

Planning Your Wedding



*at Our Savior's
Lutheran Church*

Planning Your Wedding at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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Marriage and the Church

We are pleased that you want to have your wedding at Our Savior's. Our pastors will work with you to make your wedding enjoyable and meaningful, and to help prepare you for a happy and fulfilling marriage.

Marriage does not belong exclusively to the church. Although marriage is ordained by God and supported by the church, it is a social contract, governed and regulated by the state for the purpose of lending order to society, protecting individuals, and providing stability to the social order. But to the Christian, it is more:

We believe that God instituted marriage to provide happiness and fulfillment to those being married.

We believe that God's intention for marriage is that it be forever, that it is a lifelong relationship based on the promise of faithfulness that is exchanged by those being married.

We believe that God's self-giving love and faithfulness toward us is the model for the relationship between those being married. As God is toward us, so should we be toward each other.

We believe that God, along with the church, desires marriage to be full of faithfulness, joy, love, growth, and fulfillment, and that marriages rooted in God's steadfast love will be the most likely to experience these qualities.

God does not perform your wedding. You do. By your promises before God and in the presence of the gathered community, you bind yourselves to each other. You do so in the presence of the pastor, who represents both church and state in this ceremony and who is the principal witness to your action. You make your promises in the presence of God, trusting that God will bless and support you both as you work to fulfill them.

Thus, to be married in the church is to recognize God's intentions for marriage and to affirm those intentions as your intentions for your marriage. It is to share the church's interest in marriage and recognize that in the face of our own sinfulness and self-centeredness we must seek God's blessing, strength, and support for our marriages. Because you are asking to be married at Our Savior's, your marriage service will follow the traditions of the church and be planned in consultation with the presiding pastor.



Some First Steps

The following arrangements should be completed before making further plans for the wedding.

The Date and Time

Weddings are scheduled through the OSL Church Office. Call the office, 605-336-2942, to check on the availability of the church for the date and the space you desire. (Because of Saturday evening worship, weddings may not be scheduled between 4:00 and 7:00 P.M.) Contact the Church Office as far in advance of the date as possible. A five-hour block of time is allowed for a wedding—three hours before for pictures, one hour for the wedding and receiving line, and one hour after for clean-up. If your wedding requires a rehearsal, the date and time for the rehearsal must be scheduled at the same time. A wedding date and time will be reserved only when the required deposit (see page 13) is received in the Church Office and after you have confirmed the date and time with an OSL pastor.

Note that weddings will not be scheduled on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Holy Week (Palm Sunday through Easter), Memorial Day weekend, Independence Day weekend (when July 4 is a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday), Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Synod Assembly weekend.

Rehearsal

If the wedding party consists of more than six people, a rehearsal is necessary. This should be arranged with the pastor. Rehearsals, which take about an hour, are usually held a day or two before the wedding, but, if the Sanctuary is available, can be held the day of the wedding. All members of the wedding party—bride, groom, bridesmaids and groomsmen, ushers, flower girls, ring bearers, and parents of the bride and groom—should be at the rehearsal, when details will be discussed and the wedding party will walk through the ceremony from beginning to end.

The Pastor

Our Savior's pastors want to help you with your wedding. Any of the pastors may preside at your wedding; if you have a preference, please state that when you request a date for the church. We will do our best to honor all requests but reserve the right to make alternative arrangements due to extenuating circumstances.

Pastors from other congregations may participate in OSL weddings at the discretion of the OSL pastoral staff. ELCA pastors may preside at OSL weddings without an OSL pastor present. Non-ELCA pastors may participate in OSL weddings, but an OSL pastor will preside over the ceremony.

Musicians

Our Savior's organist will play at weddings where organ music is desired; pianists on staff will play when piano music is desired. If the organist or pianists are not available, Our Savior's will make other arrangements. Should a couple desire another keyboardist to play, OSL keyboardists must be contacted and grant permission. It is the responsibility of the wedding couple to contact the chosen OSL keyboardist at least a month prior to the wedding to discuss the music.

Before arrangements are made with a soloist or other instrumentalists, please read the section regarding music (page 7) and discuss your plans with the OSL keyboardist and presiding pastor.

Marriage Preparation

All couples being married at Our Savior's should participate in pre-marriage counseling with Leah Weins, a licensed professional counselor in Sioux Falls, 605-496-8883 or office@leahweins.com, or, with approval from the OSL pastoral staff, another qualified professional counselor. The cost of these sessions is payable to the counselor.

The License

South Dakota law requires couples to secure a license to marry. It can be secured at any Register of Deeds Office in the state. Both members of the couple must be present with valid driver's licenses and Social Security numbers. Cost of the license is \$40. The license to marry is valid for 90 days. The license must be brought to the Church Office at least five days prior to the wedding. The license is signed by you, your witnesses (usually the Best Man and Maid or Matron of Honor), and the presiding pastor after the wedding.

Planning the Wedding

Working with the Pastor and Lead Musicians

You will work with the pastor to plan your wedding service and with the organist or the Worship Director to plan the music for your wedding. When you meet with them, you are encouraged to bring your ideas about ways in which you would like to personalize your wedding service and to discuss these ideas with them. Because the wedding ceremony is set within the context of Christian worship, what is done at the service must be appropriate to a worship service and in keeping with the church's understanding of marriage. The pastor presides at the wedding service and makes the final decisions as to what is appropriate.

The Order of Service

The basic order of service, on pages 286 through 291 of Evangelical Lutheran Worship, is as follows:

- Prelude
- Musical Selection*
- Procession (or Processional Hymn)
- Greeting
- Declaration of Intention
- Prayer
- Hymn/Solo*
- Scripture Readings
- Homily and/or Statement about Marriage*
- Hymn/Solo*

Exchange of Vows and *Rings
Acclamation of Marriage
Marriage Blessing
Unity Candle*/Solo*
Prayers and the Lord's Prayer
Holy Communion, if desired, begins after the Prayers*
Hymn/Solo*
Benediction
Presentation of the Couple
Recession (or Recessional Hymn)
*optional elements

The service allows for a variety of options. The pastors encourage you to read the service carefully and to discuss together what the service says about marriage. You may wish to modify the service or even to construct your own. As previously indicated, this should be done in consultation with the presiding pastor and the musician assisting with your wedding.

If you are considering Holy Communion for the congregation at your wedding, you should discuss this with the pastor. Assisting ministers may be used in the service to read the readings and/or to assist in the prayers.

Decorations

Decorating the worship space to be used for the wedding must be coordinated with the wedding coordinator. Floral decorations, if desired, are provided by the couple. Arrangements will be placed on stands near the front of the worship space. Flowers or other decorations may not be placed on the altar/communion table or the grand piano.

The color of the paraments is determined by the church-year calendar and is not changed for weddings. Inquiries about the color that will be in use at the time of your wedding may be directed to the Church Office.

Furniture and musical instruments in the chancel are not moved for weddings.

The candles by the altar/communion table will be lit for your wedding.

If you plan to have a Unity Candle for your wedding, you must supply those candles (one large pillar, two one-inch tapers). The church has a Unity Candle holder for your use.

Aisle candles, because of fire hazard, are discouraged. However, should you wish to have them, the holders must include hurricane globes and must attach to the pews in a way that they cannot be tipped over or damage the pews. They may be rented from florists.

Other decorations should be discussed with the pastor or the wedding coordinator.

Aisle Runner

For safety reasons, aisle runners may not be used.

Ushers

At least two ushers are necessary to seat guests. More ushers are needed if there will be more than 150 guests. Groomsmen or bridesmaids may be used as additional ushers. Ushers should be adults, since the nature of their tasks requires confidence and decisiveness. They will receive instructions at the rehearsal.

Bulletins

It is helpful, but not necessary, to have a printed bulletin to inform guests of the order of service and the names of the participants in the wedding party. You should discuss bulletins with the pastor and have the contents approved before printing. Bulletins can be ordered from a printer or you can purchase bulletin covers at Christian bookstores, set up the contents on a computer, and have them copied.

Pictures

Most couples contract with a professional to photograph and/or videorecord the wedding. Floodlights or flash are not permitted during the ceremony. Any pictures or videorecording during the ceremony must be done from the sides of the Sanctuary or from the balcony. Photographers or videographers are not permitted to use the television platforms in the balcony because of liability issues. As a matter of courtesy to your reception guests, couples should have formal pictures taken before the wedding service. Your photographer may begin taking pictures no earlier than two hours before the service begins.

Sound

At weddings that require the amplification of sound, a trained sound technician from Our Savior's is required. The wedding coordinator will make these arrangements for you.

Conduct of Guests

Since the wedding is set within the context of worship, participants and guests should conduct themselves accordingly. The use of alcohol or tobacco on church premises, including the parking lot, is prohibited, and persons under the influence of alcohol or other controlled substances will be asked to leave the premises. The pastor reserves the right to halt the ceremony if a member of the wedding party or a guest in the church is not behaving appropriately.

The practice of throwing rice, birdseed, or confetti on the newly married couple following the ceremony is prohibited.

The Reception

Fellowship Hall or The Gathering Place are usually available for wedding receptions. For a reception with fewer than 50 guests, the Friendship Room may be preferred. If you wish to use OSF for your reception, please make your reservation as soon as possible. Receptions are scheduled and billed separately through the Church Office, 605-336-2942. Because OSF currently does not have a Food Service Coordinator, you will need to make your own catering arrangements.

In planning your reception, remember that alcohol may not be served on church premises and that smoking is also prohibited.

Music

The Church Musician

An OSL musician will assist you in the selection of music and, if requested, will offer suggestions regarding vocalists and instrumentalists. A CD, with selections appropriate for the processional and recessional, can be checked out at the Church Office for a \$5 deposit, which will be refunded when it is returned.

Guidelines in Selecting Music

The marriage service is an order of worship of the church. In this service two people publicly commit themselves to a lifelong relationship with each other and ask God's blessings on their life together. The service also offers praise and thanks to God for the gift of marriage and love, and for God's ever-present support in marriage.

The Manual on the Liturgy reads: "...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." Many popular love songs that focus solely on the relationship of the couple, without including the spiritual dimensions of the relationship, are not appropriate in the wedding service. Such songs may be used as part of the prelude.

Music used in the service may be instrumental and/or vocal. It may be organ music or other instrumental music, such as strings, brass, woodwind, keyboard, or guitar performed by a soloist or an ensemble. It may be music with text sung by a single voice, duet, small ensemble, or full choir, or congregational hymns.

In every case, music selected "should be of a 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" (Manual on the Liturgy). If you can answer "yes" to any of the following questions, the music is probably appropriate:

1. Does this music/text reflect praise and/or thanksgiving to God?
2. Is it based on, or does it reflect, a scriptural theme?
3. Is this music appropriate for use in a Sunday morning worship service?

If you have questions about the appropriateness of any music for your wedding, check with Our Savior's Director of Worship, 605-336-2942.

Vocal Solos or Duets

Some examples of appropriate vocal solos or duets include:

- “God, a Woman, and a Man,” arr. Evan Williams
- “Only God Could Love You More,” Borop/Lilies
- “Where There Is Love,” David Haas
- “Walk with Them, Lord, Don Besig
- “And on This Day, Tina English
- “Strong with Each Year,” Toby Waldowski
- “Wedding Prayer,” Fern Glasgow Dunlap
- “A Wedding Prayer,” Roland Diggle
- “Two Candles,” Sonny Salsbury
- “Make Us One, Father,” Paul Johnson
- “Household of Faith,” Lamb/Rosasco
- “He Has Chosen You for Me,” Pat Terry
- “Give Us Love,” Stan Pethel
- “This Is the Day,” Scott Wesley Brown
- “Wedding Song (There Is Love),” Stukey
- “Parent’s Prayer (Let Go of Two),” Greg Davis
- “When You Created Love,” Tom Fettke
- “The Unity Candle Song,” Raymond Haan
- “Lord, May Their Lives,” J. Robert Carroll
- “The Gift of Love,” Hal Hopson
- “Cherish the Treasure,” Jon Mohr
- “In This Very Room,” Ron Harris
- “This Love By,” Roger Copeland
- “Here We Are Now,” John Purifoy
- “Entreat Me Not to Leave Thee,” William Stickle
- “Wedding Prayer,” Mary Rice
- “Wedding Prayer,” Gary Ault
- “Doubly Good to You,” Rich Mullins
- “I Will Be Here,” Stephen Curtis Chapman



Congregational Hymns

Because the wedding service is a worship service, congregational hymns are encouraged. Hymns may be sung in place of other music. The following hymns from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* are suggested:

At the beginning of the service:

- “We Praise You, O God” – No. 870
- “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now” – No. 527
- “Praise and Thanksgiving” – No. 689
- “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” – No. 414
- “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” – No. 858
- “Here In This Place” – No. 532

“God Is Here!” – No. 526

“This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited” – No. 586

During the service:

“Where Charity and Love Prevail” – No. 359

“O Perfect Love” – LBW (green hymnal), No. 287

“Hear Us Now, Our God and Father” – No. 585

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” – No. 631

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds” – No. 656

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” – No. 502

“Let us Ever Walk with Jesus” – No. 802

“Although I Speak with Angel’s Tongue” – No. 644

“Beloved, God’s Chosen” – No. 648

“Beautiful Savior” – No. 838

“I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry” – No. 732

“O Christ the Same” – No. 760

At the end of the service:

“Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus” – No. 501

“Lord of All Hopefulness” – No. 765

“All Creatures, Worship God Most High” – No. 835

“Now Thank We All Our God” – No. 840

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” – No. 864, 865

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” – No. 836

“For the Beauty of the Earth” – No. 879

“Let All Things Now Living” – No. 881

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing” – No. 543

Contemporary Music

Contemporary worship music suggested by the couple to be sung or played during their wedding is to be discussed with the OSL keyboardist and the presiding pastor. If you are unsure about music to be sung or played, Our Savior’s music staff will gladly collaborate with you on the choice and use of contemporary songs and how they fit into the flow of the service.

Suggested Scripture Readings

Couples are encouraged to select scripture readings that express the themes you want to emphasize. One, two, or three passages, with or without a psalm, are appropriate.

From the Old Testament:

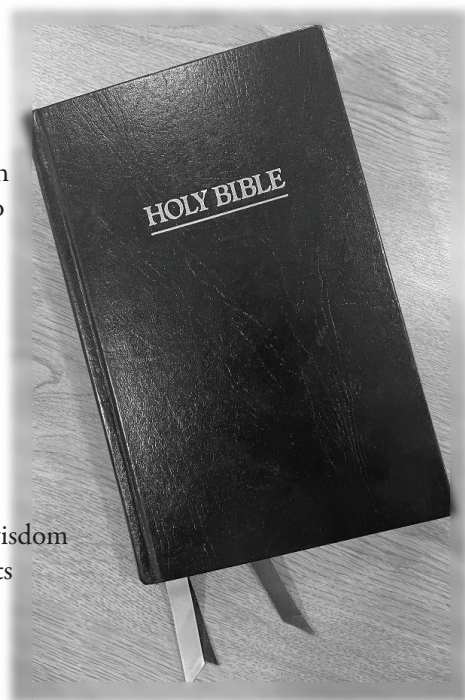
Genesis 1:26–31 – Male and female created by God
Genesis 2:18–24 – God's purpose in creating man and woman
Ruth 1:16–17 – Committed love described
Song of Solomon 2:10–13 – Love in the spring
Song of Solomon 8:7 – Unquenchable love
Isaiah 43:1–3a – God keeps and protects
Isaiah 63:7–9 – The steadfast love of God
Jeremiah 32:38–41 – God's faithfulness
Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 – A time for every matter under heaven
Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 – A cord of three is stronger than two
Psalms: 19, 33, 100, 117, 127, 128, 136, 148, 150

From the New Testament letters:

1 John 3:18–24 – Love in action
1 John 4:7–12 – God's love is perfected in us
1 John 4:16–21 – We love because God first loved us
1 John 5:1–5 – The victory that conquers the world
Romans 12:1–2 – A living offering
1 Corinthians 13 – Love as the greatest gift of God
Ephesians 1:16–19 – That God may give you a spirit of wisdom
Ephesians 3:16–19 – That Christ may dwell in your hearts
Ephesians 5:21–33 – Marriage and the church
Philippians 1:9–11 – That your love may overflow
Philippians 2:1–5 – Share a Christ-like love
Philippians 4:4–9 – Rejoice in the Lord always
Colossians 3:12–17 – Live in love and thanksgiving

From the Gospels:

Matthew 7:24–29 – Build your house on the rock of God
Matthew 19:4–6 – Faithfulness in marriage
John 2:1–10 – Jesus at the wedding in Cana
John 13:33–35 – Disciples are known by their love
John 15:9–12 (13–17) – Love one another



Wedding Vows

The following vows, each expressing your promise to be faithful to each other until you are parted by death, are appropriate for use in your wedding:

1. 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. (From *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*)
2. I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and 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. (From *Service Book and Hymnal*)
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 I promise to be faithful to you with my whole life and with all my being, as long as we both shall live. (From the Minister's Desk Edition, *Lutheran Book of Worship*)
4. In the presence of God and this community, I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife/husband; to have to hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and cherish, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow. (From *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*)
5. 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 strive with you better to understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and the worst of what is to come as long as we live. (From Minister's Desk Edition, *Lutheran Book of Worship*)
6. _____, I give myself to you in the covenant of marriage. I promise to love and sustain you in this covenant, from this day forward, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, as long as we both shall live.

Other Matters

Wedding Coordinator

For weddings held in the Sanctuary or Celebrate Center, a wedding coordinator will be present for the rehearsal and before and during the wedding to assist with details, procedures, and protocol. The coordinator will assist if you are planning a reception at the church. The coordinator will contact you after you have scheduled your wedding with the Church Office.

Dressing Rooms

Dressing rooms are available for members of the wedding party the day of the wedding. If more than one wedding is scheduled for that date, it may be necessary to use other rooms. Your wedding coordinator will assist with this.

Gift Table

If requested, a gift table will be set up near the entrance to the worship space. We suggest that you have someone attend to it at all times during your wedding and reception.



Fees and Deposit

For members getting married at Our Savior's, there is no charge for the use of facilities. However, there are fees for necessary services such as custodian, coordinator, pre-marriage preparation, honorarium for the pastor, etc.

A deposit must be paid at the time a wedding date is booked (the check must be made out to ***Our Savior's – Wedding***). A wedding date cannot be booked until the deposit is received in the Church Office. The deposit serves as a down payment and will be deducted from the wedding fee. If a wedding is canceled more than ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled wedding, the deposit will be refunded, less the cost of the pre-marriage seminar. If canceled within ninety (90) days of the wedding, refunds will be made at the discretion of the scheduled presiding pastor and senior pastor.

The balance remaining (applicable Wedding Fee less the deposit paid when booked) must be received at the Church Office at least fourteen (14) days prior to the wedding. (Again, the check must be made payable to ***Our Savior's – Wedding***.)

The church reserves the right to charge a custodial fee of up to \$500 following the wedding if spaces used by the wedding party require additional cleaning beyond what is reasonable.

Wedding receptions are booked and billed through the OSL office staff.

Wedding Fees

	Members	Nonmembers
Sanctuary, Celebrate Center, or Chapel		
Deposit required to secure wedding date	\$300	\$500
Chapel Wedding	\$650	\$1,000
Does not include fees for special music or vocalists		
Does not include \$150 for PowerPoint technician, if desired		
Sanctuary or Celebrate Center Wedding	\$750	\$1,100
Does not include fees for special music or vocalists		
Does not include \$150 for PowerPoint technician, if desired		

Offsite

Determined on a per-wedding basis. Contact pastor or Church Office, 605-336-2942.

**Wedding fees include: Pastor, Wedding Coordinator, Organist, Sound Tech & Custodial*

Thank You!

We at Our Savior's consider it an honor to assist you in preparing for this milestone in your life. We believe in the sanctity and importance of marriage, as well as the importance of supporting you not only on your wedding day but throughout your married life.

We pray that your wedding day, and the part we play in it, will be a joyful experience for you. We appreciate any feedback you are willing to share with us, so that we can continue to make Our Savior's a wonderful place for couples to prepare for marriage, to be married, and to be supported in their life together.

God's richest blessings to you in your life together.

The Pastors and Staff
of Our Savior's Lutheran Church





OUR SAVIOR'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Planting Faith - Nurturing Hope - Sharing God's Love

909 West 33rd St. • Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-336-2942
www.oslchurch.com

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