



HOLY CROSS

WEDDING PLANNING GUIDE

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."*

Proverbs 3:5-6

WEDDING APPLICATION

(Please return this application and \$50.00 fee to the Church Office)

Bride's Name: _____

Groom's Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

Home phone: _____

Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Age: _____ Occupation: _____

Age: _____ Occupation: _____

Member _____ Non-member _____

Member _____ Non-member _____

If non-member, church background or current membership information

If non-member, church background or current membership information

Previously married? Yes _____ No _____

Previously married? Yes _____ No _____

Children (ages & gender): _____

Children (ages & gender): _____

Bride's father: _____

Groom's father: _____

Bride's mother: _____

Groom's mother: _____

Wedding Date Requested _____ **Time of Wedding** _____

Pastor / Deacon _____ Church _____ Chapel _____ Other _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Rehearsal Time: _____

What is the best time to meet with your Pastor and/or mentors? _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Fee Received _____

Date Received _____

Application Date _____

Assessment Code _____

Mentor Assigned _____

Assessment Completed _____

HOLY CROSS WEDDING GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! The staff of Holy Cross Holy Cross has developed this guide to assist you in preparing for your special day. We offer it to you as help in developing a joy-filled, Christ-centered wedding day.

This guide contains three main sections:

1. Expectations and participants in each part of the wedding process.
2. Planning Guide for the bride and groom, including details and information needed by the wedding coordinator.
3. Sample wedding, checklist, recommended music and suggested Bible readings.

GUIDELINES AND ACCEPTANCE

Holy Cross weddings are services of worship. An application for the wedding begins the process. On the basis of this application and a pre-marital interview, the Pastor determines readiness for marriage and appropriate counseling-mentoring. If, for some reason, a Pastor is unwilling or reluctant to marry a couple, concerns are identified. Holy Cross Pastors only perform a wedding if the marriage falls within the teaching and practices of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Your wedding will worship and honor our great and glorious God. This will be emphasized when discussing details of your wedding with the Pastor. The Pastor must approve all aspects of the wedding ceremony – including the order of service, music, and any use of audio visual materials – in advance of the service.

PARTICIPANTS IN WEDDINGS AT HOLY CROSS

Your first point of contact and questions is the Worship Assistant (Kim Steveson at 260-739-6516 or ksteveson@holycrossfw.org) who will help you begin the process of wedding planning.

Couples will be assigned an officiating Pastor from among the church staff. In nearly all weddings, the couple's preference for a particular Pastor will be honored. In the event that you would like participation by an ordained Pastor of the LCMS or musicians other than Holy Cross staff, please discuss this with the Pastor handling your arrangements.

Ordinarily, either the bride or the groom will be a member of Holy Cross. Any wedding performed under the auspices of Holy Cross be done according to the Bible teachings expressed in the 2013 document *An Affirmation of Marriage* and additional resources on [lcms.org](https://www.lcms.org/social-issues/marriage) (<https://www.lcms.org/social-issues/marriage> > resources).

Pastors may officiate at weddings outside of the Holy Cross sanctuary setting. All travel and lodging expenses, including an appropriate honorarium that takes into account time away from family and other pastoral duties, must be provided.

Couples are expected to participate in counseling sessions with the officiating Pastor or his designee. In the event the couple is cohabitating, the Pastor will address the Biblical way of life before marriage (see [What About Living Together Without Marriage](http://www.lcms.org/What-About-Living-Together-Without-Marriage) at [lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)).

The Holy Cross contacts below will help make your wedding a joy-filled, Christ-centered, and memorable occasion. We hope you will find many of your questions answered within this guide. Please carefully review this packet of information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Kim Steveson (260) 739-6516

PASTORS

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer (260) 483-3173 or tahlersmeyer@holycrossfw.org

Rev. Dan Harrington (260) 483-3173 or dharrington@holycrossfw.org

Rev. Don Henry (260) 483-3173 or dhenry@holycrossfw.org

Rev. Mark Neubacher (260) 483-3173 or mneubacher@holycrossfw.org

MINISTER OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Dr. Patricia Cotton (260) 739-6547

LEAD WEDDING COORDINATOR

Jessica Stephenson (260) 602-6629

WEDDING EXPENSES

There are certain restrictions on the wedding by the nature of the facilities available and safety of all concerned. By understanding the parameters upfront, this should eliminate any surprises later in the planning process. The bride and groom should understand that they are expected to provide honorariums to the individuals that support their wedding. These fees are listed as guidelines and recommended amounts.

Fee Type	Member	Non-Member
Application/Registration Fee (collected at time of application)	\$50.00	\$50.00
Chapel or Sanctuary Wedding	\$0	\$300.00
Pastor Honoraria	\$175.00	\$175.00
Organist/Musician (per consultation)	minimum of \$125.00	minimum of \$125.00
Soloist for one piece of music (if booked by Holy Cross)	*\$50.00	*\$50.00
HCLC Audio Technician	\$50.00	\$50.00
Wedding Coordinator (if Chapel or Sanctuary wedding)	\$100.00	\$100.00
Aulick Center or Welcome Center Reception (see below)	\$100.00	\$100.00

If the wedding occurs on a holiday/holiday weekend, additional costs will be added!

*Each additional piece of music requires an additional payment of \$25.00 to the soloist.

A registration fee of \$50.00 will be collected from ALL couples at time of application. The Church Sanctuary or Chapel is available without cost to members of Holy Cross.

Non-member couples will pay \$300.00, with a \$200.00 non-refundable deposit due at the time the wedding is scheduled.

With the exception of the application/registration fee, and the Chapel or Sanctuary non-refundable deposit, ALL fees must be given to the Wedding Coordinator before or at the wedding rehearsal. Separate payments should be made separately to each provider (i.e. organist, soloist, etc) by check, money order or cash.

RECEPTIONS: The Aulick Center and Welcome Center may be available for wedding receptions or other occasions. We welcome you to tour the facilities and arrangements should be made at an early date. The fee covers the use of the facility plus a member of the Holy Cross maintenance team must be present.

All facilities at Holy Cross are expected to be left in the same condition as when you arrived. If cleaning or repairs are required, the bride and groom will be responsible to reimburse Holy Cross.

No Alcoholic Beverages will be permitted at any time on church property!

WEDDING PLANNING GUIDE

LOCATION AND TIME

A wedding rehearsal may be scheduled, and is highly recommended for all but very small weddings. It will be scheduled through the Congregational Director of Community & Care at the time you submit your Wedding Request Application form. It is usually held the evening before the wedding, with all the participants attending. The Pastor will go over the service and walk through various parts of the ceremony. This is also the time to finalize all last minute wedding day plans. The rehearsal usually lasts about one hour.

To avoid conflict with 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening worship, Saturday weddings will be scheduled no later than 2:00 p.m. for an afternoon service and no earlier than 7:30 p.m. for an evening service. For services held at 2:00 p.m., the church must be available for worship preparations no later than 3:30 p.m. For services held at 7:30 p.m. the church will not be available for wedding preparations before 6:15 p.m.

The Church Parament (altar, lectern, pulpit hangings, etc.) **will remain** the color of the church year, season, or church festival. They will not be removed/replaced with another color.

The seasonal colors are:

Advent – Blue
Lent – Purple

Christmas – White
Easter – White

Epiphany – White
Pentecost – Red

Epiphany Season – Green
Pentecost Season - Green

FACILITIES

Church Sanctuary: seating approximately 500 people with organ and piano available.

Chapel: seating approximately 50 people with piano available.

Welcome Center for greeting guests and may be utilized for receptions, seating approximately 80 people.

Aulick Center (brown building adjacent to the church): may be utilized for parties or receptions, seating approximately 60 people.

Dressing Rooms: There is also a nursery and preschool rooms adjacent to the Welcome Center that may be used by the bride and her party the day of the wedding to dress and prepare for the ceremony.

As a gentle reminder, immediately after your wedding, all facilities at Holy Cross are expected to be in the same condition as when you arrived. Please understand that often a church service or other events may be taking place within a couple hours before or after your ceremony. If cleaning or repairs are required, the bride and groom will be responsible to reimburse Holy Cross.

All the extras for a wedding that a bride and groom may desire, such as wedding candle, flowers, extra candles for the aisles, and the printing of the bulletin, must be done outside of the church. The church staff is not responsible for printing bulletins.

MUSIC AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHRISTIAN WEDDING

The wedding service is a worship service of this congregation, open to the public, in which two members of this Christian community marry one another through freely given promises to live together in maturing love as long as God gives them life. This service is to focus on God's grace and love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Since we are in worship, wherever music is presented in the service, and by whatever instruments or voices, it must be God-honoring. It is helpful to contact the Minister of Worship and Music to discuss the style of music desired in order to hire the appropriate musicians. Because the Christian wedding is first and foremost a worship service, this rules out the use of secular or sentimental music (e.g. "Wedding March," love songs, etc.) which might best be saved for the reception.

In choosing music for the service, the couple may do one of the following:

- 1) Select appropriate music and then make an appointment with the Minister of Worship and Music to discuss those selections.
- 2) Secure a list of approved compositions from the Minister of Worship and Music. After making your choices, make an appointment to share those choices.
- 3) Let the Minister of Worship and Music choose the music.

While selecting music for your wedding, consider ideas which are appropriate for the worship service:

- 1) The use of various instruments (piano, harpsichord, trumpet, oboe, flute, harp, guitar etc.) with or without organ;
- 2) Vocal solos or duets, or the Holy Cross Junior Choir (found by many to be a delightful addition);
- 3) Congregational participation (hymns, litany, etc.)

The Minister of Worship and Music will be happy to discuss any of the above with you. Please see the approved list of songs in the third section of this document.

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Please be aware that Holy Cross, like many churches, has some restrictions that are in place for flowers, runners, photography and the like. A Holy Cross Wedding Coordinator is required to assist in planning your wedding.

If the florist wishes to discuss the floral arrangements with someone at the church, they may contact the Wedding Coordinator. The bride or the florist may call the Congregational Director at the church office to obtain the name and contact information for the Wedding Coordinator assigned to their wedding at (260) 739-6501.

Flowers should be delivered to the church on the day of the wedding. Please contact the Wedding Coordinator to arrange for the time of delivery. Flowers are not to be placed during the hour preceding the wedding. If any other deliveries are required, arrangements are to be made with the Wedding Coordinator.

Bouquets or floral pieces are not to be placed on the church or chapel altar. Special candelabra or floral arrangements are not permitted in the chancel area. The Unity Wedding Candle or Unity Sand Vase (provided by the bride or the florist) may be used in the Church or Chapel and are placed on a table near the altar rail.

Due to safety concerns, only silk flowers petals are permitted down the aisle. Aisle candles and aisle runners are not permitted. Decorations on the pews are not to be attached with anything which would mar the finish. No tape is to be used on the pews. Please use only rubber bands or pipe cleaners. Placing any items on the pews must be discussed with and approved by the Wedding Coordinator.

Church or chapel decorating is to be done on the day of the wedding. Decorating may be done after rehearsal, if nothing is scheduled in the church or chapel between the rehearsal and wedding. All decorating should be completed at least one hour prior to the wedding service. Following the wedding, there is to be no activity (removal of decorations, flowers, etc.) until the nave is empty.

Please refrain from using confetti, rice, bird seed, bubbles or like items inside the church. Any items like this, whether inside or outside of the church, must be reviewed and approved by the Wedding Coordinator.

Neither the florist, nor an outside wedding consultant, will play any part in directing the rehearsal or wedding, without involving and approval of the Wedding Coordinator from Holy Cross.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO RECORDING

For the professional photographer: You may take flash photos from the back section of the church as the bride and groom enter, and leave the nave. No flash photos are to be taken during the service. Photos (non-flash) taken through doorways, or from the balcony during the service are permitted.

You may take any desired photos prior to the service. Please try to complete all photographs at least 30 minutes before the wedding begins.

All other photos are to be taken after the service. If the Pastor is to be included in these photos, please involve him at the beginning of the photo session. All photos taken at a 2:00 p.m. Saturday wedding must be completed no later than 3:30 p.m. Excessive informality in this session is to be avoided. The photographer is to see that individual members of the wedding party remain outside the chancel, except when they are involved in a photo.

Video cameras will be allowed in the sanctuary during the service. The "Service" begins at the start of the invocation. ("In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...") and ends after the Benediction ("The Lord Bless you and Keep you...amen"). Videos must be taken through doorways or from the balcony. There will be no additional microphones used for the purpose of sound transmission to enhance the quality of the video. They interfere with our system. Professional Video Companies must be at rehearsal so they know what is expected of them.

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MARRIAGE LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE

Your marriage license and all honorariums should be delivered to the Wedding Coordinator at the wedding rehearsal.

To be married in the State of Indiana a couple must have a marriage license. The applicants who wish to be married must apply in person in the Central Services Division and bring with them the required documents. For Indiana residents, at least one applicant must reside in Allen County and provide documentation of residency. Out-of-state residents may apply for a license in Allen County only if the marriage ceremony is performed in Allen County.

If you are applying for a marriage license in Allen County, you may start the application process online. The website for all information regarding marriage license in Allen County is: <https://allencoclerk.us/marriage-licenses/marriage-info/> or via phone 260-449-7245.

Applicants under 18 years of age must have special consent. Contact the Central Services office for complete requirements.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

A Holy Cross Wedding Coordinator is a vital part of your wedding and will be provided by Holy Cross to assist at your wedding events. The Wedding Coordinator will organize the following activities and answer many of your questions. Below is a list of areas that they will assist, but their help is not limited to the following:

- They will call the bride and groom to discuss plans and explain their role.
- Arrive prior to rehearsal, unlock doors, turn on all lights (light switches in the welcome center, at church on sides, and on pulpit), remove center railing and put out the table for unity candle or unity sand.
- Remind the couple to bring the marriage license and any honorariums to the wedding rehearsal.
- Share with Pastor any necessary details prior to the rehearsal;
- Attend and assist during rehearsal.
- Check when florist will arrive with flowers.
- Work with the photographer/videographer.
- Advise as to what will be allowed on pews in regards to decorations. Confetti, rice, bird seed, bubbles or like items are not allowed inside the church.
- Prepare any needed items at the facility.

BEFORE THE SERVICE:

The morning of the wedding: the Wedding Coordinator will arrive prior to the bridal party to unlock doors and be accessible to bride and groom, florist, photographer, etc. Cover the nursery room windows and doors for bridal dressing room.

Set out any necessary items for the bridal party in the dressing room (scissors, tape, straight pins, bobby pins, nail file, etc.). Put guestbook stand and unity candle/unity sand stand in place. (This could be done at rehearsal instead.)

One half hour before wedding starts, light candles.

The Wedding Coordinator will have the ushers seat grandparents 10 minutes before the ceremony. Begin seating parents 5 minutes before the ceremony. Parents of groom first, then seat mother of bride at exact time the wedding is to begin. No guests are seated by center aisle after mother of bride is seated. After mother of bride is seated (and unity candle is lit), signal Pastor, groom and groomsmen to enter.

The Wedding Coordinator will direct the bridesmaids in proper order: bridesmaids, maid of honor, flower girl and ring bearer; keeping the bride out of view. They will start the first bridesmaid when the Pastor and groom are in place in front of church and remind them to walk slow and smile. When each bridesmaid is halfway down the aisle, (for a guide use the 3rd group of white floor tiles or the pillar with the thermostat), the next bridesmaid will begin down the aisle. They will close the church double doors and signal organist to change music. They will then open the double doors and start the bride when the proper music begins. Traditionally, the bride is on father's left. If there is a long train on the dress, the bride and father may want to switch so the father does not have to walk around train. The doors will close as the bride is proceeding down the aisle. After all of the guests have turned to face the altar, the welcome center lights will be turned off. The coordinator will seat latecomers down side aisles and will remain in the Welcome Center for emergencies.

When Recessional Starts, the Wedding Coordinator will open the double doors.

Parents of the bride are escorted out first, then the parents of groom, and the grandparents will follow. The Wedding Coordinator will make sure there is a classroom open for the bridal party if there is to be no receiving line.

AFTER THE SERVICE:

After all photos have been taken, the Wedding Coordinator will return the Unity Candle/Sand table and put the railing back in place. After everyone has left, she will make sure dressing rooms are straightened and picked up. Straighten books in pews and pick up any leftover bulletins. Empty trash cans from all the rooms used. (Bring trash bag along.)

If there is no church service following the wedding, they will make sure all lights are turned off and doors are locked.

Please fill out the following form for the Wedding Coordinator.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Information for the Wedding Coordinator

Bride: _____ Groom: _____

Bride's Phone#: _____ Groom's Phone#: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Rehearsal Time: _____

Wedding Date: _____ Wedding Time: _____

Officiating Pastor: _____ Musicians: _____

Florist: _____ Delivery Time: _____

Photographer: _____ Arrival Time: _____

Videographer: _____ Any Pictures Before Wedding? Yes / No

Wedding Banners? Yes / No Unity Candle/Sand? Yes / No

of Bridesmaids? _____ # of Groomsmen? _____ # of additional Ushers? _____

Flower girl? Yes / No Ring bearer? Yes / No Scripture Readers? Yes / No

Bridesmaids & Groomsmen walking together OR Bridesmaids walking & meeting Groomsmen in front

Reserved pews for close family other than parents /grandparents? Yes / No If so, how many? _____

Other special requests? _____

Welcome Center receiving line? Yes / No Dismiss guests from the front of church? Yes / No

Mother of Bride: _____ Mother Groom: _____

Father of bride: _____ Father of Groom: _____

Grandparents of Bride: _____

Grandparents of Groom: _____

For the rehearsal, please provide a list of bridesmaids/groomsmen walking in together as well as who is escorting the mother of the bride, mother of the groom, and grandparents.

WEDDING SAMPLES

WEDDING SERVICE

As a Lutheran practice, the wedding takes place within a service of worship, especially when performed in the church sanctuary. In that respect, God is the primary focus of the service, as worshipers praise Him, hear His Word, and pray to Him. Everything that takes place in the wedding service is guided by this principle. Weddings often take place in the church sanctuary, but other arrangements may be made. The Pastors will consider requests for services to be held elsewhere, i.e. at home, garden, park, etc. Here is a sample Order of Service for a wedding to be used as a guide for planning your wedding.

SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pre-service Music

Processional Music

Prayer of Invocation

The Scriptures

The Address

Special Music, if any (Solo)

Questions and answers

(Giving of Bride – optional)

Promises

Exchange of Vows

Exchange of Rings

The Pronouncement of Marriage

(Unity Candle – optional)

Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

COMPLETE SAMPLE WEDDING

Stand

When the wedding party has come to the foot of the altar, the Pastor says:

“In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Congregation says, “AMEN.”

“We are gathered here in the sight of God and of His Church to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in holy marriage. This is an honorable estate, which God Himself has instituted and blessed, and by which He gives us a picture of the very communion of Christ and His Bride, the Church. God has both established and sanctifies marriage and has promised to bless therein all who love and trust in Him and who seek to give Him their faithful worship and service, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity and, when it is God’s will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.”

Sit

Appropriate portions of Holy Scripture are read.

(Gen. 2:18-24) The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would Name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, He took one of the man’s ribs and closed the place up with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man. The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

(Eph. 5:21-33) Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church, His body, of which He is the Savior. Now as the Church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing of water through the Word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant Church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the Church - for we are members of His body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to

his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery - but I am talking about Christ and the Church. However, each one of you must also love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

(Matthew 19:4-6) “Haven’t you read,” Jesus said, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

An address may follow.

A hymn or solo may be sung.

Pastor asks, “Who gives this woman in marriage to this man?”

Father of the Bride says, “Her mother and I do.”

“Will you, as parents, family & friends, support, encourage, and strengthen and _____ in their marriage, Remembering them at all times in your prayers that God might lead them to live in love and obedience to His holy ordinance for the rest of their lives? Then answer, “We will.””

“We will.”

PROMISES:

The Pastor asks the bridegroom:

_____, Will you have this woman to be your wife, to live with her in holy marriage according to the Word of God? Will you love her, comfort her, honor her, and care for her in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be husband to her as long as you both shall live?

“I will.”

The Pastor asks the bride:

_____, Will you have this man to be your husband, to live with him in holy marriage according to the Word of God? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him, and care for him in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be wife to him as long as you both shall live?

“I will.”

Pass the bouquets, face each other and join hands.

WEDDING VOWS:

The bridegroom says after the Pastor:

I, _____ IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND THESE WITNESSES, TAKE YOU _____ TO BE MY WIFE, 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, FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES AND I PROMISE YOU MY FAITHFULNESS.

The bride, in the same way, says after the Pastor:

"I, _____ IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND THESE WITNESSES, TAKE YOU _____ TO BE MY 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, FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES AND I PROMISE YOU MY FAITHFULNESS.

The bride and bridegroom exchange rings, saying after the Pastor:

"Receive this ring as a pledge and token of my wedded love and faithfulness to you."

The Pastor may speak a blessing upon the pledging of their love with the exchange of rings.

"Grant Your blessing, O Lord, to _____ and _____ that they might be ever mindful of their solemn pledge and, trusting in your mercy, abound evermore in love all their days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

"Amen."

The bride and bridegroom may kneel at this point.

The Pastor says:

"Now that _____ and _____ have consented together in holy marriage, and have given themselves to each other by their solemn pledges, and have declared the same before God and these witnesses, I pronounce them to be husband and wife, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

"What God has joined together, let no one separate.

"Amen."

A hymn or solo may be sung.

The lighting of the Unity Candle or pouring of the Unity Sand (optional)

"The almighty and gracious God abundantly grant you His favor and sanctify and bless you with the blessing given our first parents in paradise that you may please Him both in body and soul and live together in holy love for the rest of your lives."

"Amen."

Stand

Let us pray.

“Almighty and everlasting God, our heavenly Father, grant that by your blessing _____ and _____ may live together according to Your Word and promise. Strengthen them in faithfulness and love toward each other. Sustain and defend them in all trial and temptation. Help them to live in faith toward you in the communion of your holy Church and in loving service to each other that they may ever enjoy your heavenly blessing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

“Amen.”

Pastor says, “Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

“OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE 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 ARE THE
KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER.
AMEN.

The Pastor pronounces the blessing:

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord makes His face to shine on you and be gracious to you;
The Lord looks upon you with His favor, and give you His peace. Amen.

I now present to you, Mr. and Mrs. _____.”

WEDDING CHECKLIST

Few weddings involve all the options listed here. Develop your own lists and calendar to schedule appointments, make necessary arrangements, secure the cooperation of the people involved, and to list both anticipated and actual expenses.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Pastor
- Organist
- Instrumentalist(s)
- Soloist/choir
- Wedding Coordinator
- Photographer
- Videographer

AT THE CHURCH

- Church Usage
- Coordinator
- Bulletins
- Flowers
- Church
- Pews
- Bridal Bouquet
- Wedding Party
- Honored relatives / Special guests
- Other Church Decorations
- Guest book
- Unity candle
- Other special items
(photos, banners, etc.)

PERSONAL

- Rings
- Bridal gown, veil, and accessories
- Groom's suit/tuxedo
- Marriage license
- Hairdresser and barber

LEGAL MATTERS

- Name change
- Bank, Social Security, driver's license, credit cards
- Beneficiaries: insurance, wills
- Post office: change of address
- Newspaper announcement

GENERAL

- Printing: invitations, announcements, thank-you notes, napkins, bulletins
- Postage for invitations, announcements, thank-you notes
- Bridal registry
- Lodging for special out-of-town guests

THE WEDDING PARTY

- Gifts
- Bride's luncheon
- Bachelor dinner
- Rehearsal dinner

THE RECEPTION

- Hall
- Music
- Food/caterer
- Wedding cake & Top
- Wedding-cake knife & server
- Decorations
- Wedding couple
- Transportation
- Specialties

THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR YOUR WEDDING

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____
Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____
Organist: _____ Soloist: _____
Florist: _____ Photographer: _____

Number in Wedding Party _____ Women _____ Men
Flower Girl: Yes/No Ring Bearer: Yes/No Number of rings _____

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING SERVICE:

Any changes from the established order must be discussed with and approved by the Pastor officiating.

Traditional Vows? Yes/No
(All vows are repeated after the Pastor – no memorization required.)

We would like to write our own vows? Yes/No
(these must be approved by the Pastor)

We would like the father of the bride to respond to the question: “Who gives this woman to be married to this man?” with the answer “I do,” or “her mother and I.” Yes/No

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Roses? Yes/No Unity Candle/Sand? Yes/No

Special Music? Yes/No Solos? Yes/No

Receiving line in the Welcome Center? Yes/No

Receiving line in the chapel? Yes/No

Are the wedding flowers to remain in the Church for Sunday? Yes/No

Will this wedding be videotaped? Yes/No

Reception in the Aulick Center or Welcome Center? Yes/No

No Alcoholic Beverages will be permitted at any time on church property!

SUGGESTED MUSIC FOR YOUR WEDDING

SIDE A – ORGAN MUSIC

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Jesus, Lead Thou On | P. Manz |
| 2. Canon in D | J. Pachelbel |
| 3. Solemn Processional | G. F. Handel |
| 4. Processional | G. F. Handel |
| 5. Sheep May Safely Graze | J. F. Bach |
| 6. Thanks Be to God | G. F. Handel |
| 7. Jesu, Joy of Man's | J. S. Bach |
| 8. Processional of Joy | Hopson |
| 9. Trumpet Tune in D | H. Purcell |
| 10. Agincourt Hymn | J. Dunstable |
| 11. Trumpet Voluntary in D | H. Purcell |
| 12. Prelude in C Major | J. S. Bach |
| 13. Toccata in E Minor | J. Pachelbel |
| 14. Praise to the Lord | P. Manz |
| 15. Psalm XIX | B. Marcello |
| 16. Praise to the Lord | Michaelson |
| 17. Rigaudon | Campra |
| 18. Now Thank We All Our God | Karq-Elert |
| 19. Postlude | H. Rohlig |
| 20. Holy God We Praise | F. Peeters |
| 21. #'s 1, 5, 7, 14 & "Trumpet Fanfare" using flute or trumpet | |

SIDE B – VOCAL MUSIC

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Wedding Prayer | Dunlap |
| 2. Take Thou Their Hands | Silcher |
| 3. The Wedding Song | H. Scheutz |
| 4. Be Thou With Them | J. S. Bach |
| 5. O Love That Casts | J. S. Bach |
| 6. Love Divine, All Love | Welsch Tn. |
| 7. Jesus, Shepherd | J. S. Bach |
| 8. The Lord's Prayer | Malotte |
| 9. Brother James' Air | G. Jacob |
| 10. Jesus, Joy of Man's | J. S. Bach |
| 11. The Lord's Prayer | M. Head |
| 12. Be With Us, Lord | G. Young |
| 13. One Hand, One Heart | Stickles |
| 14. The Gift of Love | H. Hopson |
| 15. Teach Me, Lord | McGlohon |
| 16. Treasurers | Honeytree |
| 17. In This Quiet Hour | L. Clark |
| 18. We have Love | C. Kershaw |
| 19. Song for Christian Wedding | C. Gire |
| 20. A Time For Joy | G. Limpic |
| 21. Wedding Song with Christian text | |

HYMNS APPROPRIATE FOR CONGREGATIONAL SINGING (Numbers from Lutheran Service Book) O Perfect Love (452); O Father, All Creating (858); Blest Be the Tie That Binds (649); Let us Ever Walk With Jesus (685); Praise to the Lord (790); Lord Jesus Christ, Be sent Now (902); Now Thank We all Our God (895); O Holy Spirit, Enter In (913). In addition to these hymns, the Director of Worship and Music can share additional texts written especially for weddings set to familiar tunes.

Some Examples of acceptable Contemporary Christian Music include: There are many songs today that mention God in the text but are still not suitable songs in order to worship God, the primary function of your wedding ceremony. Please consider this primary function, worship, as you consider music for your wedding.

This is the Day (A Wedding Song)
Shine on Us
Surely the Presence Of the Lord
How Beautiful
Shout to the Lord

Beautiful One
I Could Sing of Your Love Forever
Your Love is Amazing
One Thing Remains

By no means is the list exhaustive, but only a sampling of material suitable for wedding worship service. Again, the Minister of Worship and Music will approve all music selections.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEDDINGS

1 Corinthians 13:1-3
1 Corinthians 13:13
1 Corinthians 13:4-8
1 John 3:18
1 John 4:8
1 John 4:9-12
1 Peter 4:8
Colossians 2: 6-10
Colossians 3:12-17
Colossians 3:14-20
Corinthians 7: 1-16
Deuteronomy 24:5
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
Ephesians 4:1-3
Ephesians 5:1-2
Ephesians 5:21-33
Ephesians 5:3-21
Genesis 2:18, 21-24
Hebrews 13:4-7

Isaiah 62:5
Joshua 24:15
Mark 10:6-9
Matthew 19:4-6
Matthew 7:24-27
Proverbs 18:22
Proverbs 30:18-19
Proverbs 31:10
Psalms 100
Psalms 117
Psalms 127
Psalms 128
Romans 12: 9-21
Ruth 1:16-17
Song of Solomon 1:2
Song of Solomon 2:16
Song of Solomon 4:10
Song of Solomon 8:6
Song of Solomon 8:7