

Wedding Service Planning

Date of Service: _____ Time: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____

Groom's full name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Church Membership: _____ Phone: _____

Pastor: _____

Bride's full name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Church Membership: _____ Phone: _____

Pastor: _____

Bridal Party: Number of Attendants - _____

List names as you want listed in the bulletin

Maid/Matron of Honor: _____

Best Man: _____

Bridesmaids: _____

Ushers: _____

Flower Girl: _____

Ring bearer: _____

Service Arrangements:

Will there be communion? Yes No

Declaration of intention: Couple Version 1 2 3

Assembly Version 1 2

Readings:

First Reading - _____

Psalm – _____

2nd Reading - _____

Gospel - _____

Reader:

Other: _____

Music/Hymn/s – and composer or hymnal number:

Processional - _____

Hymn of the Day - _____

Recessional - _____

After Vows - _____

Other - _____

Organist – Mr. Donald Hinkle

Phone – 610-777-8916

Soloist/s - _____

Phone - _____

Which Vows? 1. 2. 3. 4. Our own

Will there be a unity candle? Yes No

Bulletin chosen? Yes No

Will you place flowers on the altar? Yes No

Declaration of intention

At the beginning of the service the pastor will address the couple with a declaration of intent. Below are the available options for this portion of the service. Please choose one of the versions below.

Version 1:

Pastor: _____, 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?

Response: I will.

Version 2:

Pastor: _____, will you receive _____ as your wife/husband and bind yourself to her/him in the covenant of marriage? Will you promise to love and honor her/him in true devotion, to rejoice with her/him in times of gladness, to grieve with her/him in times of sorrow, and to be faithful to her/him as long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

Version 3:

Pastor: _____, living in the promise of God, (joined to Christ in baptism,) will you give yourself to _____ in love and faithfulness? Will you share your life with her/him, in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness, for richer, for poorer, for better, for worse, and will you be faithful to her/him as long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

If advisable, the minister may address the families of the couple in these or similar words.

Pastor: Will you, the families of _____ and _____, give your love and blessing to this new family?

Families: We will.

Below are the available options for a congregational response to the declaration. Choose one of the versions below.

Version 1:

Pastor: Will all of you, by God's grace, uphold and care for _____ and _____ in their life together?

All: We will.

Version 2:

Pastor: Families, friends, and all those gathered here with _____ and _____, will you support and care for them, sustain and pray for them in times of trouble, give thanks with them in times of joy, honor the bonds of their covenant, and affirm the love of God reflected in their life together?

All: We will.

Readings:

The Bible readings chosen for a wedding may have special meaning for the bride and groom. The Bible speaks of love not so much as emotion, but as relationship. The primary relationship is that of God's unfailing love for the human family, a love that scripture often describes in the language of marriage (Isaiah 54:5-8, Hosea 2:16-23, Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33, Revelation 19:1, 5-9a).

The scripture also speaks of the love of a man and woman. The union of marriage is a gift of God, not to be entered into lightly; what God has united should not be separated. In marriage, two become one and the physical expression of love is a holy thing. Love is real and active; it takes attention and work (Genesis 2:18-24, Romans 12:1-2, 9-18, I Corinthians 13:4-7, I John 3:18-24, Matthew 7:21, 24-29, Mark 10:6-9).

The Bible makes it clear that marriage is not a private matter, either between husband and wife or between the couple and God. The gift of love is shared with family and friends, and with the larger community (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Colossians 3:12-17, Matthew 5:13-16, John 2:1-11)

First Reading

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:18-24

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

Song of Solomon 8:7

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalms (*usually read or sung responsively between the reader and the assembly*)

33 100 117 127 128 136 150

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-2

Ephesians 5:21-33

I John 4:7-12

I Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel Reading

Matthew 19:4-6

John 2:1-10

John 15:9-12

This list of readings is by no means exhaustive if there is a specific reading you would like shared during your wedding please consult the pastor.

The Vows:

What constitutes a marriage is not anything the pastor says but the couple's exchange of vows in the presence of witnesses. These promises are intended to bind the couple for life. The choosing and writing of such promises is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what has brought them to this point in their relationship and what they hope for the future. Although certain words have taken on the force of tradition, there are no required words, nor do the bride and groom have to use the same words. What is central is the promise of faithfulness under all circumstances for life.

While the heart of the service is this promise of love and faithfulness, there are other symbolic actions that a couple may choose to underscore their spoken vows. The most common and long standing is the exchange of rings. Others include the draping of flower garlands or leis, the use of wedding crowns or a canopy, the jumping over a broom, or lighting of a unity candle. None of these additional actions should overshadow the central promise or detract from a sense of worship.

Please chose one of the vows below for your service or create your own in consultation with the pastor.

1. 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 (obey) 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 until death parts us.
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) 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 until death parts us.
4. I take you _____, to be my wife (husband) from this day forward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

Music

Music is chosen for special meaning to the couple and to express the worship of God. Hymns and songs celebrate God's unfailing love, especially as it is lived out in love for one another. Congregational singing allows those gathered to express their faith, support, and joy in a rich way. The music of soloists and instrumentalists honors God-given talent and is, in turn, a gift both to the couple and to God.

Music, like the wedding itself, should be an act of worship. It is sacrificial rather than sacramental, a prayer to God rather than words of a lover to the beloved.

Such sentimental and popular secular numbers as, "If", "Annie's Song", "Because", "I Love You Truly", "Through the Years", "Evergreen", etc. detracts from the Marriage Service. The Bridal Chorus from the opera Lohengrin, and the Wedding March from Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream* are secular works, written for stage, not the church. Intimate and personal musical favorites of the bride and groom are appropriate at the reception.

Because of the importance of these guidelines it is necessary for you to meet with the organist prior to the final selection of music. Whether the congregational organist or a visiting organist plays, all music must be approved by the congregation's organist.

These guidelines are established by the Lutheran Church and all other liturgical churches.

Suggested appropriate music:

Processionals or Recessionals

Trumpet Tune – Purcell

Thine is the Glory – Handel

Canon in D - Pachelbel

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach

Psalm 19 – Marcello

Trumpet Voluntary – Purcell

Aria in F Major – Handel

Vocal Selections

O Perfect Love – Barnby

Entreat Me Not to Leave Thee – Gounod

Ave Maria – Schubert or Bach

Panis Angelicus – Franck

The Greatest of These is Love – Bitgood

The Lord's Prayer – Malotte (recital section only)

Wedding Prayer – Dunlap

Wedding Song – Stookey

The King of Love My Shepherd Is – Gounod

I'll Walk With God – Brodsky-Webster

This is by no means exhaustive if there is specific music have in mind please consult the organist and pastor.

Hymns

Hymns can be found in the Evangelical Lutheran book of Worship. This is not an exhaustive list. Many of the hymns found in the ELW may be considered for your wedding. In the back of the ELW on pages 1178-1188 is a topical list of hymns you may want to consider listed under specific topics like: AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM, DISCIPLESHIP, TRUST, WITNESS etc... If you have a particular hymn in mind please talk to the pastor.

502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is	527 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now
539 Abide with us Our Savior	585 Hear Us Now, Our God and Father
586 This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited	631 Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling
786 O Holy Spirit, Enter In	778 The Lord's My Shepherd
796 How Firm a Foundation	802 Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus
836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	839/840 Now Thank We All Our God
867 In Thee Is Gladness	870 We Praise You, O God
881 Let All Things Now Living	883 All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Bulletins

Bulletins may be ordered through the church. If you have access to the internet please look at these various sites for bulletin options. After choosing a bulletin, consult with the pastor before ordering. Do not choose tri-fold. Either 8 ½ by 11 or 14 by 8 ½ . Please have these bulletins selected by your second premarital session with the pastor.

www.Christianbook.com	type in under search – keywords: bulletins click on bulletin store click on wedding –
www.cph.org	type in under search – bulletins – hit go click on wedding
www.truevinebooks.com	click on wedding programs and bulletins

Communion

The understanding of a wedding as a worship service and the biblical metaphor of the heavenly banquet as the marriage feast of the Lamb lead many couples to include the celebration of Holy Communion. When Holy Communion is offered it is open to all baptized persons. Members of the bridal party, family or even the bride and groom themselves may assist during communion.

Misc. Notes on Weddings

- Members of the family and wedding party are more than just decorative extras. Those in the congregation are more than just spectators. Individuals may be asked to read lessons, share music, or assist in communion. All can sing hymns, join in blessings or other responses, and offer prayers.
- Marriage rites no longer include language implying that the bride is 'given' in marriage by her parents. However, many marriage services recognize the change in family dynamics that marriage brings. The marriage rite can include a parental blessing of the couple. When the bride or groom bring children into the marriage there may be an opportunity for words or actions that recognize this blending.
- The prayers of intercession include not only prayers for the couple, but for friends, family, the church and the world. Special prayers of intercession may be added – for family and friends unable to be present, for those absent due to illness, for those who have suffered the loss of parent/child/spouse, and for those who feel unloved. Please make sure you talk to the pastor if you would like specific people mentioned in the prayers.
- Some couples extend an open invitation to their wedding to all members of the congregation. Occasionally a couple chooses to celebrate their wedding within the usual Sunday morning worship service. Both of these practices recognize the importance of the faith community in the lives of the bride and groom.