriage service is also a statement of faith, we ground the celebration and the promises of marriage in God's holy word. Unless approved by the presiding pastor, the readings in your service should be from the Bible.

Generally there are two or three Bible readings. You may choose to have a person or persons significant to you read the scriptural passages, or the pastor may read them.

The texts you choose for your wedding will reveal something about your relationship. The list below are suggested passages. Please keep in mind the following in choosing your passages: What drew you to select these passages? How does this passage speak to your shared commitment and your hopes for the future? How does the passage speak of God's blessings and God's activity in marriage? Does it reveal a vision for your married life? Be sure to share with the pastor why you have chosen the texts you have.

Genesis 1:26-28  
Genesis 2:18-24  
Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67  
Proverbs 3:3-6  
Song of Solomon 2:10-13  
Song of Solomon 8:6-7  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12  
Isaiah 63:7-9  
Jeremiah 31:31-34

### **Old Testament**

*Woman and man created in the image of God  
Companionship rather than loneliness  
The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah  
Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart  
The voice of the beloved  
Many waters cannot quench love  
A threefold cord is not quickly broken  
God's steadfast love lifts up the people  
The new covenant of the people of God*

### **Psalms**

Psalm 33  
Psalm 67  
Psalm 100  
Psalm 117  
Psalm 121  
Psalm 127  
Psalm 128  
Psalm 150

*May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord  
May God be merciful to us and bless us  
We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture  
The steadfast love of the Lord  
The Lord keeps watch over you  
Unless the Lord builds the house  
Blessed are those who walk in the Lord's ways  
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord*

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39  
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Ephesians 3:14-19

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33  
Philippians 2:1-11  
Philippians 4:4-9  
Colossians 3:12-17

1 John 3:18-24  
1 John 4:7-16  
Revelation 19:1, 5-9

Matthew 5:1-10  
Matthew 5:14-16  
Matthew 7:21, 24-29  
Matthew 19:4-6  
Matthew 22:35-40  
Mark 10:6-9  
John 2:1-11  
John 15:9-17

### **New Testament**

*If God is for us, who is against us*  
*A living sacrifice and genuine love*  
*The greatest gift is love*  
*The breadth, length, height and depth of Christ's love*  
*Walk in love as Christ loved us*  
*Your attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus*  
*Rejoice in the Lord always*  
*Clothed in compassion, kindness, meekness and patience*  
*Let us love in truth and action*  
*Let us love one another for love is of God*  
*Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the lamb*

### **Gospels**

*The beatitudes*  
*You are the light, let your light shine*  
*A wise person builds upon the rock*  
*What God has united must not be divided*  
*Love, the greatest commandment*  
*They are no longer two but one*  
*The wedding at Cana*  
*Love one another as I have loved you*

## The Vows

The vows and promises that you make to one another are at the center of the wedding service. It is by your promises that you bind yourselves together as husband and wife. You may choose from the following options for the wording of your promises or you may adapt the wording in consultation with the pastor.

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.

I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise to 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 the worst of what is to come as long as we both shall live.

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. I promise to forgive and strengthen you, and to join with you so that together we may serve God and each other as long as we both shall live.

I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband from this day forward; to join with you and 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.

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.

## The Service of Marriage

### Entrance

### Greeting

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

### Declaration of Intention

**P** Name, will you have name to be your wife/husband, to live  
together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her/  
him, comfort her/him, honor and keep her/him, in sickness  
and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to  
her/him as long as you both shall live?

**C** **I will.**

**P** Will all of you, by God's grace, uphold and care for name  
and name in their life together?

**C** **We will.**

### Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray. Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ  
into the world to reveal your love to all people. Enrich name  
and name with every good gift, that their life together may  
show forth your love; and grant that at the last we may all  
celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no end;  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

### Bible Readings

### Sermon

### Hymn of the Day

### Vows

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.

#### **Giving of Rings**

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.

#### **Acclamation**

Name and name, by the promises before God and in the presence  
of this assembly, have joined themselves to one another as  
husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one  
separate. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

#### **Marriage Blessing**

P Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love  
in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a  
human mother, and to endure the cross for our sake, that  
we may have abundance of life.  
By the power of your Holy Spirit pour out the abundance of  
your blessing on name and name. Defend them from every  
enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let your love be a seal  
upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a  
crown upon their foreheads.  
Bless them so that their lives together may bear witness to  
your love. Bless them in their work and in their companion-  
ship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and  
in their sorrows; in their life and in their death.  
Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your  
saints feast forever in your heavenly home, through Jesus  
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

P Gracious and faithful God,  
C **hear our prayer.**  
**AMEN.**

*Option: Service may continue with the peace.*

**Lord's Prayer**

P Let us join together and pray the prayer that our Lord  
taught us to pray.  
C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is  
in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Peace**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.  
C **And also with you.**

**Blessing**

P The blessed and the holy Trinity make you strong in faith  
and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth  
and peace, now and forever. **Amen**  
Or P God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the  
days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy  
angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the +Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now  
and forever. **Amen.**

**Dismissal**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

P It is now my honor and privilege to introduce you to name  
and name last name, who are united in marriage.

*The Kiss*

## Sample Bulletin

### CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

For Groom and Bride  
Date

Prelude

Procession "Song Title"      Composer

Greeting

Prayer

(Optional) Solo - "Song Title"      Composer

Bible Readings      Bible Verse  
Bible Verse

(Optional) Solo "Song Title"      Composer

Gospel      Bible Verse

Sermon      Pastor

(Optional) Solo "Song Title"      Composer

Rites of Marriage  
The Vows  
Exchange of Rings  
Lighting of the Unity Candle  
The Blessing  
(Optional) Solo "Song Title"

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude

### The Wedding Party

Parents  
(Names)  
(Names)

Grandparents  
(Names)  
(Names)

Maid/Matron of Honor  
Name      Relationship

Best Man  
Name      Relationship

Bridesmaid(s)  
Name(s)      Relationship

Groomsman(men)  
Name(s)      Relationship

Ushers  
Names      Relationship

Reader(s)  
Name      Relationship  
Name      Relationship

Acolyte  
Name      Relationship

Personal Attendant(s)  
Name      Relationship  
Name      Relationship

Musician(s)  
Name      Relationship  
Name      Relationship

Pastor



## Summary of Fees

Fees are to be submitted to the church office.

**Sanctuary fee & custodian due at time of booking to reserve the church.**

Church Sanctuary \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Custodian \$75 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL PAYABLE TO  
FAITH LUTHERAN:** \$           \$175          

### **MADE PAYABLE DIRECTLY TO PERSON:**

Organist \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Coordinator \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor Honorarium  
\$100 Members (suggested)  
\$250 Non Members \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **Additional Fees for a reception:**

Fellowship Hall (Non Members) \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Custodian \$75 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: The above wedding fees are subject to change. Please check with the wedding coordinator or church office for fees in effect at the time of your wedding.

## Wedding Checklist and Timeline

- ◇ At earliest possible time, reserve a date through the Faith Lutheran Church office.
  - \*Indicate the date and approximate time of rehearsal.
  - \*If you are having the reception at Faith, also reserve the Fellowship Hall
  - \*Submit your \$175 payment to hold your wedding date
  
- ◇ 6-9 Months
  - \*Call the church office to schedule an initial meeting with the Pastor
  
- ◇ 4-6 Months
  - \*Call the Pastor to schedule a feedback and preparatory session.
  - \*Contact the wedding coordinator
  - \*Contact musician to confirm wedding date
  - \*Meet with organist and soloist about music selections
  - \*Meet with wedding coordinator to review wedding book and confirm exact time of wedding and rehearsal.
  
- ◇ 1 week
  - \*Bring your marriage license to the church office (include the names of the best man and maid/matron of honor)
  
- ◇ Evening of Rehearsal
  - \*Bring & distribute individual checks made payable to:  
Pastor (Honorarium)  
Wedding Coordinator  
Organist