

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

The Wedding Service

The Wedding Service is the solemnization of the marriage contract (legal requirement) set within a Christian worship service. As such the wedding service begins and ends with prayer in the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Besides prayer there are readings from the Bible (scripture lessons), a brief sermon, blessings, and song(s).

Scripture Lessons:

Here are some suggestions for scripture lessons that are appropriate for a wedding:

Genesis 1: 26-28, 31. The creation of man and woman.

Genesis 2: 18-25. The Garden of Eden (The creation of Eve).

Ruth 1: 16-17. A vow of faithfulness.

Psalms 100. A song of praise.

Psalms 127 and 128. Trusting God brings blessings.

Song of Solomon 8: 6-7. Love is as strong as death.

Matthew 19: 4-6. Jesus commands faithfulness.

John 2: 1-11. Jesus at the wedding in Cana (turning water into wine).

John 15: 4-5. "Abide in me," Jesus is the vine, we are the branches.

John 15: 9-12. Jesus commands: Love one another as I have loved you.

Romans 12: 9-18. Let love be genuine.

1 Corinthians 13. The song of divine love.

Philippians 4: 4-9. Rejoice in the Lord always.

Colossians 3: 12-14. Clothe yourselves with compassion.

Other passages may be chosen by the couple or the pastor.

The Wedding Vows: Please see other pamphlet for various versions.

Songs, Hymns and Special Music.

Since the wedding service is a time of worship, the music and songs used should be to the glory of God. This is not the time for romantic love songs. (That will come at the reception). The organist will gladly go through music selections with you which are appropriate as processional, interlude, or recessional. Please make an appointment with the organist as soon as possible.

When you include a hymn, or several, in the worship service, you are adding a whole other dimension to the occasion of your wedding. Solemn occasions, and happy ones at that, call for singing. (Sports events usually begin with the national anthem and are often filled with music.) Including a hymn which everybody sings means also that you are including all your guests in the celebration. They will welcome the chance to add their voices in praise and prayer to the occasion.

Here are some songs and hymns from our worship books. Why not look them up and ask the organist to play them for you.

LBW 551, 534, 543, 370, 287-289, 315

WOV 748-751, 770

NOTE: The church organist is a highly qualified professional musician in the service of the church working under a professional code of standards. The organist is responsible for the musical aspects of all services at this church. It is assumed that couples will make use of the church organist for their service at this church. On occasion couples have requested to be able to bring their own musicians and asked for the use of the piano or organ. Please be advised that this can only happen under special circumstances and with the express agreement of the organist. In every case the organist must be consulted and must give approval to other musical arrangements. On occasion the resident organist may not be available. A replacement will then be found.

Holy Communion.

Some couples ask to celebrate the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) within the wedding service. The order of worship does provide for this and the wedding is a very meaningful occasion to celebrate this sacrament. Let the pastor know well ahead of time that you would like to do this. Sometimes the couples have been the only ones actually receiving bread and wine, however, according to Lutheran understanding, the invitation at the Lord's table is open to all who are present.

Unity Candle.

It has become almost standard practice to light a unity candle in the wedding service. While not a traditional part of the ceremony, it can be a beautiful symbol for the joining of two people in a new family unit. The couple is responsible for purchasing the unity candle and anything else that may be required for the lighting.