



# OUR SAVIOR'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Wedding Policy

Approved – July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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“Marriage is a gift of God, intended for the joy and mutual strength of those who enter it and for the well-being of the whole human family.... Marriage is also a human estate, with vows publicly witnessed. The church in worship surrounds these promises with the gathering of God's people, the witness of the word of God, and prayers of blessing and intercession.” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 286)

### ***Setting the Wedding Date***

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The date for your church wedding should be decided in consultation with the pastor and church office. Since our first priority is to ensure members can have their wedding at their home church, non-members may not generally reserve the church more than six months in advance. The pastor from Our Savior's will officiate at all weddings held in the church, unless the pastor gives approval for another ELCA or full-communion partner pastor to officiate. Pastors of other Christian denominations may participate, but an ELCA pastor must be the legal clergy in the wedding.

### ***Meeting with the Pastor***

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After the confirmation of the date, a minimum of two service planning conversations will be scheduled. This will enable the pastor to get to know you better, engage any questions you might have about the church and Christian marriage, and plan the actual service. Time spent by the pastor during these meetings is considered in the wedding honorarium to be paid directly to the pastor at or before the night of the wedding rehearsal.

Each couple is encouraged to participate in additional pre-marriage counseling opportunities. Upon request, recommendations for counselors and resources may be made by the pastor.

### ***Wedding Day Rules***

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Etiquette: No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the church or on church grounds. No smoking is allowed anywhere in the church building. No rice, confetti, birdseed, tissue flowers, etc. can be thrown inside or outside the church.

Decorations: Please do not fasten any decorations to the furniture, pews, or walls with tape, pins, or tacks. Our Savior's has two wedding banners available upon request to be hung in the front of the worship space.

Music: Since a marriage service is a worship service, please choose instrumental and vocal music which reflects this. If you choose to have an organist from Our Savior's, they will be glad to consult with you about your choice in music and appropriate selections. Please contact the organist directly for their fee.

Rehearsal: Please consult with the pastor about your rehearsal plans. Rehearsal is usually the night before the wedding and should take no longer than 45 minutes. Please be prompt. The pastor (and organist) need a copy of the wedding bulletin no later than the time of the wedding rehearsal.

Sanctuary: Seating capacity in the church is as follows: Main Sanctuary: 225-250; Overflow Room: 25-30; Balcony: 70-75; **Total: 320-355**

Dressing Rooms: Rooms are available for the bridal party and groomsmen. Please do not leave valuables in the dressing rooms. Leave the rooms clean after using them.

Kitchen: You may use the church kitchen to serve food to the wedding party before the service. The kitchen must be left clean. Garbage must be taken to the dumpster in the parking lot.

Photography: If pictures are taken before the service, they should be finished at least ½ hour before the service begins. During the ceremony, pictures may be taken in the sanctuary as long as they do not disturb the service.

Marriage License: You must apply for a Marriage License. Questions can be directed to the Records Office at the Barnes County Courthouse. Please bring the marriage license to the church office **at least one week before your wedding date.**

Use of Church Kitchen/Basement for Reception: If desired, and subject to availability, the downstairs kitchen and dining room(s) may be utilized for a rehearsal or wedding day reception. Additional fees and honorariums for hospitality apply. Please discuss your interest in this option with the pastor. Note: Seating capacity in the dining rooms totals 175.

**Honorariums & Fees** - All fees are due by the time of the rehearsal.

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All Wedding Parties:

Custodial Fee – \$100 (made payable directly to the custodian. Contact pastor for information.)

Pastor – \$500\* (made payable directly to the pastor.)

Organist/Pianist - Please contact musicians directly for their fee.

Non-Member Parties Only:

Church Building Use – \$250 (made payable to Our Savior's Lutheran Church.)

\*Reflects ELCA compensation guidelines for worship services, plus additional pre-wedding meetings and planning.

## **The Wedding Service**

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Wedding bulletins/handouts are the responsibility of the couple. A suggested order is found on the final page of this document.

Considerations:

1. How many and which readings? Two to three is typical. See attached sheet for suggestions.
2. Do you wish to light a unity candle, do unity sand, or something else? These are optional.
3. Do you wish to have the marriage license signed during the ceremony or after?
4. What music would you like included in the service? Will the congregation sing hymns?
5. How do you want your name announced?
6. Please consult the pastor for the vows you will use.

### **Scripture Reading Possibilities**

Psalms 33	Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous
Psalms 67	May God be gracious to us and bless us
Psalms 95:1-7	O Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise
Psalms 100	Worship the Lord with gladness
Psalms 103:1-5	Bless the Lord, O my soul
Psalms 117	Praise the Lord, all you nations!
Psalms 127	Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.
Psalms 128	Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways
Psalms 136	O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good
Psalms 150	Praise the Lord!
Genesis 1:26-31	So God created humankind in his image
Genesis 2:18-24	It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a partner
Ruth 1:16-17	Where you go, I will go
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	For everything there is a season
Song of Solomon 2:10-13	Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away
Song of Solomon 8:7	Many waters cannot quench love
Isaiah 63:7-9	I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord
Jeremiah 32:38-39	They shall be my people, and I will be their God
Matthew 6:33	But strive first for the kingdom of God
Matthew 7:24-27	Wise man built his house upon a rock
Matthew 19:4-6	A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife
John 2:1-11	Wedding in Cana
John 15:9-17	I have loved you, abide in my love
Romans 12:1-2	Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable
1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Love is patient; love is kind
Philippians 2:1-5	Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus
Philippians 4:4-9	Rejoice in the Lord always
Colossians 3:12-17	As God's chosen ones, clothe yourself with compassion
1 John 4:7-12	Let us love one another, because love is from God

The Marriage Service  
Of  
Name 1  
And  
Name 2  
Date  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Valley City, North Dakota

Prelude  
Processional  
Greeting  
Declaration of Intention  
Prayer  
Solo/Hymn (optional)  
Scripture Readings  
Sermon  
Hymn/Solo (optional)  
Exchange of Vows  
Giving of Rings  
Acclamation  
Lighting of Unity Candle/Unity Sand/Etc. (Can have a solo/music during this)  
Marriage Blessing  
Prayers & Lord's Prayer  
Blessing  
Recessional  
Postlude