

WEDDING GUIDELINES

For

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Medford, WI



Congratulations! *You are planning to be married. To be married in the church is to be married in a worship service in the presence of God's people aware of God's blessing on your union. The following guidelines are written to help you in the planning of your wedding day.*

Initial Arrangements

It is important to set a date for your wedding as soon as possible. For purposes of planning and proper preparation, it is required to schedule your wedding at least three months in advance. When reserving a date, please remember that Advent and Lent are very busy times in the church.

Marriage Preparation

Couples being married at St. Paul's are expected to participate in pre-marriage counseling (minimum of three meetings) as determined by the pastor.

The Pastor

The pastor who will officiate at your wedding service has been called by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church to "preside at rites of the church." That means it is the responsibility of the pastor to see that your marriage service is performed in keeping with the policies of the congregation and within the tradition of the church. A guest pastor may be invited to share in the service but the pastor of St. Paul's will lead the service. Lay persons may be used to read lessons, or to assist in the prayers, etc.

Organist/Pianist

We can provide you with names of organists/pianists but it will be your responsibility to contact her/him directly to schedule and discuss the music.

Custodian

Cleans the church after use.

Musicians

In addition to an organist, some couples like to incorporate a vocalist or instrumentalist (e.g. flute, trumpet, etc.) within the ceremony. Please discuss this with the organist/pianist/musician(s) in your initial contact. This will allow plenty of time to schedule extra rehearsals if necessary.

The License

For all but the blessing of a civil marriage, couples must secure a license to marry from the State of Wisconsin.

The Rehearsal

Your rehearsal will be scheduled for the day before your wedding. The rehearsal time for your wedding will be determined between you and the pastor. Please make sure that your entire wedding party attends the rehearsal.

The Worship Area

St. Paul's sanctuary (worship area) comfortably seats up to 250 guests. However, we are able to accommodate up to 500 people for a service. Please let the pastor know how many guests you expect to have at your ceremony.

OUTLINE OF THE MARRIAGE WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude (organ, instrumental music)
Procession (organ, instrumental or congregational hymn)
The Greeting
Prayer of the Day
Hymn or Solo (optional)
Bible Readings
Sermon
Hymn or Solo (optional)
The Exchange of Vows and Rings
Pronouncement of Marriage
The Blessing
The Lighting of the Unity Candle (optional)
Hymn or Solo (optional - during the lighting of the unity candle)
Blessing by parents and wedding party (optional)
Holy Communion (optional)
The Prayers /The Lord's Prayer
The Benediction
Introduction of the Couple Recession (instrumental or congregational hymn)

Decorations

The paraments (altar cloths) at St. Paul's are designed and used according to the church year. The paraments may **not** be changed for your wedding. Decorations may be placed on the pews, however no adhesive substances may be used to secure them. For safety reasons, aisle runners may not be used.

Floral decorations may be used. Flowers are not to be placed on the altar, but can be placed around it. In addition to the candles upon the altar, aisle candles can be purchased.

If you wish, you may light a unity candle during your marriage service. *Note: You are responsible to provide your own unity candle along with two tapers (side candles).*

Recorded Music

There is nothing inherently wrong with recorded music, but be aware that there can be technical difficulties associated with recorded music. Missed cues and long pauses can ultimately detract from the beauty of the occasion. We suggest that you refrain from recorded music, if at all possible. The music must be discussed with and approved by the pastor.

Vocal Music

You are welcome to have a soloist. The music selected must be approved by the pastor.

Congregational Hymns:

Since the wedding service is a worship service, it is appropriate for those gathered to sing together. A hymn also adds to the sense of participation in the service by those attending. Hymns may be sung in place of other vocal music or instrumental procession and recession. The following hymns from the **Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW)** and the **With One Voice (WOV)** are suggested for your consideration. These two hymnals are found in the pews in the sanctuary for use during worship.

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now	253
We Praise You, O God	241
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	543
Holy God, We Praise Your Name	535
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	315
O Perfect Love	287
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father	288
Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus	487
Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer	289
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	456
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	551
Let All Things Now Living	557

Congregational Hymns: (continued)

All Creatures of Our God and King	527
On What Has Now Been Sown	261
Now Thank We All Our God	534
Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven	549
Earth and All Stars	558
Bind Us Together	748
When Love is Found	749
As Man And Woman, We Were Made	751
Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With your Love	765
I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry	770
Be Thou My Vision	776
On Eagle Wings	779

Bible Readings

Usually, two scripture lessons or more are read during the wedding service. You may choose to have more or less. The following texts are offered as suggestions.

Old Testament Readings: General Theme

Genesis 1:26-31	Male and female created by God
Genesis 2:18-24	God creates man and woman
Ruth 1:16-17	Dedication and Faithfulness
Song of Solomon 2:10-13	Love in the Spring
Song of Solomon 8:7	Unquenchable love
Isaiah 63:7-9	The steadfast love of God
Jeremiah 32:38-41	God's faithfulness
Jeremiah 33:10d-11	The voice...of gladness
Psalms: 33, 34, 63, 67, 95:1-7,100, 103:1-5, 117, 127, 128, 136, 150	
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	To Everything There Is a Season
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	Two are better than one

New Testament Letters:

Romans 12:1-2	The new life in Christ
I Corinthians 13:1-13	Love Is Patient
Colossians 3:12-17	Live in love and thanksgiving
Philippians 2:1-5	Imitating Christ
I John 4:7-12	Teaching on love
Philippians 4: 4-7	Rejoice

The Gospels:

Matthew 19:4-6	Faithfulness in Marriage
Matthew 5:16	The Beatitudes
John 2:1-10	The Wedding at Cana
John 15:9-12	Love one another
John 17:22-23	Christ's prayer for Love and Unity
Matthew 7:24-27	Build your house on “The Rock”

The Exchange of Promises

You have the option to choose from several different vows.
Please inform the pastor as to which one you choose.

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. (Printed in *Lutheran Book of Worship*)
2. 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 ourselves, the world and God; through the best and worst of what is to come until death parts us.
3. 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 strengthen you, and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.
4. _____, 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.

You may wish to write your own vows. They should be consistent with the biblical understanding of marriage and should make clear that the promises are a life-long commitment. The pastor must approve the wording you choose. The vows printed above may serve as a good outline for the writing of your own promises.

Holy Communion

If you plan to have Holy Communion as a part of your wedding service, please indicate your intent as you talk with the pastor during your planning sessions.

Ushers

For most weddings two ushers are sufficient; three or four ushers are only needed for large weddings.

Bulletins

It is helpful, but not necessary, to have printed bulletins to inform members of the congregation of the order of worship and the names of participants in the worship service. If you would like the church to prepare a bulletin, please discuss this with the church secretary.

Photography

You are encouraged to have pictures taken before the wedding service if time permits in the sanctuary. This avoids the rush of taking pictures after the service and can be a courtesy to the guests who might otherwise have an extended wait at the reception.

Church policy does not allow the taking of flash pictures during the ceremony. Pictures may be taken as the bride and groom are returning down the aisle after the ceremony. You might include a statement in your bulletin asking that your guests not take pictures during the ceremony.

Videography

Video taping your ceremony is permissible, but must be done in an unobtrusive manner. If you are having a videographer, it is important that they attend the rehearsal in order to view the worship area and can determine where to film from.

If you wish, St. Paul's can provide a DVD copy of your wedding service at a cost of \$5.

Reminders

* No alcohol may be consumed on the premises, in the parking lots, or on the streets adjacent to St. Paul's. The pastor may dismiss any persons in the wedding party who are drinking alcohol and/or appear intoxicated. If either the bride or the groom appear to be intoxicated, the wedding will be terminated by the pastor.

* No smoking is allowed inside the church building.

* No pets allowed in the wedding service.

* Rice or birdseed is not to be thrown. Bubbles may be used outside the building.

* Flash pictures are not to be taken during the wedding ceremony.

The bride and groom are responsible for informing the wedding party and guests regarding these policies.

Fees For Members of St. Paul's

Building for Members: No charge
A gift to the congregation is suggested.

Custodian (Ron Raasch)	\$25 fee
Secretary	
Bulletin preparation fee:	\$25 fee
Organist	\$100 fee
Bulletins (St. Paul's)	Purchased at cost
Candles (St. Paul's)	Purchased at cost
DVD/recording service (St. Paul's)	\$5 fee
Pastor: (Brian Mundt)	\$150 fee

If your wedding is off site, you will be responsible for the pastor's mileage (.56 a mile) and hotel/food expenses as necessary.

Fees For Non-Members of St. Paul's

Building (St. Paul's)	\$150 fee
Custodian (Ron Raasch)	\$25 fee
Secretary	
Bulletin preparation fee:	\$25 fee
Organist	\$100 fee
Bulletins (St. Paul's)	Purchased at cost
Candles (St. Paul's)	Purchased at cost
DVD/recording service (St. Paul's)	\$5 fee
Pastor: (Brian Mundt)	\$250 fee

Things to bring with you to the rehearsal

Rings, Decorations (if desired), Unity Candle (if desired), Checks for fees and License.



Questions?

Contact: Pastor Brian at St. Paul's
715-748-4909 or stpaulspastor@tds.net

or Mike Lindau, Ministry Manager at
715-748-4909 or mdlindau@yahoo.com

Checklist for the Wedding Couple

- ___ Have we scheduled our premarital/counseling sessions?
- ___ Have we made date/time reservations for both the wedding and the rehearsal?
- ___ Have we called the organist/musician(s) to set an appointment to discuss our music selection?
- ___ Do we want to propose Scripture lessons to the pastor?
Which ones?
- ___ Will we select one or more readers or will the pastor read the Bible readings?
- ___ Do we want soloists or instrumentalists in our wedding?
- ___ Have we made arrangements with a florist for flowers?
- ___ Have we notified the church office if we want to leave flowers for Sunday morning?
- ___ Will we have a unity candle?
- ___ Do we want bows or candles on the ends of the pews?
- ___ Will we have bulletins?
- ___ Will we have a greeting or receiving line at the church? At the reception?
- ___ Have we made photography and/or video arrangements?
- ___ Will the bride be “given away”? If so, by whom?
- ___ Have we made contact with the county courthouse regarding the marriage license?
- ___ Who will be the witnesses to sign the marriage license?
- ___ Will both bride and groom exchange a ring?
- ___ Do we know precisely who the wedding attendants are?
- ___ Have we selected ushers?

Thank you for choosing St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church for your wedding! Should you have any questions regarding these policies or any other areas of concern, please call us. We want to work with you to make your day all that you want it to be. May God bless you as you plan for your wedding and begin a new life as husband and wife!