

Augustana Lutheran Church

603 ARMSTRONG BLVD. NORTH

ST. JAMES, MN 56081

(507) 375-4792

Wedding Handbook



Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! This is an exciting time for both of you and we are pleased that you have decided to take this important step through Augustana. Marriage is a great gift and a very significant commitment. We look forward to working with you to plan and celebrate your wedding and marriage.

This handbook will help you plan your service. The wedding service is intended to give all who participate an opportunity to worship joyfully and pray for God's blessings upon the newly married couple. Wedding services at Augustana will be conducted according to the Rite of Marriage in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* book (pages 286-292).

This handbook will also familiarize you with church policy regarding building use. It is intended to be helpful for you, if you have any questions about anything, please ask the pastor. There is flexibility in these guidelines, do not hesitate to discuss ideas with the pastor.

God's blessings as you prepare for your marriage ceremony and life together.

Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner
Pastor

Church Office: 507-375-4792

Setting the Time and Date

Contact the church office to have your wedding time and date placed on the church calendar. It is good to have an alternative date in the event the church is in use. A rehearsal will also need to be scheduled and are generally the night before and take 30-45 minutes. The pastor is happy to help you prepare for your marriage. It is up to you to contact the pastor to set up meeting times.

Pre-Marital Counseling

An important part of wedding planning is preparation for marriage. The purpose of our pre-marriage ministry is to help you grow in faith and to assist you in strengthening your relationship with each other. There are several options for this and it will include a suggested donation (generally \$35) for a survey or retreat. For the reduction in your marriage license fee, the state of Minnesota requires twelve hours of pre-marital counseling.

License, Fees and Bulletin Information

No wedding can or will proceed without a license. The license, all fees (organist and custodian) and two copies of the order of service bulletin (if used), should be given to the church office no later than the Tuesday before your wedding.

Other Wedding Details

Church Policy and Information

- Augustana seats about 350 comfortably – 375 at most. The Social Hall seats 165-200.
- NO Alcohol is allowed on the premises. Anyone under the influence of alcohol will not be allowed to participate in the service.
- NO Smoking allowed on the property.
- The church does not assume responsibility for items left in dressing rooms, gifts, or other items brought to the church.
- Parties using the church are responsible for all damages.
- Rice and birdseed are a serious safety hazard and custodial problem. We respectfully ask you not to use them.
- There is no flash photography during the ceremony.
- Bulletins may be purchased and printed at stationery stores or print shops.
- Please consider including the following in your bulletin – “Flash photos severely distract from the ceremony. Please focus on the ceremony and refrain from taking photos or cellphone videos.”

Sanctuary Furnishings for Your Wedding

- Flowers may be placed anywhere in the chancel area, but are not allowed on the altar.
- Kneeler – A kneeler is provided by the church if you so choose.
- Banner – The church has a wedding banner you are welcome to use. The custodian will put it in its place.
- Paraments – The colors used on the altar, pulpit and lectern are for the season of the church and may not be changed. There is however, a beautiful white crocheted cloth that spans the length of the altar that will be put on the altar at your request.

- Please speak with the pastor about any other decorations on pews, etc.
- If you have questions on whether or not something is OK, ask.

Day of Your Wedding

- The church building will be open by 8:00 a.m. the day of the service.
- You should arrange the set-up details for flowers and unity candles at the rehearsal on the previous day as there is no staff person in the building until the afternoon on the day of the service.
- Photographers and videographers for during the service need to check with the pastor about set up for during the service.
- Flash photography and cellular phone photography is prohibited during the service.
- The bride and her attendants may dress in the lower Sunday School room area. The groom and groomsmen may dress in the upstairs Fireside Room or smaller classrooms in the lower level.

After the Ceremony

- Maid of Honor and Best Man, after recessional, come immediately to the room beside the altar to sign the marriage license before greeting guests
- At least one member of the wedding party should be designated to check pews, return hymnals, tidy rooms used, and be sure all personal belongings are picked up after the wedding.
- Rice, bird seed and confetti are not allowed.
- All décor must be cleared from sanctuary.

Suggested Donations

These can be adjusted for small weddings or other circumstances.

Building use – Sanctuary

Members

Non-Members \$100

Pastor

Members

Non-Members \$150

Add mileage for weddings outside of the St. James area.

Organist—Meeting to discuss music, rehearsal, and wedding \$125

Additional rehearsals with soloists or instrumentalists \$25

Custodial services \$75

Sound Technician, if needed \$50

Pre-Marriage Inventory used in pre-marriage class \$35

Planning Your Wedding Service

A marriage service is first and foremost a worship service. The service includes Scripture reading(s), a sermon, the exchange of vows, blessings and prayer. Many people also include special music, a unity candle or the celebration of Holy Communion as other symbols of God's blessing of marriage.

A typical order of service is listed here to assist you. We will provide whatever guidance you need in making decisions about readings, music and other elements of the service. We can, for example, include additional blessings, such as those by or for parents or stepchildren, if you wish.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Processional

Greeting

Declaration of Intention

Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Readings

Special Music

Message

Special Music

The Exchange of Vows

Giving of Rings

Marriage Blessing

Lighting of the Unity Candle (if desired) *Special Music*

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing God's Peace

Benediction

(Kiss)

Presentation of the Couple

Recessional

Postlude

Special Music is Optional

SCRIPTURE READINGS

A marriage service typically includes 2 or 3 readings from the Bible. You may select a reading from each category if you choose. The order of worship indicates that at least one lesson should be read. In addition to readings from the Bible, a selection from a secular source maybe used if it is in harmony with the spirit of a Christian Worship service and with the biblical understanding of marriage. Be especially careful with poetry. Many love poems are personal and private expressions not appropriate for public reading at a wedding.

The pastor can help you select readings if you wish, but there is no hard and fast rule about which lessons should be included in a marriage service. You, therefore, should feel free to choose lessons that express your faith, your love and your hopes for your life together as a married couple.

Many couples have found passages emphasizing joy, love, thankfulness, faithfulness and commitment meaningful and appropriate. The following passages are examples of readings sometimes selected for marriage services:

Old Testament Readings:

Genesis 1:26-31 Male and female created by God

Genesis 2:18-24 God creates man and woman

Genesis 24:48-51,58-67 Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah

Ruth 1:16-17 "Do not press me to leave you"

Song of Solomon 2:10-13 Love in the Spring

Isaiah 61:10-11 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord

Isaiah 63:7-9 The steadfast love of God

Jeremiah 32:38-41 God's faithfulness

Jeremiah 33:11 The voice...of gladness

Psalms: 29, 33, 34, 63, 100, 117, 127, 128, 136, 150

Hosea 2:19-20 "And I will take you for my wife forever"

Psalms: 33, 100, 117, 121, 127, 128, 136, 150

New Testament

Romans 12:1-2 A living offering

I Corinthians 12:31-13:13 The song of God's love

Ephesians 5:21-33 Marriage and the church

Colossians 3:12-17 Live in love and thanksgiving

Philippians 2:5-11 Attitudes to build a marriage

I John 3:16; 4:7-19 Teaching on love

The Gospels:

Matthew 19:4-6 Faithfulness in marriage

John 2:1-10 The Wedding at Cana

John 15:9-12 Love one another

John 17:22-23 Christ's prayer for love and unity

VOWS – Choose one

OPTION A: I take you to be my (from hymnal)

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.

OPTION B: In the presence of God (from hymnal)

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.

Other (not in hymnal)

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 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 better to 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 wedded wife/husband, to have
and to hold from this day forward, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in
health, to love and to cherish as long as God gives us life, and to
you _____, I pledge my love.

5. _____, I want to live with you just as you are. I will be honest with you
and forgive you, just as God has forgiven me. I love you for what you are to me
and for what you are to others. With Christ as my guide, I will attempt to provide
the unconditional love needed for your health and growth. I choose you above all
others, and promise to be faithful to you as long as life endures.

6. In the name of God and with Christ as my witness, I _____ take
you, _____ to be my wife/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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

You may wish to write your own vows. They should be consistent with the biblical understanding of
marriage and should make clear that the promises are a life-long commitment.

GIVING OF RINGS - Choose One

OPTION A: This ring as a sign

Name, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

OPTION B: This ring as a symbol

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.

MUSIC

The wedding ceremony is an act of worship, so the music you choose should praise God and reflect God's blessing of marriage through the Holy Spirit. Within that guideline, however, there is great freedom. Your music may be instrumental and/or vocal and include pieces by a soloist, group and/or congregational hymn(s).

Please contact our organist Cecelia to discuss your marriage service music. The organist is always at rehearsal. From our organist: "It is my honor and pleasure to play for your wedding and make your day unforgettable." The following is a list of music that the organist uses in weddings.

Processionals

Trumpet Voluntary – Purcell
Canon in D – Pachelbel
Jesu, Joy of Mans Desiring – Bach
Prince of Demark's March – Clarke
Allegro – Boyce
Largo – Handel
Arioso – Bach
Prelude in C – Bach
March Nuptiale – Sassmannshausen

Recessionals

Praise to the Lord the Almighty – Burkhardt
Fanfare – Lemmens
Now Thank We All Our God – Manz
God of Grace – Manz
Prelude in Classic Style – Young
Psalm 19 – Marcello
Trumpet Tune in D – Purcell
Hornpipe – Handel
Joyful, Joyful - Beethoven

Examples of Hymns for the Congregation

All Creatures of Our God and King	#825
Beautiful Savior	#838
Blest Be the Tie that Binds	#656

For the Beauty of the Earth	#879
Go, My Children with My Blessing	#543
Hear us Now, Our God and Father	#585
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	#836
Let All Things Now Living	#881
Lord of All Hopefulness	#765
Love Divine, All Love's Excelling	#631
Now Thank We All Our God	#840
O God Beyond All Praising	#880
On Eagles Wings	#787
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	#858
Shout to the Lord	#821
This is a Day, Lord,	#586
We Praise You O God	#870

**(Please print and fill out the information form
on the following pages)**

Wedding Information Form

Print this form and bring to the Pastor

Wedding Date: _____ Wedding Time: _____

Rehearsal Time: _____

Groom's full name: _____ Phone _____

Groom's address: _____

Groom's e-mail: _____

Bride's full name: _____ Phone _____

Bride's address: _____

Bride's e-mail: _____

Best Man: _____

Maid/Matron of Honor: _____

Bridesmaids in order they will stand:

Groomsmen in order they will stand:

Ring bearer: _____ Flower girl _____

Parent's Names _____

Grandparents who will attend:

Bride's side _____

Groom's side _____

Soloist _____

Accompanist _____

Photographer _____

Video _____

Scripture(s) chosen _____

Lector(s) _____

Vows _____ (Letter or number from list)

Giving of Rings _____ (A or B)

Aisle runner yes ___ no ___ (must be provided)

Candelabra yes ___ no ___

Unity Candle yes ___ no ___

Kneeler yes ___ no ___ (this is used for the marriage blessing)

Holy Communion yes ___ no ___

Anticipated number of guests: _____

Reception location _____

Meal time _____