

# Your Wedding at St. Luke's Lutheran Church



1701 West Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
(952) 881-5801  
[www.stlukesbloomington.org](http://www.stlukesbloomington.org)

## **A word from our Wedding Ministry Team...**

Congratulations! We are happy that you have decided to be married. We work to prepare couples for this important event and your life together.

The purpose of our pre-marriage ministry is to help you to grow in faith, to build relationships with other couples, and to assist you in strengthening your relationship with each other. We hope that you will worship with us regularly and covenant to work with each other and the church in this premarital process.

The pastor, organist, wedding host, along with other members of our St. Luke's will assist you in the preparation for the wedding and more importantly your marriage.

The use of the Prepare Inventory and our gatherings have been effective models for preparing couples for a healthy marriage, in addition to being a lot of fun!

In this booklet you will find an explanation of this process and policies and guidelines for St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

We look forward to walking with you during this exciting time in your life, and we pray for God's continued blessings on your life together.

Rob Norris-Weber  
Pastor  
rob@stlukesbloomington.org

Lori Murray  
Organist  
lorim@stlukesbloomington.org

Nancee Erickson  
Wedding Host  
nancee\_e@hotmail.com

# Your wedding at St. Luke's

A wedding is an act of worshiping God who calls two people together in marriage. It is a celebration of your love for one another and God's love made known in Jesus.

## Setting the date & time

Check building & staff availability for your selected date. It is good to have an alternate date in mind. You can choose a ceremony time no earlier than 11:00am and no later than 7:00pm on Saturdays. Friday ceremonies are also available no earlier than 5:00pm and no later than 7:00pm. Once a date and time has been selected, return the covenant and couple information forms to the office.

**Your ceremony date and time will only be confirmed after we have received your Covenant and wedding couple information sheet.**

Outside clergy are welcome to participate in your wedding ceremony. However, it should be discussed with the pastor at St. Luke's before any arrangements are made.

There are 3 requirements to our marriage preparation process. They are detailed later in this booklet.

1. Getting Started meeting with the pastor and possibly other couples.
2. Premarital Inventory and Conversation
3. Meeting(s) with the pastor officiating your ceremony.

## Wedding Rehearsal

Rehearsals are normally scheduled the evening before the wedding. They cannot be scheduled earlier than 4:30 pm or later than 7 pm. It will last approximately 45 minutes and are conducted by the pastor or wedding host. The pastor is not always present at the rehearsal. Please make sure to have your wedding party, parents, ushers and readers in attendance. Grandparents are welcome to attend, but it is not necessary for them to be there.

The following items should be brought to your rehearsal

- Ceremony programs
- Unity candle with taper candles

You may also want to bring: guest book, card box/basket, and any other miscellaneous items you don't want to forget the next day. Please do not bring tuxes or dresses.

## Role of the Wedding Host

A wedding Host is required for all weddings at St. Luke's. The host is a valuable resource for your wedding ceremony. The responsibilities of the Host include:

1. Working with each couple to collect and organize detailed information and provide a ceremony unique to each couple (i.e. coordinating special seating, processional order, etc.). Your Host is also available by phone and e-mail for questions you have as you work with your florist, photographer, videographer, etc.
2. Being present or running the rehearsal. The pastor is not always present at rehearsals.
3. Being available the entire time you are at St. Luke's on your wedding day and assisting you in keeping your time schedule and taking care of last minute details.

## Marriage License

Weddings are regulated by the state of Minnesota. You need to apply for a marriage license and can do so in any Minnesota county. There is a minimum five (5) day waiting period in Minnesota and the license cannot be applied for more than six (6) months in advance of your wedding. No (State Official) wedding can proceed without the license. We suggest you apply for your license no later than two (2) months before your wedding date.

## Music and the Wedding Ceremony

The selection of music at your wedding ceremony should be made in consultation with your organist. It is your responsibility to contact her and arrange a meeting before making any musical decisions for your wedding.

The wedding ceremony is an act of worship on the part of all present to offer thanks and to ask God's blessing on the couple's life together. The spoken language and music combine to express the faith of the couple and the Christian community present for your ceremony. The music should create an atmosphere of prayer and joy. Therefore, some music is very suitable for this purpose, and other music may not be as suitable. Popular music needs to be approved by your organist. Hymns may be selected, as well as vocal solos, choral numbers and chamber literature. Recorded music is an option, but realize its limitation unable to improvise as needed.

A sample outline of the wedding ceremony from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal follows later in this booklet. Beginning with the processional, this wedding outline should take approximately 30-35 minutes. The service may be shortened or lengthened by the number of solos and/or hymns that are included.

## Sound & Video

Due to the complex nature of our sound equipment, a sound technician is required for all weddings. A trained member of the St. Luke's sound team will be assigned to your wedding. Outside sound personnel are not allowed. The sound technician will arrive at the church one (1) hour prior to your ceremony and will attend the wedding rehearsal. The technician is responsible for handling sound for the pastor(s), vocal soloists, and instrumentalists requiring amplification. The groom will be amplified.

If you choose to have your ceremony live streamed and/or recorded, a St. Luke's Camera Tech will be assigned. Outside videographers are acceptable. Camera location(s) must be agreed upon with the wedding host. Cameras will not be allowed in the altar area unless they are un-manned. If the videographer chooses to get a sound feed from our system they need to provide the necessary cables/equipment. **We do not allow videographers to place microphones on the bride or groom.**

## Photographer

It is your responsibility to secure a photographer. Please remind your photographer of the following:

1. The photographer is only welcome into the church while bride or groom is present.
2. One-half hour before your ceremony is set aside for last minute details. *All pictures should be taken before this time.*
3. The altar area may not be adjusted or rearranged for pictures.
4. Flash photography is allowed during your processional and recessional *only*.

Please have your photographer contact the wedding host directly if they have any questions regarding our policies.

## Florist

Selecting a florist is your choice. The following information should help you to make arrangements with your florist:

1. The florist is only welcome into the church while bride or groom is present.
2. There are two (2) candelabras available for your use in the altar area free of charge. These may be decorated as you wish. Please talk to the wedding host if you would like ideas on how these can be decorated.
3. If desired, two (2) large floral arrangements may be placed in the altar area. Flower stands will be provided at no charge.
4. Because the altar is a sacred place, we only allow the following to be placed there:
  - i. Presentation of flowers which can be given to the parents during the ceremony.
  - ii. Flowers in memory or honor of loved ones.
5. Aisle runners are not allowed. Please talk to the wedding host if you have questions regarding this policy.
6. The use of real rose/flower petals (usually by the flower girl) is not allowed in the sanctuary. In our experience, the petals get ground into and stain the carpeting and tile floors. Your entire damage deposit will be held if they are used!

## Custodian/Building

The church will be open and available for your wedding party, florist and photographer only while bride or groom is present. (No more than 3 hours prior to the wedding.)

The custodian is responsible for setting up the church before the ceremony and setting up tables and chairs in the Fellowship Hall if there is a reception. She is also responsible for cleaning up the church building after the ceremony. She is not responsible for decorations. **Please make arrangements with friends, family members, etc. for the removal of any flowers and/or decorations that you wish to keep.**

You and your wedding party will be provided with dressing rooms. Please feel free to bring any food and/or non-alcoholic beverages for your wedding party (alcohol, guns and/or weapons of any kind are not allowed on St. Luke's property, which includes the parking lot). **We ask that these rooms be emptied prior to your ceremony** so that none of your personal items are left at the church or stolen during the ceremony.

**St. Luke's is not responsible for any lost or stolen property.**

## **Ceremony Programs**

You are encouraged to provide programs for your guests to guide them through your ceremony. Program layout and printing is your responsibility. You will work with your pastor to plan the ceremony and a final program must be approved by your pastor prior to printing. A sample service outline includes:

Prelude  
Solo (*optional*)  
Processional  
Greeting  
Vows of Intent and Support  
Prayer of the Day  
Congregational Hymn or Solo (*optional*)  
Scripture or \*other Readings (1-3) [One biblical reading is required]  
Solo (*optional*)  
Homily  
Marriage Ceremony  
    Exchange of Vows  
    Exchange of Rings  
    Marriage Blessings  
Unity Candle/Sand (*optional*) with vocal or instrumental music  
Prayer  
The Lord's Prayer (*may be sung*)  
Benediction  
Presentation  
Recessional

## **Unity Candle/Sand Ceremony**

If you wish to have such during the wedding ceremony, you need to provide your own candle and side taper candles/Sand and bowls. The unity candle will be placed in a special holder (provided by the church).

## **Receptions and Catering**

You are invited to consider having your reception at St. Luke's. Our Fellowship Hall is available for receptions and can accommodate a maximum of 200 people. *All receptions are to be catered and alcohol is not permitted on the church property.* Please see the Building Use Fees for details on the cost of using the Fellowship Hall.

## **St. Luke's Wedding Fee Schedule**

The wedding host will contact you one month prior to your wedding date to confirm all information. At that time, a detailed bill will be sent. All fees, your marriage license, and a sample order of service for your ceremony are due to St. Luke's NO LATER than two weeks prior to your wedding day.

	<u>Rehearsal &amp; Ceremony</u>	<u>+ Reception *</u>
<b>Individual Checks for required services:</b>		
Wedding Host	\$ 200.00	\$ 350.00
Organist	\$ 175.00	\$ 325.00
Custodian	\$ 75.00	\$ 175.00
Sound Technician	\$ 175.00	\$ 325.00
Camera Technician ( <i>Does not attend rehearsal</i> )	\$ 100.00	
St. Luke's Lutheran Church ( <i>Free for Members</i> )	\$ 250.00	\$ 375.00
<b>Pastor</b> <i>Includes the ceremony &amp; pastoral counseling</i>	\$ 300.00	
<b>Life Innovations</b> Prepare Inventory processing. Due at Getting Started Meeting.	\$ 35.00	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,135.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,910.00</b>
<b>St. Luke's Lutheran Church</b> Damage deposit **	\$ 150.00	\$ 300.00

### **\*Scheduling**

To schedule a wedding and/or reception, contact the Office: 952-881-5801 / [office@stlukesbloomington.org](mailto:office@stlukesbloomington.org)  
(Office is open Tuesday – Thursday, 9 am – 4 pm)

### **\*\* Damage Deposit**

Along with your standard fees, a separate check for \$150.00/\$300.00, made payable to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, is required as a damage deposit. This check will be returned to you after your wedding unless:

1. Use of or Discarded alcoholic beverage containers are found on church grounds or in the building. This includes the parking lot. Your entire deposit will also be held if anyone in your wedding party/family is found to be consuming alcohol on the church property.
2. Custodial clean-up is required of discarded smoking materials, 'showering materials', stains due to spilled food, flower petals or beverages, or any other damages to the facility.

If it is necessary to retain your damage deposit, we will send you a letter explaining why your deposit was not returned to you.

*All fees subject to change. Revised 06/1/2022*

## Contact Information

St. Luke's Church Office      (952) 881-5801      website: [www.stlukesbloomington.org](http://www.stlukesbloomington.org)  
email: [office@stlukesbloomington.org](mailto:office@stlukesbloomington.org)

### Pastor

Rob Norris-Weber      ext. 103      email: [rob@stlukesbloomington.org](mailto:rob@stlukesbloomington.org)

### Music Staff:

Lori Murray      (612) 554-4511 (*cell*)      email: [lorim@stlukesbloomington.org](mailto:lorim@stlukesbloomington.org)

### Wedding Host

Nancee Erickson      (952) 881-8390 (*home*)      email: [nancee\\_e@hotmail.com](mailto:nancee_e@hotmail.com)

## Checklist for the Wedding Couple

### **6 - 12 months prior to wedding:**

- Review this booklet and write down any questions you may have
- Turn in signed covenant and couple information sheet to the church office
- Reserve Fellowship Hall and contact the church office if you wish to hold your reception at St. Luke's
- Attend 'Getting Started' Meeting and Complete Prepare/Enrich Inventory.
- Schedule reception site, photographer, videographer and florist

### **4 months prior to wedding:**

- Meet with the pastor to review your Prepare/Enrich inventory and plan your ceremony
- Meet with organist/pianist regarding musical selections for your ceremony

### **1 month prior to wedding:**

- Finalize the order of service and get approval from organist/pianist and pastor
- Your wedding host will call and go over last minute details and your bill

### **2 weeks prior to wedding:**

- Send your payments and marriage license to the church

### **5 days prior to wedding:**

- Remind wedding party, including parents, of schedule for rehearsal and wedding day
- Make arrangements for the removal of flowers and decorations from the church



## THINKING ABOUT YOUR WEDDING SERVICE

Before meeting with your pastor to discuss the ceremony, think about what your ceremony means to you and what theme/idea/image you want it to be centered around. How will the things most important to you be reflected in your service? What will your guests be blessed with by being there? ***\*Bring this completed sheet with you when meeting with your pastor.***

The theme we want to lift up at our wedding service, through music, God's Word and the meditations:

Titles of hymns or solos we might want to include:

Scripture lessons or other readings we are thinking about:  
**(You must include at least one scripture reading in your service)**

Other readings:

If you are choosing to write your own prayer petitions or vows, include them here. Keep your theme in mind!

## Suggested Marriage Vows

The following are some standard wedding vows. If you wish to write your own, please consult with the pastor who will be officiating at your ceremony. One of the best ways to write your vows is to make two copies of this sheet. Each person, on their own, identifies the words and phrases that speak to you, and cross out those that do not. Then compare what you chose or crossed out. This gives you a great start to writing your own. Please make sure your Pastor and Wedding Host have a copy of your vows prior to your ceremony.

1. 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.
2. I take you, (name), to be my wife/husband. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful husband/wife, to share with you in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, to forgive and strengthen you and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.
3. I take you, (name) to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful and honest with you; I will respect and trust, help and care for you; I will honor you with my body; I will share my life with you; I will forgive as we have been forgiven; and I will try with you to better understand ourselves, the world and God; through the best and the worst of what is to come as long as we live.
4. I, (name), take you, (name), 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 plan and thereto I pledge to you my faithfulness.
5. In the presence of God and this community, I,(name), take you, (name), to be my wife/husband; to have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

## ***Suggestions for Scripture Readings – \*feel free to choose others.***

Old Testament readings:

The Creation of Man and Woman	Genesis 1:26-28
The Creation of Man and Woman	Genesis 2:18-25
Two are better than one...	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
The Beauty of Love	Song of Solomon 2:10-13
A New Covenant	Jeremiah 31:31-34
The Love of God	Isaiah 54:5-8
The Betrothal of God and Israel	Hosea 2:16-20

Psalms often add inspiring words of God's faithfulness. Consider the following Psalms: 34, 37, 100, 103, 117, 121, 127, 128, 136, 145, and 150. Not all portions of these Psalms are appropriate, but you might find certain passages will add meaning to your marriage service.

The Letters of Paul often give insight into life within a community of faith. Consider the following readings from Paul's Letters:

The Love of Christ	Romans 8:31b-39
The Life of a Christian	Romans 12:1-2, 9-13
The Greatest Love	1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13
Living in Love and Thanksgiving	Colossians 3:12-17
The Love of God	1 John 4:7-12
The Marriage Feast of the Lamb	Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

Couples are often surprised to find there are very few specific passages in the Gospels about marriage. Nonetheless, a Gospel reading is an important part of your marriage service as it witnesses to the great love of Christ. Consider the following Gospel readings:

The Beatitudes	Matthew 5:1-10
Salt and Light	Matthew 5:13-16
Build Your House on Christ	Matthew 7:24-29
What God Has Joined Together	Matthew 19:4-6
Two Become One	Mark 10:6-9
Loving God	Mark 12:28-31
The Great Marriage Feast at Cana	John 2:1-11
Remain in my Love	John 15:9-17

***\*Other Biblical and non-Biblical writings can be presented to the pastor for approval. Please bring the material to your informational meeting or email, [rob@stlukesbloomington.org](mailto:rob@stlukesbloomington.org).***

### *Suggestions for Music*

Our Organist, Lori Murray is set to play for all weddings. She will be happy to provide input for organ, piano, instrumental, vocal and hymn selections. **Before settling on specifics, you must connect with her to discuss music choices for your service as all music needs to be approved.** If you think you might want additional musicians (trumpet, strings or soloist), contact the Organist 4 months before your wedding date. The she is happy to play both Organ and/or Piano for your wedding. Talk with her about the sound you wish to create.

Below are some appropriate wedding music selections - *\*feel free to present others:*

#### **Processionals:**

1. Joyous Procession – Garry Cornell
2. Crown Imperial March – William Walton
3. Epithalame – Healey Willan
4. Trumpet Tune – Frederick Swann
5. Trumpet Voluntary – John Stanley or Jeremiah Clarke
6. Trumpet Tune – R. Baker
7. All My Hope on God is Founded – Michael Burkhardt
8. God of Grace and God of Glory – Paul Manz
9. Jubilante Marche (With 2 trumpets) – Willa Jones
10. Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring – J.S. Bach
11. Gabriel's Oboe – E. Morricone
12. Rhosymedre – R. Vaughan Williams
13. Entrata Festiva – Dale Wood

#### **Recessionals:**

1. A Trumpet Minuet –Hollins
2. Gigue from Fugue in G Major – J.S. Bach
3. Rondo in G – John Bull
4. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee – Paul Manz or Michael Burkhardt
5. Prelude in Classic Style – Gordon Young
6. Hornpipe – G. F. Handel
7. My Spirit Be Joyful – J.S. Bach
8. Jazz Prelude on In dir ist Freude – J. Michael
9. Tocata in Seven – J. Rutter
10. Minuet Finale From Fireworks – G.F. Handel
11. Prelude in Classic Style – Gordon Young
12. Finale from Suite in D – William Boyce
13. Wedding March from Midsummer Night's Dream – Felix Mendelssohn
14. Voluntary on Hymn to Joy – Nicholas J. Lemmens
15. Carillon – Louis Vierne
16. Toccata, Symphony for Organ No. 5 – Charles-Marie Widor

## When considering vocal music:

Music is an important part of your wedding ceremony. We strongly suggest that you have music in your ceremony. It will play an integral part in expressing your personal qualities.

Because your wedding ceremony is a service of worship it is very important to consider what the words or message of a song say. Along with being a worship experience as well as a celebration of your love and vows, it is important to look at the big picture of your relationship. Many love songs are concerned only with physical love or with just the here and now. \*Please select music that reflects the spiritual nature of the celebration. Please contact our Organist before deciding on music and understand that they will need the composer, the arrangement as well as the title of the selections you have heard on youtube.

If you can answer 'yes' to any of these questions, the music is probably appropriate:

- *Do the words reflect praise and or thanksgiving to God?*
- *Is the song based on or does it reflect a scriptural theme?*
- *Is this song in the form of a prayer?*
- *Does the song invoke God's blessing on your marriage?*

### Newer Vocal Songs (since 2016)

**He's Always Been Faithful** - Sara Groves  
**Love Never Fails** - Brickman  
**When God Made You** -Natalie Grant  
**In This Very Room** - Ron Harris  
**Grow Old With Me** - Mary Chapin Carpenter  
**Here We Stand** - T. Carter  
**I Could Not Ask for More**-Edwin McCain  
**Wherever You Go** – David Haas  
**I Will Be Here** – Steven Curtis Chapman

**Blessing** - Katie Moran Bart  
**Only God Could Love You More**  
**Take My Life** – Tomlin/Giglio  
**Only Hope** - Mandy Moore  
**Shine on Us** - Michael W. Smith  
**Better Today** - Coffey Anderson  
**The Prayer** – Sager/Foster  
**Center** – Hall/Redman  
**Draw Me Close** – Kelly Carpenter

### Classic Vocal Songs

**Wedding Hymn** – G. F. Handel  
**Blessing** – Katie Moran Bart  
**The Gift of Love** – Arr. By Hal Hopson  
**Jesus Shepherd, Be Thou Near Us** – J. S. Bach  
**Wedding Blessing** – Walter Pelz  
**And on This Day** – Tina English  
**The Call** – Ralph Vaughan Williams  
**Make Us One, Father** – Paul Johnson  
**I Will Be Here** – Stephen Curtis Chapman  
**You are Mine** – D. Haas

## Congregational Hymns:

You may want to consider singing a hymn during your ceremony. This can be a great way for everyone to participate in the service. \*Other hymns can be presented.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	ELW 631
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father	ELW 585
Lord of All Hopefulness	ELW 765
Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven	ELW 865
Let All Things Now Living	ELW 881
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	ELW 858 or ELW859
All Creatures, Worship God Most High	ELW 835 (stanzas 1, 4, 5, 7)
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	ELW 502
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	ELW 836
I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry	ELW732
Now Thank We All Our God	ELW 839
Blest Be the Tie That Binds	ELW 656
You Are Mine	ELW 581
Sent Forth by God's Blessing	ELW 547
This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited	ELW 586
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing	ELW 807
For the Beauty of the Earth	ELW 879
We Are Called	ELW 720
Go, My Children, With My Blessing	ELW 543

*\*Other music can be presented to the Minister of Music for approval. Please bring the material to your informational meeting or email, [tawnyh@stlukesbloomington.org](mailto:tawnyh@stlukesbloomington.org)*

ELW =Evangelical Lutheran Worship

## ***Covenant for the Premarital Process at St. Luke's Lutheran Church***

A covenant is a two-way relationship. There are expectations and responsibilities for both parties. St. Luke's provides a process with informative and helpful content, plus a meaningful experience in this important time in your lives. Your part in this covenant is your active participation in this process and cooperation with the policies set forth in this booklet. The goal of the covenant is to strengthen your relationship with God and your relationship.

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Our process includes:

1. Reading, signing and returning this covenant.
2. Attending a *Getting Started* session and take the Prepare/Enrich Inventory online.
3. Meeting with a Pastor for P/E Premarital Inventory feedback no later than 2 months prior to our wedding date.

We have read and accept the requirements and responsibilities of this covenant.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Date: \_\_\_\_\_