

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Rev. James Byork, Senior Pastor
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tor

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Marriage

May the Lord bless your wedding day!

Your wedding day is one of the most important days in your life. Very properly you want God's blessing on this occasion and desire to have your vows consecrated by the Word of God and prayer. Beautiful flowers, dresses and decoration have their place on this joyous occasion. Yet, you know that more important than these is the blessing of Him who instituted marriage, graced the marriage at Cana with His presence, and promised to bless forever all who believe in Him as Savior.

For these reasons you are deeply concerned, not only to have your wedding in church, but also that the ceremony be in the true sense of the Word, a worship experience in which Jesus remains central and the Word of God and prayer receive their rightful place. May the Lord make your wedding day all you want it to be and bless you!

Planning Your Wedding

SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

It is the policy of Redeemer Lutheran Church that the local pastors have the authority over the usage of the worship facility and the worship itself. A person wanting to hold a wedding in our church must have one of our pastors at Redeemer Lutheran Church preside over the service.

Please keep in mind that other events are scheduled at the church and, therefore, make arrangements as soon as possible to be certain that the church will be available for a wedding on the day you wish to be married. As soon as you have a proposed date for your wedding, a call should be made to the church office (272-7973) so it can be determined whether the church and one of the pastors will be available at the time requested. The wedding and rehearsal dates will then be entered into the Church Facilities Use calendar.

Due to the penitential nature of the season we would urge you not to plan a large wedding celebration during Lent. NO weddings will be performed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Maundy Thursday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day since these are very special days in the Church Year. Weddings are certainly appropriate at any other time of the year if the pastor(s) and church are available.

The Wedding Coordinator helps you to initiate the wedding process by answering your questions and assisting you in reaching the answers to enable your wedding plans to go smoothly. The Wedding Coordinator becomes the liaison between the church and your wedding. You may still have your own Wedding Consultant who will help you with your wedding. We have discovered, however, that even the best Wedding Consultants cannot be aware of all the details concerning a wedding at Redeemer. There is a fee for this service. The bridal couple must contact the Director of Choir/Organist as soon as the wedding date is set to be sure of no scheduling conflict. (see more information on page three and four).

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

The pastors require a minimum of three sessions with the prospective bride and groom. There will be some cost involved for counseling materials.

FLOWERS

Flowers and palms may be used to decorate the chancel for a wedding. No flower arrangements may be used on the altar. Two vases may be placed on the plant stands to the right of the altar and/or two vases on the wall shelves. Couples may request that the flowers be left for the worship services the following Sunday, with the notation placed in the bulletin. Please inform the office of your intentions for the flowers as far in advance of the wedding as possible. If you do not have a special Florist in mind, Redeemer uses Flowers By Victoria at 379-1863 for our flowers. They have a key to the church which can eliminate having someone be here when they deliver the flowers for your wedding.

CANDLES

Candles for the altar will be furnished by the church. Two candelabras (7 candles each) are available for use. Dripless candles for these must be supplied by the couple. A Unity candelabra is available. The two wedding candles and Christ candle is available for a fee or you may purchase your own.

DRESSING

The bridal party may dress at the church or freshen up just prior to the wedding. The men may use our vestry and the women may use the downstairs fellowship hall.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Bows on the ends of the pews may be used. Any other decorations used must be approved by the Wedding Coordinator. A kneeling cushion is available. Rice and bird seed may not be thrown on the church grounds.

RECEPTION

The Fellowship Hall is available for wedding receptions. All arrangements for the reception are the responsibility of the family. No alcoholic beverages or smoking is permitted on the premises. (See fee chart.)

HOLY COMMUNION

It is the practice of Redeemer Lutheran Church not to offer Holy Communion to the wedding party or guests. The Sacrament is a gift of the church and falls under auspices of the Office of the Keys to be share during times of public worship. Weddings are not occasions for public worship as they are meant to be times in which a man and woman become husband and wife.

Instructions Concerning the Wedding

REHEARSAL

The Rehearsal should begin promptly at the hour agreed upon with the pastor. It will normally not last more than 30 minutes.

WEDDING MUSIC

Music appropriate for church usage should be played for the processional, recessional, and any music during the service. Selection of music should be made with the Director of Choir/Organist as soon as possible. (See #2 under Music Guidelines)

All weddings with music are done by the Director of Choir/Organist if scheduling permits. Guest organists may play for weddings provided they contact the Director of Choir/Organist to secure permission and to arrange practice time. Guest organists are expected to be competent players, able to handle the instrument in the church, and abide by Redeemer guidelines.

To allow the Director of Choir/Organist ample time for preparation and rehearsing, wedding couples are asked to consult with the Director of Choir/Organist a minimum of two months prior to the wedding to (a) choose music for the wedding and (b) pay 50% of the fee. (Balance of fee is due at the wedding rehearsal.) If a bridal couple is unable to arrange a time to choose music, they may ask the Director of Choir/Organist to choose the music or provide a tape of music for them from which they can choose their music. If the couple fails to consult with the Director of Choir/Organist two months before their wedding they may forfeit their right to make the selection of their wedding music. Those couples whose wedding date is less than two months away should contact the Director of Choir/Organist immediately about music.

It should be remembered that a wedding at Redeemer is a Christian worship service and the music chosen must be appropriate for worship. Popular love songs, show tunes, or other secular music are not considered appropriate. All choice of music should be reviewed by the Director of Choir/Organist and the Pastor officiating at the wedding.

A list of soloists and instrumentalists familiar with our church and wedding service are available from the Director of Choir/Organist, along with the list of suitable vocal and instrumental music. If the bridal couple wish to have a friend or relative provide music, that person must consult with the Director of Choir/Organist two months in advance of the wedding to allow sufficient time to obtain and prepare music. Published (not photo) copies of music in the necessary key must be provided by the bridal couple for the soloist(s) and the Director of Choir/Organist if the music is not in the church music library.

Normally, responsibilities of the Director of Choir/Organist include; (a) consultation with the bridal couple to choose music; (b) wedding rehearsal, plus additional practice time with soloist(s) or groups; (c) the wedding. Any deviations from these normal conditions must be made known and agreed to by the Director of Choir/Organist at the initial consultation to choose music. Fees are listed on the fee chart.

DIRECTIONS FOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Flash pictures may be taken before and after the wedding. Also, during processional and recessional if done discreetly.

No flash pictures are to be taken during the ceremony. Time exposures and video may be taken from the balcony or back of the church during the ceremony. If approved by the Wedding Coordinator, you may set an unmanned stationary video camera in front of the church.

Pictures of the couple and attendants will be posed either before the service or immediately following the recessional.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE BRIDAL PARTY

The bride's mother signals the guests to stand for the processional by rising at the appropriate time.

A receiving line, if there is one, normally is formed at the reception. It is formed as follows: mother of the bride, father of groom, mother of groom, father of bride, bride, groom, maid of honor, bestman, bridesmaids and groomsmen.

The bridal party should arrive at least 30 minutes before the wedding. They may want to arrive sooner if they are dressing at the church.

In addition to her other duties, the MAID OF HONOR helps the bride arrange her dress (and train) prior to the processional and recessional. During the ceremony she helps the bride lift back her veil and holds the bride's bouquet.

In addition to his other duties, the BEST MAN gives the pastor his fee, the other fees, and the marriage license at the rehearsal. He stays with the groom and accompanies him to the altar. He keeps the rings (unless a ring-bearer is used) until he hands them to the pastor at the proper time during the ceremony.

The USHERS have the following responsibilities:

- To be present at least 30 minutes prior to the wedding.
- To seat the people as they arrive and to dismiss them by rows following the ceremony.
- To light the candles 10 minutes before the wedding and extinguish them after the pictures are taken (unless acolytes are used).
- To instruct guests with cameras that no flash pictures are permitted during the ceremony.
- To be sure the church is left in the condition it is found
- To usher in and out the parents & grandparents in the following order:
 - (1) grandparents -four (4) minutes before the wedding
 - (2) parents of the groom -two (2) minutes before the wedding
 - (3) mother of the bride -one (1) minute before the wedding(after the Recessional the order is reversed)
- The ushers should establish who will be ushering in and out the parents and grandparents.
- Guests are normally to be distributed evenly throughout the Sanctuary without reference to "bride's side" or "groom's side".
- After the mother of the bride has been seated, all of the men line up in the vestry and then take their places in front of the communion rail in the Sanctuary as the procession begins.

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

(A solo may be sung prior to The Processional)

THE PROCESSIONAL

(The order of The Processional: bridesmaids, maid/matron of honor, ring bearer, flower girl, bride/father.)

THE BLESSING

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

THE PRAYER

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 _____ and _____ and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts may forever celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end. Amen

THE DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

We have come together in God's name and as his people so that _____ and _____ may be joined in the covenant of marriage. Marriage, like our creation as male and female, owes its existence to God's creation, who intends that husband and wife should love each other, be faithful to each other throughout their life, and should there be children, that they be brought up surrounded by love and be baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. Our Lord blessed marriage and St. Paul compared it to the union which exists between Christ and His church.

Therefore marriage must not be entered into lightly or thoughtlessly, but with mutual respect, with reverence for God and with the intention to obey His will. _____ and _____ seek such a Christian marriage.

THE CEREMONY OF CONSENT (If desired by the couple.)

Option #1: (Addressed to the parents of both bride and groom)

Would the parents of _____ and _____ please rise. Parents, you have fulfilled your role in raising your children and seeing them come to this important step in their lives. You now enter a new role in your relationship with them as you seek to support and encourage your son I and daughter in their marriage relationship. It seems right, then, to ask you parents to make at vow, just as _____ and _____ will make theirs to each other in a moment. "Do you support _____ and _____ in their choice of each other, and will you encourage them to build a home marked by openness, understanding, and mutual sharing?" (The parents will answer, 'We do.')

Thank you for your good influence and steady ways that bring _____ and _____ to this day.

Option #2: Do you, Mr. _____ give your daughter into the care of _____, blessing and strengthening their marriage. (Response by father) *Yes, her mother and I do.*

THE WORD OF GOD

(The bride and groom may select one or more of the following lessons or a personal favorite lesson to be read.)

Genesis 1:26-31	Matthew 19:3-6	Ephesians 4:32-5:2
Genesis 2:18-24	Mark 4:35-41	Ephesians 5:21-33
Ruth 1:16-17	Mark 10:6-9	Colossians 3:12-17
Psalms 23,33,67,100	Luke 12:22-31	I Peter 3:1-9
117,128,136,150	John 2:1-10	I John 3:18-24
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	John 15:9-12	I John 4:7-12
Isaiah 63:1-7	Romans 12:1-2,9-18	I Cor. 12:31-13:13

THE WEDDING MESSAGE

THE HYMN (A solo or hymn may be sung.)

THE PROMISES

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. God, who established

marriage, continues to bless it with his abundant and ever-present support.

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

(The bride gives her bouquet to the maid of honor. The bride and groom face each other and I join hands. Each, in turn, promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words. You may choose one of the following promises or write your own. For those who wish to write their own, the promises must indicate the complete sharing which marriage implies and make clear that the promises are a life-long commitment. It is not a formula but the promise of faithfulness that makes the marriage.)

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.

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 better to understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and worst of what is to come until death parts us.

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 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.

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 to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being until death parts us.

THE EXCHANGE OF RINGS

These rings are an outward and visible symbol, to all who see them and to these two who wear them, of the commitment they have just made in your presence to love each other faithfully throughout their lives.

We pray: *Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings, that they who wear them may abide in your peace and continue in your favor, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(The bride and groom exchange rings with these words:)

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

THE CANDLE CEREMONY (If desired by the couple.)

_____ and _____ will now symbolize their marriage by the lighting of candles. The two outside candles have been lighted to represent their individual lives to this moment. They are two distinct people, each capable of going their separate ways. To bring blessing and happiness to their home, there must be a merging of these two lights into one light. This is what our Lord Jesus meant when he said, "*On this account a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall be one flesh.*" From this time on their thoughts shall be for each other rather than for themselves. Their plans shall be mutual, their joys and sorrows shall be shared.

(The bride and groom will proceed to light the candle.)

As they each take a candle and together light the center one, they extinguish their own candles, thus letting the center candle represent their new life together. As this one light cannot be divided, neither shall their lives be divided but be a united testimony in a Christian home. May the radiance of this one light be a testimony of their unity in the Lord Jesus Christ.

WE DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

(The bride and groom join hands, and the minister announces their marriage by saying:) _____ and by their promises before God and in the presence of this congregation, have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.

(The bride and groom kneel before the altar.)

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. Amen.

THE PRAYER

Let us pray for _____ and _____ in their life together.

Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your grace upon _____ and _____ 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. Amen.

(The Lord's Prayer is spoken by all or may be sung by a soloist.)

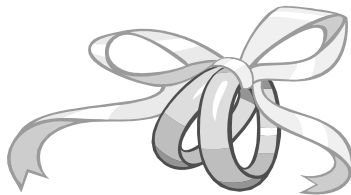
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

WE BLESSING

The Lord bless and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light, and truth, and love now and forever. Amen.

(The bride and groom rise and may embrace.)

THE RECESSIONAL



Wedding Check List

Consultation with Pastor
Date and time of wedding/rehearsal
Contact the Wedding Coordinator
Contact the Director of Choir/Organist
Reception (if church facilities needed)
Organist (to choose music)
Flowers
Soloist, if any
Photographer
Bridal party
Marriage License (left with pastor at rehearsal)
Wedding candelabra (if desired)
Unity candle (if used)
Rings
Make checks out for all wedding parties

