


# *Wedding Guidelines of St. Mark Lutheran Church*



1105 Grand Avenue  
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

(515) 223-4208

# General Guidelines



*If you are contemplating being married at St. Mark Lutheran Church, this booklet will help answer many preliminary questions. It is NOT a substitute for pastoral interviews prior to the wedding. This information deals with the logistics of the service and is not an interpretation of the marriage relationship.*

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The use of St. Mark Lutheran Church for weddings is governed and executed by the senior pastor, as set forth in the following guidelines.

## Getting Started

**PLACE** - Weddings will be conducted in the church sanctuary in the St. Mark Worship Center at 1115 Grand Avenue or other places where arrangements conform to practices in accord with Christian custom. The sanctuary has seating for approximately 280 people.

**DATES AND PRIORITIES** - Weddings are not ordinarily held on Sunday, church holidays or during Holy Week. Members of St. Mark naturally have priority of dates over non-members. Saturday weddings will be scheduled for no later than 3:00 pm. Dates must be approved by the senior pastor and a deposit must be paid before your wedding is committed to the church calendar.

**DEPOSIT** - A \$100.00 deposit for members and a \$200.00 deposit for non-members is required to confirm your selected date for a wedding. Please submit your payment with the "Wedding Contact Information" form this packet.

**MINISTER** - All plans for the service need to be made in consultation with the senior pastor. It is expected that he or his representative will officiate at each wedding; however, he schedules no more than nine months in advance. (The church can be booked further ahead.) If a couple desires another minister, this should be made known to the senior pastor, who will extend an invitation to any guest clergy.

**PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING** - Marriage is the most important commitment to another person that you will ever make. The decision to share yourself with one other person at the very deepest level, will change and shape your life for as long as you live. The importance of arriving at this decision under God's guidance with all your being - not just feelings - but spirit and intellect as well, cannot be over-emphasized. Therefore, the pastor requires at least three pre-wedding consultations with the bride and groom in order that the Christian meaning and obligations of marriage can be discussed. Attendance at the Lutheran Services of Iowa Pre-Marriage Workshop is an appropriate alternative.

**WEDDING COORDINATOR** - The St. Mark Wedding Coordinators are Jan Schwager (515-267-0594) and JoDee Karrmann (515-321-0590). One of them will be assigned to you to work with you on the details of your wedding. Please schedule your initial meeting with the Wedding Coordinator at

least three months prior to the wedding. She will review the policies and procedures and will be present at the rehearsal and at the wedding ceremony to assist you. If you have an outside wedding consultant, this person **MUST** contact the senior pastor and the St. Mark wedding coordinator prior to making any arrangements. The pastor and coordinator have the final say concerning weddings.

## Planning Notes

**MUSIC** - The church musicians or an agreed-upon substitute will perform the music. Your musicians should be consulted at least one month in advance concerning the selection of appropriate music. The use of recorded music for weddings at St. Mark is discouraged.

The guiding factor in the choice of music is that a wedding is a worship service. Therefore, all music should focus on God and be suitable for His praise and worship. Since the wedding service is a celebration of the entire church, the singing of hymns by the worshipers is encouraged. This is an excellent way of helping those assembled to share in the thanks, praise, and involving of God's blessing upon the marriage.

**DECORATIONS** - Any questions regarding decorations or altar furnishings should be directed to the wedding coordinator. The church and the chancel are attractive in themselves and add beauty to every occasion.

- Floral arrangements should fit the setting and be in good taste.
- The church candelabra may be used, but we ask that they not be moved by photographers or others either for decorative or picture-taking purposes.
- A center aisle runner may be used. St. Mark does not have a runner; they are usually rented from the florist. The center aisle at St. Mark is 65 feet long.
- Nails, tacks, staples, etc., should not be used on furniture or woodwork. Most florists can supply plastic clips which fit on the ends of the pews if you decide to decorate the pews with bows or small flower arrangements.
- The bride will determine what is to be done with the flowers after the service. They should be removed promptly. If flowers are to be left for worship the following Sunday, please arrange this at the church office a week prior to the wedding. Remember that the color of the paraments is determined by the season of the church year.
- Candles and holders for the Unity Candle, if used, are to be purchased by the wedding party. Candles needed for this include a 3" diameter wedding candle and two 1" diameter side candles with holders for the three candles.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE** - To be married in Iowa, a wedding license must be secured from the Clerk of Court in any county before the wedding can take place. A phone call to the court house is advisable to confirm wedding license procedure and court house hours (ph. 515-286-3771).

- Applications for a wedding license must be made in person accompanied by a witness of legal age, or by mail using an application available at the Clerk of Court office.
- This application must be signed in the presence of a NOTARY PUBLIC.
- A three-day period (not including weekends and holidays) between application and picking up the license is required. The day of application is not counted in the three-day waiting period but the day of receiving the license is. (Example: if application is on Monday, the license may be received and used on Thursday.)

**BULLETINS** – Purchasing and preparing the wedding bulletins is the responsibility of the bridal couple and should be completed at least a week before the wedding. The church's bulletin supply is limited, so we encourage the couple to purchase bulletins or cardstock from retailers. The church does not endorse any particular retailer, but some options for purchase and/or printing may include Concordia Supply, Augsburg Fortress, Amazon.com, Office Depot, Office Max, Staples, The UPS Store, etc.

## At the Church

**AUDIO/ VISUAL TECHNICIAN** St Mark has a multi-media system which is pre-set for our organ, grand piano and permanent microphones. If the couple have a special audio or visual request, it will be necessary for our audio/visual technician to be present for the wedding and the rehearsal.

**CUSTODIAN** – A custodian will be on the premises for the duration of the rehearsal and the wedding to unlock and monitor the facility, set up the gathering space, and to assist the family with any facility needs or questions.

**REHEARSAL** - A rehearsal should be scheduled, preferably on the evening preceding the wedding. The rehearsal and the wedding will be conducted in a Christian spirit and with dignity. It is expected that members of the wedding party will refrain from the use of alcohol immediately prior to both the rehearsal and the wedding and alcoholic beverages are not permitted on church property. Participants in the wedding party are expected to be respectful of church property. Parents are asked to closely supervise children in the wedding party at all times.

The bride, groom, attendants, the bride's parents, ushers, flower girl, ring bearer, organist/musicians and soloist should be present at the rehearsal. The groom's parents may also wish to attend. At St. Mark it is the norm for our wedding coordinator to conduct the rehearsal. She will instruct all participants in their parts of the service. Decisions concerning the conduct of the wedding will be made prior to rehearsal by the bride and groom in consultation with the pastor and the St. Mark wedding coordinator unless the St. Mark senior pastor is present.

**Bring to rehearsal:** The marriage license, fees or honorariums placed in marked envelopes for the organist, soloists, custodian, etc. The marriage license should be given to the pastor and the fees and honorarium envelopes should be given to the wedding coordinator at the time of the rehearsal, unless other arrangements have been made. The wedding coordinator will be responsible for delivering the honorariums to the pastor, organist, soloists, custodian, etc.

**ARRIVAL TIMES** - The ushers should be at the church at least one-half hour before the wedding to start their ushering duties as soon as guests arrive. The groom, best man, and other groomsmen should arrive at the church thirty minutes before the set time. The bride and her attendants should be dressed and ready fifteen minutes before. This means that, if they wish to dress at church, they must arrive at the church in sufficient time for that purpose.

If the wedding party intends to dress at the church and take photos prior to the ceremony they may wish to bring food, water and soda. You are welcome to keep them in the refrigerators in the kitchen and use the kitchen and fellowship hall for eating. Food and beverages other than water are not allowed in other areas of the building and the bridal party is asked to leave the kitchen and fellowship hall in the same condition as when they arrived.

The bridal procession will enter the church promptly at the time the wedding has been set. This means that all prelude music will be heard during the twenty minutes before the announced time of the wedding.

The wedding coordinator will assist with wedding details. He or she should arrive at least one-half hour before the ceremony. This person should know who is going to deliver the flowers, check to see if they have arrived, are in order and that each person in the wedding party receives the proper flowers. This individual will also assist with lining up the processional, the receiving line and so forth.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** – Flash photographs may be taken during the processional and immediately following the benediction. No "flash" pictures or movies are allowed during the wedding service. Time-lapse, or infrared photographs may be taken from the rear of the nave during the wedding. Ushers will explain this to guests with cameras. Activities of the photographer before, during and after the service should be as unobtrusive as possible. We encourage formal wedding pictures be taken prior to the wedding. Please be certain that picture taking is finished 45 minutes prior to the time of the ceremony. No more than four pictures will be allowed following the ceremony including a picture with the pastor if desired. The photographer is expected to seek out the St. Mark pastor before the ceremony to go over details.

**VIDEOGRAPHY** - The use of video recording is allowed as long as it is done with little or no movement and without flash. A standing video camera will be allowed in the chancel area without a videographer

**ATTENDANCE** - Because the Marriage Service is a worship service of the congregation, it is open to members of the church.

**RICE** - Rice and confetti are not allowed for use after the wedding ceremony. However, bird seed may be thrown by the wedding guests outside the building. For the comfort of the wedding party, bird seed should not be thrown until after the pictures are taken.

**RECEPTIONS** - See information under the Fees section in this booklet if you are interested in using St. Mark facilities for your reception. The church office will provide the name of the contact person.

If the senior pastor's presence is desired at the reception, a written invitation should be sent to him and his wife at their home address.



*A wedding and a marriage are two different things. A wedding is something we celebrate on a particular day at a particular time. A marriage is an event that is celebrated each day – every day. We encourage you to keep your plans simple, to concentrate on the spiritual significance of the ceremony, and to avoid getting carried away with the exterior trappings. Relax and enjoy! This is not a show. More important than the mechanics and décor is the spirit of the two partners entering into this unique relationship blessed by a loving God. Plan your wedding early so you can approach it somewhat relaxed and rested. Don't worry your way through it. The church wants your day to be beautiful and meaningful. You can thrive on its happy reflections for the rest of your lives!*

# Fees for Non-Members

Effective: June 2013

The following fees apply for couples who are not members of St. Mark Lutheran Church. Payment should be arranged through the wedding coordinator **with the exception of the deposit, which is due at the time the wedding date is confirmed.**

## Wedding Only

### Fees you will incur:

Facilities	\$350 (payable to St. Mark)
Pastor	\$250 (payable to the Pastor)
Wedding Coordinator	\$225 (payable to the coordinator)
Audio/visual technician	\$100 (deposit will cover this cost)
Custodian	\$100 (deposit will cover this cost)

### Fees you may incur based upon your use and selection:

Musicians	TBD (payable to each musician)
Candles and use of candelabra	\$35

**Please Note: A \$200.00 deposit is required at the time the wedding is scheduled.**

## Payment of Fees

All fees should be delivered to the church office one week prior to your wedding. The marriage license should be delivered to the church office at the same time as payments.

## Wedding and Reception

St. Mark Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall and Discipleship Center are available for wedding receptions on a limited basis. Fees for receptions are negotiated on an individual basis and based on number of guests and required services. St. Mark does not provide or serve food, but our kitchen facilities are available for receptions. It is the responsibility of the bride and/or groom to provide food, servers, caterers, etc. For more information, you may contact the Facilities Manager in the church office at 515-223-4208.

# Fees for Communing/Contributing Members

Effective: June 2013

Communing/contributing members are those couples who have communed and contributed regularly at least 6 months prior to the date of the marriage. Payment of the following fees should be arranged through the wedding coordinator **with the exception of the deposit, which is due at the time the wedding date is confirmed.**

## Wedding Only

### Fees you will incur:

Wedding Coordinator	\$200 (payable to the coordinator)
Audio/visual technician	\$75 (payable to the technician)
Custodian	\$75 (deposit will cover this cost)
Facilities	\$25 (deposit will cover this cost)
Pastor *	Honorarium at couple's discretion *

### Fees you may incur based upon your use and selection:

Musicians	TBD (payable to each musician)
Candles and use of candelabra	\$35

**Please note: A \$100.00 deposit is required at the time the wedding is scheduled.**

\* The pastor's honorarium is at the discretion of the couple/family, but it should be comparable to other compensation and in appreciation for time spent in pre-counseling as well as for the wedding service itself. **Your pastor is here to serve you irrespective of any honoraria.**

## Payment of Fees

All fees should be delivered to the church office one week prior to your wedding. The marriage license should be delivered to the church office at the same time as payments.

## Wedding and Reception

St. Mark Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall and Discipleship Center are available for wedding receptions on a limited basis. Fees for receptions are negotiated on an individual basis and based on number of guests and required services. St. Mark does not provide or serve food, but our kitchen facilities are available for receptions. It is the responsibility of the bride and/or groom to provide food, servers, caterers, etc. For more information, you may contact the Facilities Manager in the church office at 515-223-4208.

# Wedding Service Checklist

The following items need to be arranged between the wedding couple and the pastor:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vows
- \_\_\_\_\_ Exchange of Rings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hymns
- \_\_\_\_\_ Musician(s)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Soloist
- \_\_\_\_\_ Holy Communion
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prayers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Unity Candle
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other Readers

## **Suggested Scripture**

### **☐ Genesis 1:26-31**

26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." 27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." 29 God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.



### ☐ Genesis 2:18-24

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." 19 So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." 24 Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

### ☐ Deuteronomy 11:8-15

15 Keep, then, this entire commandment that I am commanding you today, so that you may have strength to go in and occupy the land that you are crossing over to occupy, 9 and so that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to your ancestors to give them and to their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10 For the land that you are about to enter to occupy is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sow your seed and irrigate by foot like a vegetable garden. 11 But the land that you are crossing over to occupy is a land of hills and valleys, watered by rain from the sky, 12 a land that the LORD God looks after. The eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. 13 If you will only heed his every commandment that I am commanding you today – loving the LORD your God, and serving him with all your heart and all your soul – 14 then he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, and you will gather in your grain, your wine and your oil; 15 he will grass in your field for your livestock, and you will eat your fill.

### ☐ Ruth 1:16-18

16 But, Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17 Where you die, I will die – there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" 18 When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

### ☐ Psalm 85:1-13

O LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. 3 You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. 4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us. 5 Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? 6 Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you? 7 Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. 8 Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. 9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. 10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. 11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground and righteousness will look down from the sky. 12 The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. 13 Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

### ☐ Psalm 118:24-29

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. 25 Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! 26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD. 27 The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bid the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. 28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. 29 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

### **□ Psalm 128:1-6**

1 Happy is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways. 2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. 3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. 4 Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD. 5 The LORD bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. 6 May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

### **□ Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward from their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

### **□ John 2:19-20**

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no Wine." 4 And Jesus said to her "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Now standing there were six stone ware jars for Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. 9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants what drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 10 and said to him "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

### **□ John 15:9-12, (11-17)**

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love that this, to lay down one's life you one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made know to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

### **□ Romans 12:1-2, 9-18**

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. 9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

### ☐ 1 Corinthians 12:31 & 13:13 (4-7, 13)

12:31 But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. 1 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. 9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; 10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

### ☐ Hosea 2:19-20

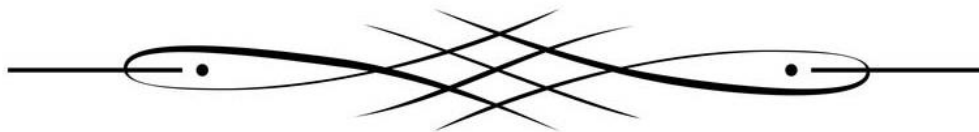
19 And I will take you for my wife forever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. 20 I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and you shall know the LORD.

### ☐ Ephesians 3:14-21

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. 16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. 18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all fullness of God. 20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### ☐ Colossians 3:12-17

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



## **Suggested Music**

Music is a critical element in any wedding celebration. Singing songs and hymns can be a way of bringing your guests into the wedding as participants and not merely as spectators. Singing songs and hymns helps people take part in one of life's greatest joys and celebrations. Below are some suggestions from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Hymnal.

<b>O Come All Ye Faithful</b>	ELW #283
<b>Holy, Holy, Holy</b>	ELW #413
<b>Hear Us Now, Our God and Father</b>	ELW #585
<b>I Know That My Redeemer Lives</b>	ELW #619
<b>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</b>	ELW #631
<b>All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name</b>	ELW #634
<b>Lift High the Cross</b>	ELW #660
<b>Shine, Jesus, Shine</b>	ELW #671
<b>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</b>	ELW #836
<b>Beautiful Savior</b>	ELW #838
<b>How Great Thou Art</b>	ELW #856
<b>Lord, I Lift Your Name on High</b>	ELW #857
<b>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</b>	ELW #858

*Contemporary selections also available – list pending*

## **Vows and Promises**

The promises you make to one another on your wedding day are among the most profound words you will ever share with each other. Great care and thought need to go into what you say as you make public your declaration of love and commitment and promise. What follows here is a collection of vows and promises, both contemporary and traditional, but it is, by no means, a complete collection. You are encouraged to give some thought to writing your own promises to one another; some have used parts of the following to help them get started. In your planning with the pastor, you will have the opportunity to work out what you wish to say.

1. \_\_\_\_\_, I take you to be my wife/husband.  
I promise 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.

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 to 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,  
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, to better understand our selves, the world, and God  
through the best and most challenging of what is to come as long as we live.
  
4. I take you, \_\_\_\_\_,  
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.
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_, as we have come together  
in the midst of our families and friends  
and in the presence of God  
I commit myself to you as your husband/wife.  
I promise to love you and to be supportive of you  
as we both continue to grow and change.  
I promise to help you achieve the goals that you set for yourself  
and for our marriage,  
and I promise to give you the freedom to be all that you were intended to be.  
I promise to be faithful to you,  
and to join with you in both sorrow and celebration,  
sharing all that is to come until death parts us.
  
6. I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_,  
to be my wife/husband and my partner in life.  
I promise to share with you all that life may have to offer, be it joy or sorrow,  
and to always be supportive, patient, and compassionate.  
I will respect, cherish, and protect you,  
and I will always be faithful to you,  
I promise to nurture you so that we may grow together  
to become all that we can be.  
Most of all, I promise to be your best friend for life  
and to love you unconditionally forever.

## **The Exchange of Rings**

The circle has long been a symbol for marriage. These circles are made of precious metal to represent the enduring and precious nature of your relationship. Being unbroken circles, each represents unending love. As often as either of you look upon these rings, may you be reminded of this moment, the love you have promised, and the commitment – the covenant – in which you live.

- I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.
- I give you this ring as a sign of my promise, and 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.
- Take this ring, freely given, as a sign of my love and a symbol of my intention to live in love and respect. As this ring has no end, neither shall my love for you.
- Groom/Bride*  
I give you this ring as a sign of my promise.
- Bride/Groom*  
I accept this ring as a sign of your promise.

## **Holy Communion**

Holy Communion is offered for weddings either by the pastor sharing with the bride and groom, or by inviting all members of the congregation to receive.

## **Prayers**

Special prayers can be included during your ceremony with the senior pastor's approval.

## **Unity Candle**

Candles and holders for the Unity Candle, if used, are to be purchased by the wedding party. Candles needed for this include a 3" diameter wedding candle and two 1" diameter side candles and candle holders for the three candles.

## **Other Readers**

We encourage readers for scripture or other special passages with the senior pastor's approval.

**People You May Wish to Include in the Wedding Bulletin**

Officiating Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Parents of the Bride \_\_\_\_\_

Parents of the Groom \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_

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

    Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

    Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

    Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

    Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

    Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

    Ring Bearer \_\_\_\_\_

    Usher \_\_\_\_\_

    Usher \_\_\_\_\_

    Usher \_\_\_\_\_

    Usher \_\_\_\_\_

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

    Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

    Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

    Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

    Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

    Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

    Flower Girl \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Attendant(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Vocalist(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Musicians \_\_\_\_\_

Organist \_\_\_\_\_

Host and Hostess \_\_\_\_\_

Others \_\_\_\_\_

***Bride and Groom's "Thank You" to Friends and Family***

**THE MARRIAGE CELEBRATION OF  
MARY ANN SMITH  
AND  
JOHN T. JONES**

Saturday, October 12, 2002

3:00 p.m.

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
West Des Moines, IA

**Prelude** "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" Bach

**Processional** "Aire" Handel "Trumpet Voluntary in D Major" Purcell

**Greeting and Prayer**

**Scripture Reading** I Corinthians 12:31-13:1-8a,13

**Solo** "A Prayer for You"

**Message**

**Vows and Exchange of Rings**

**Lighting of the Unity Candle**

**Solo** "Make My Life a Candle"

**The Wedding Prayer**

**Solo** "The Lord's Prayer"

**Benediction**

**Recessional** "Trumpet Tune in D Major" Purcell

**Postlude**



(Sample Bulletin pg. 2/2)

<b>Officiating Pastor</b>	Rev. Dr. Michael W. Foss
<b>Parents of the Bride</b>	Jane and John Smith
<b>Parents of the Groom</b>	Jane and John Jones
<b>Grandmother of the Bride</b>	Jane Smith
<b>Matron of Honor</b>	Jane Smith, sister of bride
<b>Best Man</b>	John Benson, friend of groom
<b>Bridesmaids</b>	Jane Mills, friend of bride Jane Jones, sister of groom
<b>Groomsmen</b>	John Smith, brother of bride John Jones, brother of groom
<b>Ushers</b>	John Jones, brother of groom John Johnson, friend of groom
<b>Ring Bearer</b>	John Anders, cousin of groom
<b>Flower Girls</b>	Jane Hunt, goddaughter of bride Jane Taylor, friend of bride
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Jane Sime, aunt of bride
<b>Vocalist</b>	John Sims
<b>Organist</b>	John Becker

*The alter flowers are in loving memory of those who cannot  
be with us. We would like to thank all of our family and  
friends who are sharing this special day with us.*

**-- Mary and John**



Don't worry about your part in the actual ceremony. Let the pastor and the wedding coordinator worry for you. You can't blunder! Relax and enter into this spiritual experience with all you heart and soul.

Thank you for choosing St. Mark for your wedding. Should you have any questions regarding these policies or any other areas of concern, please call. We want to work with you to make your wedding day all that you hope it will be. May God bless you as you plan for your wedding and for the establishment of your home!



# Service of Marriage

From the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal

## Stand

1. *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.

[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.

## **C** Amen

*Sit*

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

[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.

## Stand

3. *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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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.

4. *The bride and groom exchange rings with these words:*

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

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

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

## **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

*Sit*

6. *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**

7. *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.

**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 unfailing love for the human family, for the house of Israel, and for your people in 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 along holds true and endures forever.

**C Amen**

**[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.

**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.

**C Amen**

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

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

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

**C Amen**

**[P]** You may kiss the bride.

I joyfully introduce to you

Mr. and Mrs.           (name)           and           (name)                     (last name)          .

After the wedding party leaves, please be seated for orderly dismissal. The receiving line will be (here at the church) or (at the reception.)

# Wedding Contact Information

Submit this form with your deposit.

Wedding Date: \_\_\_\_\_, Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor Officiating: \_\_\_\_\_

## **BRIDE**

**Name:**

Phone:

Email Address:

Address:

Work Phone (optional):

St Mark Member: Yes or No

## **GROOM**

**Name:**

Phone:

Email Address:

Address:

Work Phone (optional):

St Mark Member: Yes or No

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Number of guests:

Number in the Wedding Party:

Rehearsal Date:

Time:

Location:

Deposit Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

(Member = \$100; Non-member = \$200)

**Office use only:**

Deposit Rec'd Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Office use only:**

### **NOTIFY**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Wedding Coordinators - Jan Schwager and JoDee Karrmann
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christopher Ellerston
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pastor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Master Church Calendar (Leo)
<input type="checkbox"/>	

### **RECORD**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Wedding Packet Sent / Update computer spreadsheet
<input type="checkbox"/>	Post on Workroom Bulletin Board
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bulletin (if needed)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shepherd's Staff (if members)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enter in Redbook