



**Faith Lutheran Church**

PO Box 358, 308 2nd St. NW  
Dodge Center, MN 55927  
507-374-2174

Wedding Blessings!

We congratulate and celebrate with you on your upcoming wedding. We are glad your faith is important to you and has led you to choose Faith Lutheran Church as the place for your wedding. The pastoral and support staff at Faith stand willing and able to help you with all of the important decisions that you will be making. We are here to be of service to you, and celebrate the partnership into which this brings us.

This booklet is designed to help you prepare for your wedding celebration, answer some questions, and outline some steps that are necessary to make your wedding all it can be. Please read this booklet carefully and contact us with any comments or questions as soon as possible.

We look forward to serving you, and we pray, not only for your wedding ceremony, but also for your life together as committed husband and wife.

In the Love of the Savior,

Pastor Barb Streed  
(507-456-4395 cell)

Wedding Coordinator Brenda Bronner  
(507-696-5346 cell)

Rehearsal Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Ceremony Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## **WEDDINGS AT FAITH**

SOME FIRST STEPS: We ask that the following arrangements be completed before making further plans for your wedding:

### 1. THE PASTOR:

Meet with Pastor Barb to review the full wedding packet, schedule the rehearsal and wedding dates/times, complete the 'Application for Use of Faith Lutheran Church', and provide separate checks for fees as noted in '#2 Fees.'

We will also discuss the required pre-marital sessions with Pastor Barb. Besides being one of the best gifts you can give one another, this will afford the opportunity to receive a significant discount on your marriage license.

2. FEES: Please bring checks to Pastor Barb at least 3 months before your wedding date.

#### Members

Use of Sanctuary is free

Pastor Compensated with an honorarium (Check made to Pastor Barb Streed)

Church Musician \$150.00 (if applicable) (Check made to Nadine Langworthy)

Janitorial Services \$75.00 (Check made to Tessa Ogren)

Church Wedding Coordinator \$15.00/Hour (Check made to Brenda Bronner)

Sound Technician \$75.00 (Check made to \_\_\_\_\_)

#### Non-Members

Use of Sanctuary \$150.00 (Check made to Faith Lutheran Church)

Pastor Compensation \$200.00 (Check made to Pastor Barb Streed)

Church Musician (if applicable) \$150.00 (Check made to Nadine Langworthy)

Janitorial Services \$75.00 (Check made to Tessa Ogren)

Church Wedding Coordinator \$15.00/Hour (Check made to Brenda Bronner)

Sound Technician \$75.00 (Check made to \_\_\_\_\_)

### 3. THE WEDDING COORDINATOR:

The wedding coordinator will take the guesswork out of coordinating the "church side" of your wedding. She will serve as your Faith liaison: Available to answer questions, plan, and help give direction. We require the use of our coordinator as that person is here to oversee the use of the facility and help with questions. After setting the date/ time, our wedding coordinator will schedule your initial meeting to discuss general information. We recommend this be done as early as possible with a minimum of six months prior to your wedding.

### 4. OUR VALUES FOR WEDDINGS AT FAITH LUTHERAN:

Marriage is meant to be a covenant of lifelong faithfulness between two people, grounded on God's steadfast love. God's amazing faithfulness and covenant to us is our model. (Ephesians 5:21-23) A marriage celebration **is a worship service** and should be structured to glorify God through music, word, and sacrament. The pastor at Faith Lutheran will not perform "walk-in"

marriages. A minimum waiting period of one month is required on all marriages. Any final decisions regarding the worship, music, and liturgy rest with the pastor and organist/musician. Also, the pastor reserves the right to refuse to perform a marriage if he/she feels he/she cannot in good conscience be involved.

#### 5. REHEARSAL:

Rehearsals take less than one hour, and are usually held the day or evening before the wedding. Rehearsals will start on time whether or not the entire wedding party has arrived.

#### 6. PICTURES:

The wedding party should control both the time and the cost of the pictures, not the photographer. We encourage most pictures to be taken before the wedding, but the photographic session should be completed at least 30 minutes prior to the service. If taking pictures after the service, be mindful that your guests are waiting eagerly to joy in celebrating with you at the reception and/or dance. Don't make them wait too long. Because your wedding is a worship service, we ask that no pictures be actively taken during the service.

#### 7. VIDEOGRAPHY:

You are free to contact a company/person of your choice to videotape your wedding.

#### 8. USHERS:

A minimum of two ushers (more if more than 100 guests) are necessary to light candles, seat guests, etc. Groomsmen or bridesmaids may be used as additional ushers. Ushers should be mature and responsible.

#### 9. PROGRAMS:

It is helpful to have a printed program to inform guests of the order of service and the names of the participants in the wedding. You should plan the program with the pastor, and the pastor will approve the final copy. Faith Lutheran does not provide for printing of wedding bulletins. Please contact a local print shop for this service.

#### 10. SET UP:

Aisle runners are just fine to use, however Faith Lutheran does not provide them. A unity candle is often desired. Unity candles must have some type of tray under them to catch dripping wax. If using sand for a sand ceremony, bring an appropriate table covering. Paraments on the altar are to remain in place. Flowers may be placed on stands right next to the altar or on the floor. It is inappropriate to place flowers on the altar. No real flower petals unless they are dropped on a runner. Artificial petals are fine. All petals need to be picked up before you leave the church.

Moving of altar area, font table, etc. should be done by Faith Lutheran Church wedding coordinator.

We ask that no one use the sound system/equipment unless they have prior permission from the church office to use it and have had training on the system. We ask for 30 days notice if this is desired. Please feel free to our wedding coordinator if you have questions concerning decorating. In order to prevent damage to our sanctuary fixtures, tape or tacks are not used during decorating. Also, please be conscientious in cleaning up afterwards in any rooms you use.

#### 11. SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES:

**A wedding is a worship service of the church.** Participants and guests should conduct themselves accordingly. Make certain you and your entire wedding party arrive at least ten minutes prior to the rehearsal. (We WILL begin on time whether everyone is present or not.) Education rooms will be available for the bride and her attendants. The groom and groomsmen may use the other education rooms as a dressing area if needed. Please check all rooms used following the ceremony, to be sure personal items are not left behind and rooms are clean.

Please remind your family and friends not to throw rice, flower petals, or birdseed in the church building or outside of the building. It is hazardous on floors, and difficult to clean up. Bubbles are to be done outside. Smoking and the use or possession of alcoholic beverages on church property is prohibited.

#### 12. THE LICENSE:

Minnesota Law requires couples to secure a license to marry. This license is good for six months. It must be applied for a minimum of five business days before the wedding at any Clerk of Court office in the state. Only one person need apply, but he/she must have proof of age for both persons. There is a fee for the license with a savings with documentation of completion of the pre-marital workshop. The license should be brought to the church office at least one week prior to the wedding. We will place it in the safe. Following the ceremony your wedding certificate is mailed to the county recorder. The recorder will mail you a certified copy.

### 13. PLANNING YOUR WEDDING:

You will meet with Pastor Barb to plan your wedding ceremony. At your meeting, several of the following items will be discussed.

- **THE ORDER OF SERVICE:** The usual order of service is as follows:

Prelude Processional

Invocation

Welcome

Prayer

Scripture Readings

Music

Wedding Message

Marriage Vows

Exchange of Rings

Unity Candle/Sand/Braid Music

Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

The Marriage Blessing

Presentation of the Couple

Recessional

Postlude

The wedding service allows for a variety of options. We 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 construct your own by writing your own vows, prayers, and liturgy. This, of course, should be done in consultation with the pastor. Assistant ministers or friends may also be used in the service to read the lessons or to assist in prayers. You may wish to invite your parents to lay on hands for a blessing. If you choose to celebrate communion as part of your wedding.

- **SOME SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES:**

Each wedding ceremony should include at least one scripture reading (most have two, three, or more readings). Please choose scriptures that are meaningful to you as a couple. (If the following scriptures are not what you're looking for, please ask one of the pastors for more ideas.)

#### **Old Testament Lessons:**

Genesis 1:26-28 The creation of man and woman

Genesis 2:18-24 Two shall become one

Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a God's new covenant

Song of Solomon 2:10-13 Love in the spring

Song of Solomon 8:7 Unquenchable love

Isaiah 63:7-9 God's steadfast love

Psalms 33, 100, 117, God's faithfulness 127, 128, 136, 150

**Gospel Lessons:**

Matthew 5:13-16 Salt of the earth and light of the world

Matthew 7:24-29 A house built on rock

Matthew 19:4-6 Faithfulness in marriage

Matthew 22:35-40 The greatest commandment

John 2:1-11 The wedding at Cana

John 15:9-12 Remain in my love

John 15:12-16 Love one another as I have loved you

**Epistle Lessons:**

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 The love of Christ

Romans 12:1-2 A living offering

I Corinthians 12:31-13:13 The greatest is love

Ephesians 5:21-33 Subject to one another

Colossians 3:12-14 Put on love

I John 4:7-19 Living in God's love

- **MUSIC AND THE WEDDING:**

Your wedding ceremony is a service of worship. It is a gathering of family and friends, in God's presence, to hear your vows and celebrate your faithfulness to each other and God's faithfulness to you. The music you select should contribute to this spirit of worship, praise, and thanksgiving. The music may be instrumental or vocal, and may be sung as a solo, duet, small ensemble, full choir, or as congregational hymns. You will need to consult with the church organist/musician first before making any decisions or arrangements concerning music or musicians. The organist/musician has numerous compositions suitable for processions and recessions as well as vocal solos. Please feel free to request music that you would like to have considered. We recognize musical tastes are diverse. The Faith staff tries not to make artistic judgments upon others, however, we do reserve the right to refuse any song or music that is inconsistent with the values of a Christian marriage commitment and/or worship service.

- **CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS:** The use of a congregational hymn can be most effective by involving the guests as participants in the wedding celebration. Please consider using one of the following hymns from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, or any others you prefer:

**Possibilities for Congregational Hymns**

#539 "Abide with Us, Our Savior"

#883 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

#585 "Hear Us Now, Our God and Father"

#867 "In Thee Is Gladness"

#836 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#802 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

#631 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#840 "Now Thank We All Our God"

#858 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

#586 "This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited"

(These hymns are suggested because of their texts and the familiarity of their tunes.)

- SOME POSSIBLE VOWS:

A. I take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband, from this day onward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you, until death parts us.

B. \_\_\_\_\_, 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.

C. I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband. I promise before God and these witnesses, to be your faithful wife/husband, 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.

D. 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 the worst of what is to come as long as we both shall live.

E. I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

F. \_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife/husband? Do you promise to be true to her/him in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her/him and honor her/him all the days of your life?

G. I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_ for my lawful 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, until death parts us.

H. \_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_, for your lawful 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, until death do you part? (Couples are also welcomed and encouraged to write their own vows.)

**A COUPLE'S CHECKLIST FOR THE CHURCH**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you studied this booklet carefully?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has the church been confirmed with a specific date and time?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you contacted the minister?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has the rehearsal date and time been set?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has your entire wedding party and both families been notified of dates and times?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has the organist/musicians been confirmed for the wedding and rehearsal?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has the music for your wedding (organ, soloists, hymns, etc.) been agreed upon?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have the premarital sessions been arranged?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you completed the Prepare Enrich questionnaire?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you returned the information sheet and paid your fees?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you purchased the wedding license and turned it in to the church office?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has the florist been arranged with a specific time to decorate?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has the custodian been given all necessary details?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has the photographer been secured and arrangements for pictures made?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has the videographer been arranged if using one?

Faith Lutheran Wedding Music & Sound Information

Couple's Names:

\_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Date and Time:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Rehearsal Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_ Organist/Pianist: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all instruments being used during the ceremony:

Organ \_\_\_ Piano \_\_\_\_\_ Others (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

List all vocalists and the location from where they will be singing

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any other microphone or sound system needs that you might have:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any other questions or comments, please contact Faith