

**but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever.

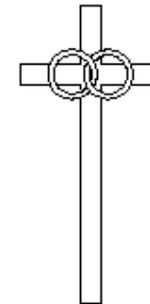
C Amen

Other Tips

1. Contact pastor to reserve the church
2. Schedule pre-marriage counseling
3. Contact organist, attendants, ushers, soloists, etc to reserve your date for you.
4. If your reception will be at church, contact kitchen coordinator
5. Weddings can be expensive and showy. They can still be beautiful and meaningful and not so expensive with careful planning. Remember, a wedding is ONE DAY, marriage is meant to be for life—invest in your marriage.
6. As the date draws nearer, check back with everyone who is a part of the ceremony and make sure they have it on their calendar, including florists, caterers, photographers, etc.
7. Make sure you have someone designated who will go through the church after the service, and pick up all personal items that may be forgotten or left behind. Please remember we will be having worship services on Sunday morning and the church needs to be clean and orderly.
8. Since marriage is a worship service, no flash photography should be taken during the service.
9. Make sure to get your marriage license to the pastor at least one week before the wedding. Be sure to write the proper names of the best man and maid of honor or witnesses on a sheet of paper. These names are needed to complete the paperwork.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Parish Wedding Planner

Eksjo Lutheran Church
Houglum Lutheran Church
Strandvik Lutheran Church



Gloria Dei Lutheran Parish Office
P O Box 327, Lake Park, MN 56554
218-238-5762
gloriadei@loretel.net

Pastor Randy Whitehead 238-6060 parsonage
Office Hours Tues-Thurs, 8 am—Noon

Marriage (from “Manual on the Liturgy)

Marriage is a service of worship in which the invited guests are not mere spectators, but participants in the service. They are not simply to watch, but to be a congregation of God’s people. Marriage is a glad occasion overflowing with joy, and those who celebrate it rejoice in the gifts of God’s—life, health, strength, sexuality, the family, and all that the creator declared from the beginning to be “very good.”

Marriage is not an exclusively Christian possession. It was known, practiced and honored in the Old Testament. It is moreover, a structure that belongs to all humanity. It is essentially a covenant of faithfulness between a man and a woman made with society’s sanction, grounded in steadfast love of God. God’s abiding faithfulness is the model: as God is, so should we be.

Marriage is a social contract, the basis of which is the commitment that the man and the woman make to each other. Contrary to the popular understanding, the basis is not love, for human love is changeable and cannot be depended on as a reliable foundation. One cannot promise to be in love years hence, but one can make a commitment. Indeed, Emil Brunner has warned:

When marriage is based on love, all is lost from the very outset. The lover cannot guarantee that his emotion of love will be either permanent or directed solely to one person. To base marriage on love is to build on the sand.

It is not the “Eros,” but solely the responsibility of faithfulness, which creates that bond which means that one is bound to another person.

For human beings, faithfulness and love do not go together. In God, the two are joined, and it is in His steadfast love that we seek to root our covenant of fidelity, as well as our

A Let us pray for [name] and [name] in their life together.

P Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your grace upon [name] and [name], that they may fulfill the vows they have made this day and reflect your steadfast love in their life-long faithfulness to each other. As members with them of the body of Christ, use us to support their life together; and from your great store of strength give them power and patience, affection and understanding, courage, and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world, that they may continue together in mutual growth according to your will in Jesus Christ our Lord. (277)

C **Amen**

Other intercessions may be offered.

A Let us pray for all families throughout the world.

P Gracious Father, you bless the family and renew your people. Enrich husbands and wives, parents and children more and more with your grace, that, strengthening and supporting each other, they may serve those in need and be a sign of the fulfillment of your perfect kingdom, where, with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God through all ages of ages. (278)

C **Amen**

When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the Peace.

LORD'S PRAYER

When there is no Communion, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.

C **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,**

C Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

P Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

C Amen

NUPTIAL BLESSING

Sit

The bride and groom kneel.

P The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, establish and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life's end.

C Amen

The parents may add their blessing with these or similar words; the wedding party may join them.

May you dwell in God's presence forever; may true and constant love preserve you.

The bride and groom stand.

PRAYERS

Stand

A Let us bless God for all the gifts in which we rejoice today.

P Lord God, constant in mercy, great in faithfulness: With high praise we recall your acts of unending love for the human family, for the house of Israel, and for your people the Church.

We bless you for the joy which your servants, [name] and [name], have found in each other, and pray that you give to us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you, whose work alone holds true and endures forever. (276)

C Amen

emotions of love. In the flux of experience, one thing holds true—the promises of faithfulness grounded in the love of God abides forever.

Thus, it is not the pastor who performs the marriage, but the wedding couple. Both church and state have an interest in the marriage, and marriage is done in the presence of a representative of one or the other. But the marriage is concluding by the two partners. The couple marries each other, and the pastor is the principle witness to their action. If the marriage is at its heart basically an exchange of vows of faithfulness and commitment, this is something the pastor cannot do for someone else. Nonetheless, the couple is not left on their own to fulfill the promises, for God's blessing and support are asked.

A marriage service, if it is to be truly biblical, must take notice of the physical dimensions of marriage, specifically sexuality and the consummation of marriage. Sex, John Macquarrie observes, "is the most obvious indicator of the fundamentally communal character of human existence," for no one person is complete in himself or herself.

Those who plan to be married should discuss with the pastor the nature of marriage and the form of the service, as well as the confirmation of the date and time of the wedding. The service is designed to present a variety of options, suggestions, and possibilities, not only to meet various situations resulting from interactions with a pluralistic society but also encourage new thinking about what the marriage service could be and to open people's eyes to the vast number of possibilities that may be locally useful. The marriage service in the "Lutheran Book of Worship" should be regarded as a kind of workbook out of which a marriage service appropriate to the particular occasion might be constructed.

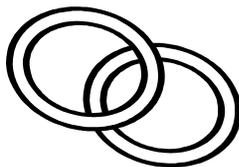
Announcements of weddings should be published in bulletins and newsletters. The primary purpose is not so much to

announce the wedding as to ask the prayers of the congregation. Thus an appropriate form is “_____ and _____ have announced their intention to marry on _____ and ask your prayers.” This should be submitted to the church office in advance of the bulletin or newsletter deadlines.

In the past, both Advent and Lent have been regarded as “closed times” when marriages were not performed. North American Society is not governed by the church year, so it seems undesirable to forbid marriage for ten weeks of the year. Holy Week is the one week of the year when marriages are out of place and especially thiduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday when all the attention of the church is directed toward the mystery of redemption.

The presiding minister must be ordained and authorized by the appropriate civil authority to perform marriages, and except under unusual circumstances would be currently serving as pastor of the congregation where the wedding takes place. Care should be taken that all legal documents are presented to the presiding minister well in advance of the ceremony.

Assisting ministers may be members of the families of the bride and groom, or members of the wedding party. Additional pastors or priests may assist the presiding minister as well.



A The Lord God in his goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden.

But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with his abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

P [Name] and [name], if it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

VOWS

Stand

The bride and groom face each other and join hands. Each, in turn, promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words:

**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.**

GIVING OF RINGS

The bride and groom exchange rings with these words:

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

ACCLAMATION

The bride and groom join hands, and the minister announces their marriage by saying:

P [Name] and [name], by their promises before God and in the presence of this congregation, have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife.

Lutheran Book of Worship Marriage Service

GREETING

Stand

*The bride, groom, and wedding party stand in front of the minister.
The parents may stand behind the couple.*

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so by his presence now bring your joy to this wedding. Look in favor upon [name] and [name] and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end.
(162)

C **Amen**

FIRST LESSON

One or more lessons from the Bible may be read. An address may follow. A hymn may be sung.

Sit

PSALM

SECOND LESSON
(Suggested Scripture)

GOSPEL

INTRODUCTION

Wedding Policies

1. Scheduling a Wedding Date

A date for your wedding may be scheduled at anytime by consulting with the pastor. A "Parish Wedding Form" should be filled out at the time of reserving the church and date.

No wedding will be scheduled closer than two months from the intended date without pastoral approval, and members have priority on date selection up to six months before the date.

Non-Member Wedding: A non-member wedding in a parish facility requires that church council's approval. Any wedding date between two non-members shall not be set until four months before the date of the wedding, although it may be tentatively scheduled before that time.

Fees for the wedding and facilities vary by church and payment is required in advance. Fees cover the cost of janitorial service, utilities, and church security and personnel available during rehearsal and the service. Non-members who schedule a wedding, regardless of their desire to join, or if they subsequently become members of a Gloria Dei Parish church, either before or after the wedding, shall be governed by the non-member fees and policies.

	Capacity	Members	Non-Members
Eksjo	190 Main Flr 100 Balcony	Free	\$600
Houglum	125	Free	Free
Strandvik	125	Free	\$75 church only \$150 church & basement

2. Pastoral Service and Participation

The Gloria Dei Parish Pastor shall generally be the designated officiate at your wedding and provide pre-marital counseling. Other clergy are welcome to participate in your wedding, but only with prior approval of the resident pastor. It is not appropriate to ask another pastor to officiate your wedding until you have discussed the matter with the pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Parish. Generally, pastoral ethics require that outside clergy do not officiate at any function in a church they are not called to serve, so do not be surprised if a "good friend" and former pastor politely declines your invitation to participate. *It is customary for an honorarium to be paid to the pastor.*

3. Pre-Marriage Counseling

Gloria Dei Parish is committed to helping you lay the groundwork for a successful marriage. Our pastor will advise you about premarital counseling options. Generally a couple scheduling a wedding will be expected to participate in premarital counseling. Please arrange for this as early as possible, ideally, 6-12 months before the wedding.

- Prepare/Enrich—Fee: \$35.00 includes a premarital inventory scoring and 2-3 counseling sessions with the pastor. Sessions also include planning the service. This does NOT qualify for the reduced license in Minnesota.
- Prepare/Enrich with “Making Marriage Work” Series includes counseling sessions with the pastor, in addition to a 6-session program on building a successful marriage. This DOES qualify for the Minnesota Reduced License.
- “Ready or Not “ marriage seminars. Retreats begin at 6:30 on a Friday and run from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM on a Saturday. The cost is \$125. Couples need to contact Pastor Gordi Lee at 218-233-0645 or 701-367-2344 to set up which workshop they will be attending. Please leave him a message if unable to talk to him in person. His email address is: wixerlee1@hotmail.com. This also qualifies for the Minnesota reduced marriage license.

4. Order of Worship

The Order of Worship (including vows, reading, etc.) and sanctuary arrangements shall be arrived at in consultation with the pastor. Samples of the order of Worship are included in this planner.

5. Music (from "Manual on the Liturgy")

The marriage service is a service of worship, and the music therefore must be carefully and discriminatingly chosen. It should embody high standards of quality and the texts should reflect the praise of God, the steadfast love of Christ for his church as the foundation and model for love and fidelity in marriage, the invocation of God's presence and blessing.

A number of musical options are possible before entrance procession: solo, ensemble, or choral pieces; organ or other instrumental music; music using a combination of these media. Organ music may be based on hymn tunes used within the marriage service. Instrumental music may be selected from chamber music literature or similar sources and should reflect the mood of joy and

Two lives, two people, so very different, yet so similar. Together we stand as one, sharing our future as it comes. The past is that, past. Buds are yet to blossom, with care and trust, the best is yet to be revealed. Honesty and kindness are the fruits of love. Lord, bless this day and always to enrich us so our love will never end.

Homily

_____ and _____, if it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, with your promises now bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

_____, in the name of God, I take you to be my wife from this time onward, to join with you and to share in all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all our life together to be loyal to you with my whole being, as long as we both shall live.

_____, in the name of God, I take you to be my husband from this time onward, to join with you and to share in all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all our life together to be loyal to you with my whole being, as long as we both shall live.

[Collect Rings]

The ring is a token and a pledge of mutual love. It is precious-as precious as your love for each other. It is a circle-reminding you of God's affection which surrounds your lives. And, it is given- as every blessing in your home is, a gift from God, our heavenly Father.

I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I affirm that _____ and _____ are joined in holy wedlock. Through the pledging of their love for each other, the giving and receiving of rings, they are now united together as one, in holy matrimony.

Let us pray,

Sample Wedding Service

The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should live alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." God also said, "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh." These words form the foundation of that institution we call marriage, and it is these words that bring us to this place today as _____ and _____ pledge themselves to one another.

On behalf of _____ and _____ I'd like to welcome all of you to this service. I know _____ and _____ very much appreciate your presence here today, especially on account of the great distances many of you have had to travel, and on such short notice. Thank you for sharing in this day! (Please be seated)

_____ and _____, you stand together before your family and friends and in the presence of God to affirm the most sacred commitment two persons can make to each other. You come here not to escape aloneness, but to embrace companionship; not to seek a helper for your own agenda, but to partner in a new agenda; not because of the urges of the flesh, but because of the desires of the heart.

Since marriage arose from the creative desire of God, its fulfillment and success can be attained only through God's abiding presence. Therefore I remind you, _____ and _____, that what we do here today has a divine dimension that must not be treated lightly. As you say your vows, be reminded that God is here, that God is listening and that God is the strength who will enable you to do tomorrow what you promise today. And, to all of you gathered here, it is our prayer that these proceedings might also be a reminder and inspiration to you, as well, of the promises and commitments you yourselves have to each other, and the promises God has made to you.

With heartfelt gratitude to God for the blessing of family, the roles they have played and the memories they provide, we remember _____.

Let us pray

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so by his presence now bring your joy to this wedding. Look with favor upon _____ and _____ and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end.

Amen.

Readings (sample)

Two Lives by Walter Pinder

celebration in the service. Voice(s) and instruments could be joined in solo or choral cantatas.

Whenever music is employed in the service and by whatever instruments or voices, it should be of high quality and not cloud the mood of the service with triteness or sentimentality. It should moreover be within the ability of the performers at hand to play or sing with assurance.

When organ processional music is desired, it might be in the form of a hymn or chorale prelude based upon a hymn to be sung immediately after. This plan also serves the function of introducing the hymn tune to the congregation.

It is most appropriate to include congregational hymn singing, especially a hymn following the address, to give the congregation an active part in the service of worship musically.

Since all music should be chosen in consultation with the pastor and organist, an appointment should be made as early as possible in order to get more specific help in making selections from an approved list of music, well in advance of the rehearsal and wedding dates. Persons who may never have questioned the propriety of using secular music or theatrical love-songs in a sacred service also sometimes need time for assimilation of what is proper wedding music. These may be used properly at the reception. If an organist or pianist other than the one from the congregation is chosen, that person must consult with the congregation organist to learn what is acceptable music. This person should be trained on a pipe organ and familiar with the order of service. The name of this organist should be given when the first arrangements for the wedding are made.

Only music befitting Christian Worship is acceptable within the marriage service. Other music can be presented prior to or after the service. All music needs to be approved by the officiating pastor. Any gratuities for soloist(s) and musician(s) are payable directly to them.

6. Photographs and Video

Pictures are very important to most of us; however, the pictures are of secondary importance to the Marriage Service itself.

The taking of flash pictures by anyone during the service is strictly forbidden. Please notify your family and friends of this fact. Flash

pictures by the professional photographer or specially appointed photographer only are permitted as the wedding party enters and leaves the nave; never during the ceremony. Time exposures from the balcony during the ceremony are permitted.

Pictures after the ceremony are permitted; arrangements can often be made with the custodian for pictures prior to the service. In either case, the pastor is to be informed of any pictures which involve him/her, and it is appreciated when these are taken first.

6. Food and Beverages

Alcoholic beverages may not be served on the church premises.
NO food may be served on the main floor of the church.

If the couple wishes to have a reception at the church, they need to contact the kitchen coordinator. The pastor or church office can provide you with this person's name and phone number, to make arrangements.

7. Bulletins

Although Gloria Dei Parish does not prepare the bulletins, the pastor will be happy to offer suggestions as you prepare your copy for the printer.

Will you want a unity candle?

Will ushers light the candles?

Time of rehearsal?

Time of wedding?

Time of pictures

Reception time?

How will reception be set up?

How many guests?

Number of waitresses?

Will you have video equipment?

Location of gift table?

Gift carriers?

Acolytes

Pastor (s)

Organist

Other Musicians/Soloists

How many pews should be reserved on each side for immediate family?

How are they going to come in?

Who will usher bride in?

Will groom be ushered in or stand in front?

How many attendants march in?

Will mothers be given roses?

Do they want a parents blessing?

Will relatives read any of the lessons?

Who will hold the rings?

Will you want Holy Communion?

Will there be a receiving line upstairs?

Do you want a guest book table?

Placement of punch table?

How many?

SAMPLE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN WEDDINGS, INCLUDING OPTIONAL ITEMS

Prelude

Processional

Greeting and Words of Welcome

Invocation

Declaration of Intent

Presentation of Questions and Responses

/Affirmations of Family and Guests

Scripture and Sacred/Personal readings

(fitting for favorite personal readings, as well as sacred texts appropriate for ecumenical and interfaith weddings)

Homily

Vows

Song

Exchange of Rings/Symbols

Ritual

Song/Music

(This may happen simultaneously during the lighting of the unity candle.)

Wedding Prayer/Sacred Reading/Lord's Prayer

(The Lord's Prayer may be optional in interfaith weddings. It can also be used after the "Words of Institution" if Holy Communion is celebrated.)

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion of the People

Declaration of Marriage

Embrace and Kiss

Charge

Blessing

Benediction

Introduction of the Couple

Recessional

Scriptures and Readings Appropriate for Wedding Service

1 The Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31	Male and female, created by God
Genesis 2:18-24	God creates man and woman
Ruth 1:15-18	Where you go, I will go
Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Love in the Spring
Song of Solomon 8:6-7	Unquenchable love
Isaiah 63:7-9	Steadfast love of God
Jeremiah 32:38-39	One heart, one way

Psalms	33:1-5	37:3-7
	67	100
	103	117
	121	127
	128	136
	150	

2 The New Testament

Matthew 5:1-12	The Beatitudes
Matthew 7:24-27	House built on rock
Matthew 19:4-6	Faithfulness in marriage
Mark 10:6-9	One flesh
John 2:1-10	Wedding at Cana
John 15:5-11	Vine, branches, abiding love
John 15:12-17	Love of a friend
Romans 8:31-39	Nothing can separate us from the love of God
Romans 12 1-2, 9-18	Living sacrifice, Love
1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Hymn of divine love
Ephesians 1:3-10	Destiny of love
Ephesians 3:14-21	Love of Christ
Ephesians 4:1-6	One body, one spirit
Ephesians 5:21-33	Marriage and the Church
Philippians 2:1-11	The mind of Christ
Philippians 4:4-9	Think of praiseworthy things
Colossians 3:12-19	Put on love
1 John 3:18-24	Love one another
1 John 4:7-12	Love one another
1 Peter 3:1-9	Wives and husbands

Participants in Our Wedding

Maid or Matron of Honor (circle one)

Best Man _____

Bridesmaids

Groomsmen

Flower Girl _____

Ring Bearer _____

Ushers
