

The Lutheran Church of Mahomet
410 E. Andover Dr.
Mahomet, IL 61853

WEDDING GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

Congratulations on your decision to marry! The decision to marry, to share one's future wholly with another is one of the most important decisions we make in life. It is a decision that requires a great deal of thought, discussion and prayer.

You have indicated your desire to be married in the Lutheran Church of Mahomet. Legally you can be married by a judge, a justice of the peace or a recognized minister. When you choose to be married by a minister in a church you are publicly proclaiming that God is central in your new relationship.

Because we take seriously that we are a place of faith and worship we believe that weddings held in our church should reflect a Christian worship service and not a civil ceremony. We value active involvement in the church as an expression of one's faith.

SETTING THE DATE

By now you have set or are considering a specific date for your marriage. **A word of caution!** Before you officially announce the date, reserve other facilities such as a reception hall or go to have your announcement printed...**check with the pastor** to make sure that the date is available on the church's calendar and the pastor's personal calendar. Certain holidays and/or other times may have special significance for you but they may not be available either for the church or the pastor. Holiday times are important to pastors and their families as well and they may not always be available on your preferred date.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING AND PLANNING

Most couples look forward to marriage feeling that they are well prepared for the big day as well as life together in a future together. The high rate of divorce and separation in our society suggests this is not true. The pastor will plan to have 3-4 premarital counseling and planning sessions with you prior to the wedding. Please take this time into account when you look at possible dates for your wedding.

OFFICIATING AND VISITING CLERGY

One of the current pastors of the Lutheran Church of Mahomet **must** officiate at your wedding. Other ordained clergy and laypersons may participate in the ceremony, with the officiating pastor's permission. Visiting pastors may give the wedding meditation or read the scripture lessons. When there is not a current pastor at LCM, another Lutheran pastor may officiate.

USE OF THE WORSHIP AREA

The wedding ceremony is a worship service and is conducted in a place of worship. This should be a joyous time and a celebration of God's presence in your relationship. Consideration should be given to what is being done and where it is being done. We ask that respect for the worship area be shown at all times. The nursery area is NOT available unless the wedding party has a designated adult attendant. (This applies to rehearsal and service.)

The sanctuary at Lutheran Church of Mahomet seats 350. Our fellowship hall seats approximately 135-140 around tables. The facilities are air conditioned. The pastor and the wedding coordinator have final approval to all decorations and candles. **No smoking** is allowed **on church property**.

No showering of the bridal couple with rice or bird seed is allowed. Bubbles, flower petals, balloons, lavender buds, and party streamers are allowed outside.

PICTURES AND RECORDINGS

Please inform your family and friends who may be taking pictures that they may **NOT** take pictures during the actual ceremony, which begins with the invocation and ends with the benediction (Pictures may be taken during the processional and recessional.). Camera flashes and sounds and the movement of people are distracting for others and interrupt the flow and dignity of the service.

Videotaping is allowed as long as it is done from a fixed location to the side or rear of the sanctuary. Audio recording is also allowed. You are responsible for supplying the media for recordings.

REHEARSAL

In most situations, a rehearsal is needed. The rehearsal is generally held the evening before the wedding. The date, time, and location needs to be discussed with the pastor. All those who will have a part in the wedding should attend the rehearsal. Normally this will include parents, wedding party, organist, soloist, ushers, candle lighters, flower girls, ring bearers, guest book attendants, etc.

All rehearsals will start on time and will last approximately 45 minutes. (For Saturday weddings this usually means a 6 pm Friday rehearsal.) Although the rehearsal is generally informal, the setting is still in the worship area. We ask that you show respect for God and the space during rehearsal.

***Plan to identify one or more persons who are responsible for making sure that changing rooms are picked up the day of the ceremony, as well as gathering up flowers and flower boxes, etc. The church is not responsible for any items left behind.

DECORATIONS AND FLOWERS

Chancel Furnishings: Furnishings such as the altar, lectern, etc. may not be moved or removed without the pastor's permission.

Church Calendar: The Lutheran Church of Mahomet follows a liturgical calendar. The paraments (colored cloths on the altar, pulpit, and lectern) are the ones assigned for the day. They may not be changed for weddings. Check with the Director of Worship, Music, and Arts Ministries or the Pastor for assigned dates.

Candles: The Lutheran Church of Mahomet does not have candelabra; they may be rented from your florist or other rental supply. Please be sure the candles are 'dripless' and that the carpet underneath is covered with plastic. Candles may not be placed on the altar. Unity candles are permitted in the service. The purchase of the unity candle(s) and stand is the responsibility of the bride and groom.

Bows: When using bows or other decorations they are not to be taped to the pews. Tape can damage the finish of the wood.

Flowers: Floral arrangements may not be placed on the altar. If you plan on leaving your flowers for Sunday morning to share with the congregation, please let us know ahead of time so we can properly acknowledge them in the Sunday bulletin. We do have four oak flower stands which can be used and flowers may be placed on the glass shelves behind the altar. Your florist is welcome to visit the church ahead of time to clarify what is available and acceptable. (The church office is generally open weekdays from 8-12.) Real rose petals have the potential to stain carpeting. Therefore, we ask that flower girls be provided with silk petals, unless an aisle runner is used.

THE WEDDING SERVICE

The wedding service normally contains Scripture readings, prayer, exchange of promises and vows, exchange of rings, and the pronouncements of the marriage. In addition such items as lighting of a unity candle, parental blessing, etc. may be included. The pastor can provide you with examples of various styles of wedding services. If you choose to have a wedding bulletin, it may be ordered through the church office or purchased elsewhere. You may also design your own. If the bulletins are to be printed by the church office, all information must be proofed and in the church office 2 weeks before the wedding. You have some flexibility in the way the service is arranged, including special music and writing personal vows. (Some suggestions are included later in this booklet.)

The wedding service should be done in a manner that honors God whose presence and blessing we seek. The final shape of the wedding service will be agreed upon by the bride and groom and officiating pastor. All final decisions about the content and order of the service shall be made by the officiating pastor.

Sample Order of Service
(from the Lutheran Book of Worship)

Prelude Music (which may include vocal or special instrumental music)

Processional Music (our organist will assist you in choosing appropriate music.)

Invocation / Greeting

Prayer

Scripture Reading(s)

Special Music

Meditation

Special Music

The Marriage Ceremony

Statement of Intentions
Exchange of Vows
Exchange of Rings
Announcement of the Marriage
Lighting of the Unity Candle (optional)
Parental Blessing (optional)
Special Music
Prayers of Blessing
The Lord's Prayer
The Benediction

Presentation of the couple

Benediction

The Recessional / Postlude

****While the specific language used in portions of the service may vary, it is expected that the order of service will largely follow the outline above.**

EXAMPLES OF WEDDING VOWS

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 and trust, help and care for you: I will share my life with you; I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; and 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.

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 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.

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 in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my faithfulness.

I take you, _____, to be my wedded 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.

_____, 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 receive, to speak and listen, to inspire and respond, and in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being.

I take you, _____, to be my wife/husband, I thank God for you and for this moment, when we celebrate our love and the beginning of life together. Throughout all the years, I shall cherish and trust you, be honest and faithful to you. At all times I shall seek to encourage and inspire you, and in both joy and sorrow, I shall hold you close and tell you that I love you. Our place shall be one place. Our life one life, our love one love. For I shall share with you all I have and all I am unto eternity.

Some couples want to write their own personal vows. This should be discussed with the officiating pastor who can work with you. The vows must be acceptable in language and content.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS

I Corinthians 13
Colossians 3:12-17
I John 4:7-12, 16-19
Psalm 33, 100, 117, 127, 128, 136, 150
Isaiah 63:7-9
John 2:1-10. 15:9-12

I Peter 4:8-11
Matthew 19:4-6
Ephesians 5:21-33
Song of Solomon 2:1-13, 8:7
Romans 12:1-2

WEDDING MUSIC

By choosing to have your wedding at the Lutheran Church of Mahomet you are affirming that your wedding will be a Christian worship experience. Instrumental or vocal music enhances the wedding service. Our church allows both traditional and contemporary music to be used. Some music is not appropriate, therefore, all music must be reviewed and approved by the Director of Worship, Music, and Arts Ministries. The general guideline for deciding what music can and cannot be used is, "does it enhance the worship of a church wedding and is it in harmony with our beliefs?" The Director of WMA Ministries can help you with your selections. They may be contacted through the church office and should be contacted shortly after reserving the church. We expect that you will use our staff musician for organ or piano music. If they are unavailable to play for your wedding, a list of suitable alternates will be provided.

POSSIBLE WEDDING HYMNS FROM LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP

#469 *Lord of all Hopefulness*
#561 *For the Beauty of the Earth*
#557 *Let All Things Now Living*
#543 *Praise to the Lord*
#534 *Now Thank We All Our God*
#548 *O Worship the King*
#256 *O Sing Jubilee to the Lord*
#287 *O Perfect Love*
#288 *Hear Us Now, Our God and Father*
#540 *Praise the Lord! O Heavens*
#527 *All Creatures of Our God and King*
#354 *Eternal God, Before Your Throne*
#370 *Bless Be the Tie that Binds*

PROCESSIONAL and RECESSIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Arioso
Canon in D
Sinfonies De Fanfares
Jupiter from The Planets
Trumpet Voluntary
Trumpet Tune in B-flat
Trumpet Tune in C
Processional in G
Trumpet Tune
Allegro Maestoso
Alleluia
Ode to Joy
Psalm XIX

Johann Sebastian Bach
Johann Senastian Bach
Johann Pachelbel
Jean Joseph Mouret
Gustav Holst
Jeremiah Clarke
Mark Shepperd
Mark Shepperd
Robert A. Hobby
Henry Purcell
George Frideric Handel
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Ludwig van Beethoven
Benedetto Marcello

CHURCH RECEPTIONS

If a reception is desired at the church, the time and date must be cleared on the church calendar. The area used for receptions can seat approximately 135-140 around tables. The area is not suitable for dancing. No smoking or alcoholic beverages are permitted. No food or drink is permitted outside of the fellowship hall. Supervision of children shall be maintained at all times. Children are **not** allowed in the preschool rooms and the youth room is **only** for use as a dressing area for the bridal party. You are responsible for clean up and for any damages to church property. We do not prepare or serve wedding receptions. This will require the use of an outside caterer. There is an additional building use fee for the reception.

Updated March 29, 2010

WEDDING COSTS

Active Members: *(listed in current church directory)*

\$50 Maintenance fee for sanctuary
\$50 Maintenance fee for Fellowship Hall (if used);
\$150 Wedding Coordinator fee

Payable to:
Travis Ray
Travis Ray
Denise Dalton

Member fees to be paid 1 week prior to the wedding.

Non-Members:

\$50 Maintenance Fee for Sanctuary
\$50 Maintenance Fee for Fellowship Hall (if used)
\$175 Wedding Coordinator fee
\$150 Pastor's Fee
\$200 Fee for use of the sanctuary
\$150 Fee for use of the Fellowship Hall (reception)
\$150 Security deposit
(returned following damage inspection of the church)

Payable to:
Travis Ray
Travis Ray
Denise Dalton
Lutheran Church of Mahomet
Lutheran Church of Mahomet
Lutheran Church of Mahomet
Lutheran Church of Mahomet

**Non-member fees are to be paid at least 30 days prior to the wedding.
Facility and date ARE NOT reserved until sanctuary fees are received.**

Optional Services:

Wedding bulletin preparation \$25
Church Musician's fee. \$125 members /\$150 non-members

Payable to:
Lutheran Church of Mahomet
Kat Downs