

***YOUR WEDDING  
at  
NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH***



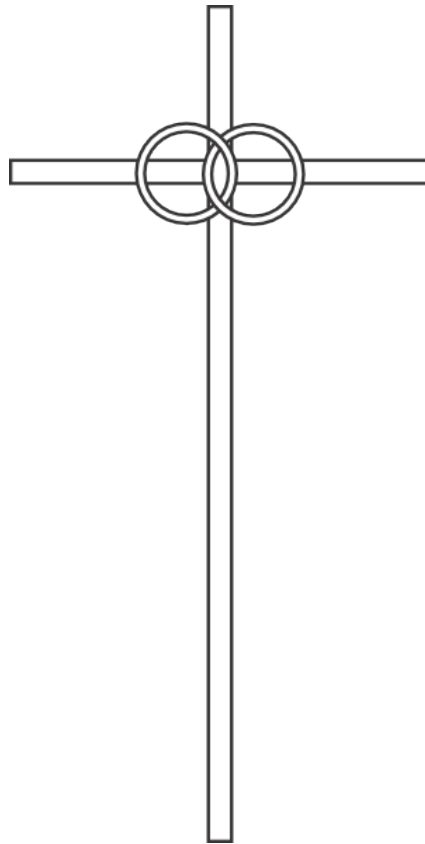
The scriptures teach us that the bond and covenant of marriage is a gift of God in which a man and a woman are joined as one, an image of the union of Christ and the church. As promises are made to one another today, we remember that at Cana in Galilee our Lord Jesus Christ made the wedding feast a sign of God's reign of love.

Let us enter into this celebration confident that, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now also. We pray that this couple may fulfill God's purpose for the whole of their lives. -ELW Marriage

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## INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a gift of God, intended for the joy and mutual strength of those who enter it and for the well-being of the whole human family. God created us male and female and blessed humankind with the gifts of companionship, the capacity to love, and the care and nurture of children. Jesus affirmed the covenant of marriage and revealed God's own self-giving love on the cross. The Holy Spirit helps those who are united in marriage to be living signs of God's grace, love, and faithfulness.

Marriage is also a human estate, with vows publicly witnessed. The church in worship surrounds these promises with the gathering of God's people, the witness of the word of God, and prayers of blessing and intercession.\*

We recognize that sin can injure and destroy those intentions. It is for that reason that pre-marital counseling is important. During pre-marital counseling, a couple is asked to take a look at all the facts of their relationship. Hopefully, the process strengthens the relationship to give hope for a lasting marriage. No pre-marital counseling program can guarantee a successful marriage. Only God can help you to be faithful and dedicated to each other.

Your wedding day is an important day in your lives; your church and pastor are pleased to share this happy occasion with you. So that you might remember all the events of your wedding with joy, we wish to do everything possible to make it a most pleasing, memorable, and joyful experience.

At New Life Lutheran Church, your wedding ceremony will be a sacred service of lasting spiritual significance. All of the plans relating to the ceremony should bear this in mind.

As worship, all things are to praise God for all the goodness and mercy God has given us. We hope your wedding will be remembered as an occasion of joy. The purpose of this handbook is to make you aware of the wedding policies and practices at New Life Lutheran Church. Please read it carefully and use this information as you make your plans. Your careful consideration of details will help ensure a smooth and beautiful ceremony, making your wedding a time of joy.

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## **WEDDING CHECK LIST**

1. Arrange the wedding date with the pastor and church office.
2. Fill out and turn in the wedding information sheet to the pastor.
3. Attend three to four pre-marital counseling sessions, starting at least three months prior to the wedding day. This time will also be used to plan the wedding service.
4. Meet with the musician to plan music for the service.
5. Give rules/procedures to the photographer.
6. Give rules/procedures to the Florist/ Decorator.
7. Bring your marriage license to the rehearsal.

## **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Because marriage is a matter of legal record, all weddings are to be observed in accord with the laws of the State of Iowa. Here are some facts you will need to know:

1. No wedding will be celebrated unless a Marriage License has been legally obtained.
2. Application for a Marriage License can be made at the Clerk of Courts Office in any county. The application requires a witness to verify the age and qualifications of the applicants. Application for the Marriage License should be made at least one week prior to the wedding date.
3. The Marriage License is valid for six months. The Certificate of Marriage will be signed at the rehearsal. Following the wedding, the pastor will be responsible for returning the completed certificate to the Clerk of Courts Office.
4. Any person under 18 years of age must have the consent of parents or guardian.

## **PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING**

“Those who plan to be married should discuss with the pastor the nature of the marriage relationship and the form of the service, as well as confirm the date and time of the wedding.” (Rubrics, Lutheran Book of Worship)

1. The intent in Pre-Marital Counseling is to probe the various facets of marriage, helping the couple examine their attitudes and beliefs about marriage.
2. No wedding will be performed without Pre-Marital Counseling.
3. As soon as the intent to be married has been decided, the couple should contact the pastor to arrange for an initial appointment. During this appointment, the couple will receive the “NLLC Wedding Manual” and the “The Prepare/Enrich Inventory”
4. The couple should plan to attend 3 pre-marital counseling sessions with the pastor. Each session will run from one to one and a half hours.

## **THE REHEARSAL**

The main purpose of the rehearsal is to acquaint the participants with the general flow of the wedding service so all are comfortable with their role in the service.

1. All participants are to be present for the rehearsal. This includes the Bride, Groom, Parents, Bridal Party, Ushers, Acolytes, and Musicians.
2. The date and time of the Wedding Rehearsal will be set with the pastor during one of the pre-marital counseling sessions.
3. Please notify all participants as to the correct time and place. (Hint: sometimes it helps to inform some people a time 15 minutes earlier than scheduled.)
4. Normally the rehearsal will take about 45 minutes, if all participants are present at the designated start time.

## THE WEDDING SERVICE

We have a rich heritage of worship involved in the Wedding Service. Our services will center on God's grace and on God's action in a couple's life together as wife and husband.

1. Final instructions for the wedding service should be made during the rehearsal. Once the rehearsal is completed the arrangements are final.
2. A general outline of the order of worship for the wedding can be found on 16 of this booklet and on pp. 286-291 of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book.
3. Scripture for the wedding service may be selected by the couple from either the list provided or from the couples own choosing with approval by the pastor.
4. A Unity Candle may be used. The couple may purchase their own candles. A Unity Candelabra or stand will also need to be provided.
5. If a guest book is used, it may be placed in the south entrance or in the Fellowship Hall before the wedding. If a reception takes place at the church after the wedding, the guest book can remain in place following the ceremony.
6. The candles are to be lit by an acolyte of the couple's choosing.
7. All ushers are to be in place at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the wedding service. Ushers need to attend the rehearsal so that they can be given instructions.



## **FACILITIES**

1. The church worship space provides an attractive and worshipful setting with a seating capacity of approximately 150 persons. By setting up chairs in the fellowship center, approximately 70 additional persons can be added.
2. A wedding party of up to 6 attendants can be accommodated.
3. Dressing rooms for both bride and groom and their attendants are available. The bride and her attendants may use a classroom in the south wing for dressing. Bathrooms and a full-length mirror are available in this area.
4. The sending off of the Bride and Groom will take place outside and for environmental reasons only bubbles or birdseed can be used in the send off.
5. If additional candelabra are to be used, their placement must be approved by the altar guild. The altar guild contact is Karen Chapman and she can be reached at 981-5121.
6. For safety reasons, an aisle runner is not advised.
7. No food or beverages may be taken into the worship space at any time.
8. Smoking or the use of tobacco products is not allowed inside the church building.
9. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed anywhere on the church property, including the parking lot and the south field.

## **FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS**

Flowers add to the beauty of the service. Care should be taken so that the flowers will not detract from the beauty of the Worship.

1. Floral arrangements may be placed on flower stands around the altar.
2. All plans for flowers should be discussed with the pastor.
3. The couple is responsible for arranging with the florist a delivery time that is approved by the office.
4. No tacks, nails, cellophane tape, or similar material should be used in decorating. Decorations may not be attached to walls or furniture in a manner that will leave permanent marks.
5. For safety reasons, the use of an aisle runner is not suggested.
6. Furniture, musical instruments, or any other items in the sanctuary are not to be moved by anyone other than church personnel.
7. All flowers and other decorations shall be removed from the church promptly following the wedding ceremony or reception, if the reception is held in the Fellowship Hall. Arrangements can also be made for flower arrangements to be used in future worship.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS & VIDEO**

Photographs and video can capture the memories of your special day that you will want to remember.

1. To uphold the dignity of the wedding ceremony, flash pictures by the professional photographer or wedding guests are not be permitted during the time of worship. Non-flash or time exposure photographs can be taken as long as the photographer or guest is discreet.
2. Pictures may be taken either before or after the wedding. If taken before the wedding, they must be concluded one hour before the wedding is to begin. Make sure you schedule with the pastor the time that the pictures will be taken so as not to create a conflict with other events or weddings.
3. If the pastor is to be included in any pictures, please discuss this with him during the pre-marital counseling sessions.
4. Video is permitted, as long as the positioning of the recorder does not detract from the wedding. Please see pastor for the best placement of a video camera.

## MISCELLANEOUS

1. Although bulletins are available for the Wedding Service, it costs less for the couple to have a printer make their bulletins. If you would like the church office to create your bulletins, please give the office the needed information at least six weeks prior to the wedding service.
2. For bulletins created at a printer the pastor will need to proof read the bulletin at least one month before the wedding service.
3. If you would like to have another clergy participate in your wedding, this must be discussed with and approved by the pastor. Any invitation to another pastor should be issued by the pastor of New Life.
4. Cost: Following is a fee and suggested honoraria schedule. For other expenses, beyond those listed below, such as for bulletins, candles, and other items for which the couple is expected to pay, the couple will receive a bill from the church and payment for these additional items is due one week prior to the date of the wedding.

	Member	Non-member
Organist	\$125	\$150
Custodian	\$50	\$75
Custodian (with reception)	\$100	\$150
Pastor	As desired: \$200 is suggested	\$300
Use of the worship space for wedding service and rehearsal	Free Will Offering	\$200
Use of the worship space for rehearsal only	Free Will Offering	\$100

## **SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-28: Woman and man created in God's image

Genesis 2:18-24: Companionship rather than loneliness

Proverbs 3:3-6: Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart

Song of Solomon 2:10-13: The voice of the beloved

Song of Solomon 8:6-7: Many waters cannot quench love

Isaiah 63:7-9: God's steadfast love lifts up the people

Jeremiah 31:31-34: The new covenant of the people of God

### Psalms

67: May God be merciful to us and bless us

100: We are God's people

117: The steadfast love of the LORD

121: The LORD keeps watch over you

127: Unless the LORD builds the house

128: Happy are they who follow in God's ways

150: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD

### New Testament

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39: If God is for us, who is against us?

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18: A living sacrifice and genuine love

1 Corinthians 12:31 — 13:13 The greatest gift is love

Ephesians 3:14-19: The greatness of Christ's love

Ephesians 5:1-2: Live in love, as Christ loved us

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

Colossians 3:12-17: Clothed in gifts of God

1 John 3:18-24: Let us love in truth and action

1 John 4:7-16: Let us love one another, for love is of God

### Gospel

Matthew 5:1-10: The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:14-16: You are the light, let your light shine

Matthew 7:24-27: Build on the rock

Matthew 19:3-6: What God has united must not be divided

Matthew 22:35-40: Love, the greatest commandment

Mark 10:6-9: They are no longer two but one

John 2:1-11: The wedding at Cana

John 15:9-17: Love one another as I have loved you

## **SUGGESTED MARRIAGE VOWS**

Marriage vows from other sources may be used, or couples may write their own vows as a personal expression of their commitment to each other. If vows other than those below are to be used, please review with the pastor one month in advance of the ceremony.

1. 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. (This vow is in the Lutheran Book of Worship)

2. I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and to that I promise my faithfulness.

3. I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/ husband. 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 worst of what is to come as long as we live.

4. 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.

5. \_\_\_\_\_, 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.

## MUSIC

Music can be an integral part of the Wedding Service. These guidelines will help you in selecting appropriate music.

1. Contact our accompanist, Darrel Jurgens at [darljurg@hotmail.com](mailto:darljurg@hotmail.com), as soon as you have reserved the church for your wedding, to plan music for the service.
2. Later in this booklet is a list of approved music from which to choose. These are only suggestions; other music can be selected.
3. Please submit any song not on the above-mentioned list to the pastor at least six weeks prior to the wedding for approval. Remember this is a worship service, so the music used ought to reflect our faith in God.
4. On the music list are included a number of hymns for congregational singing. This allows your guests to take a more active role at your wedding.

### Suggested Hymns

Since the marriage ceremony is a service of worship, the music used throughout the wedding is to reflect a theme of Christian Faith. There is an abundance of appropriate organ and vocal music available. This list is a guideline for you in choosing music for your wedding; it is not an all-inclusive list. If you want to use a song not on this list, please choose hymns that uplift the nature of the service.

### Suggested Processionals and Recessionals

Bach, J. S.	Arioso Jesu, Priceless Treasure Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring Now Thank We All Our God
Beethoven, L. V.	Hymn to Joy
Buszin, W.	Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus
Cruger, Johann	Now Thank We All Our God
Fedak	Processional
Galic Melody	Praise and Thanksgiving
Handel, G. F.	Solemn Processional Andante Tranquillo (from Water Music)

	Arioso; Fanfare (from Water Music)
	Where'r You Walk (from Semele)
Held	Wedding Processional
Johnson, David	Prelude in C Major
	Processional in A Flat Major
Kaufman, G.	Six Chorales for Organ and Trumpet
Karg-Elert	Now Thank We All Our God
Pachabel, J.	Tocatta in E Minor Fantasia
Purcell, Henry	Trumpet Voluntary in D Major
	Trumpet Tune in D Major
	Trumpet Tune and Air;
	Trumpet Voluntary
Wagner	Trumpet Tune

You may also select any Hymn from the “Evangelical Lutheran Worship”, “The Hymnal Supplement”, “With One Voice”, or you may use other hymns or contemporary Christian songs.

#### Suggested Hymns for Congregational Singing

308: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!  
312: Jesus, Come! For We Invite You  
436: Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying  
460: Now the Silence  
488, 489: Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness  
585: Hear Us Now, Our God and Father  
586: This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited  
631: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
642: Ubi caritas et amor  
644: Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue  
648: Beloved, God's Chosen  
816: Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life  
836: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee  
839, 840: Now Thank We All Our God  
879: For the Beauty of the Earth  
881: Let All Things Now Living



## WEDDING BULLETIN WORKSHEET

Organ Prelude: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vocal music (optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
Seating of Grandparents & Parents  
Processional: \_\_\_\_\_  
Greeting  
Declaration of Intention  
Prayer of the Day  
Readings  
Old Testament Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_  
Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_  
New Testament Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gospel Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_  
Message  
Hymn (optional)  
Vows  
Giving of Rings  
Unity Candle or other such sign of unity  
Vocal Music (optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
Acclamation  
Marriage Blessing  
Prayers of Intercession  
Lord's Prayer  
Sending  
Presentation of Couple (optional)  
Blessing  
Dismissal  
Recessional: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postlude: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE WEDDING PARTY WORKSHEET

Bride: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents of Bride: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents of Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

Maid/Matron of Honor: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Man: \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaids: (in order) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Groomsmen: (in order) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Flower Girl: \_\_\_\_\_

Ring Bearer: \_\_\_\_\_

Acolyte(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Ushers: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Attendant: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Book: \_\_\_\_\_

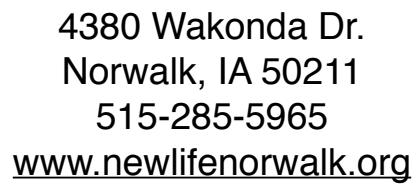
Host/Hostess of Reception: \_\_\_\_\_

Soloist: \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanist: \_\_\_\_\_

Officiant: Rev. Nathan J. Liedtke

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Sandy Anderson (Administrative Assistant)  
[newlifelutheranoffice@gmail.com](mailto:newlifelutheranoffice@gmail.com)