



Resurrection

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wedding Planning Guide

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A marriage ceremony at Resurrection

We are pleased that you desire to be married at Resurrection Lutheran Church. We are a worshiping and serving community. This guide is an aid for you as you make decisions and arrangements leading up to your wedding day.

As a community of people, our focus is on Jesus Christ, the Lord of our lives and of creation. We believe that His life and ministry, His Cross, and Resurrection direct our lives and hope. By seeking marriage at Resurrection, you declare this to be your belief as well.

Other brief belief statements |

A wedding at Resurrection is worship. This is to say that God is at the center of the covenant you make on your wedding day. People, music, text, and vows find its focus in Jesus. The dignity of marriage comes from the fact that you gather among friends to see God's blessing on your new life as husband and wife.

A wedding at Resurrection is collective participation. We listen, speak, sing, and pray. We believe there are only participants in your wedding, no observers. The family gathers to praise God and His blessing and to hear you speak promises of fidelity to one another. In truth, God is the audience and we are the worshipers.

A wedding at Resurrection is a time of proclamation. Our message is the Gospel news that God showers forgiveness, love, and grace upon our lives through the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Whenever the community gathers, it hears the Word, and it belongs to you as husband and wife.

A wedding at Resurrection is a time of celebration. We gather to celebrate for you, with you, because of you, that Jesus Christ has blessed marriage with possibilities for lived-out grace and forgiveness. We rejoice in worship as God's goodness to you and us and the joy you find in each other.



Pastor guidelines

- The pastor officiates as presiding minister at all weddings. Should the wedding party desire to have a guest pastor participate in the wedding worship, the officiating pastor will contact the guest pastor to determine what role the pastor will have in the worship.
- The officiating pastor conducts the wedding rehearsal.
- It is expected that the wedding rehearsal and ceremony begin at the appointed hour.
- If Holy Communion is desired, all are invited to commune.
- The pastor has a right to cancel the wedding if anyone in the wedding party is intoxicated.
- See the Wedding Fee list for all pastoral fees.
- Enrichment/Preparation Classes are required prior to the wedding ceremony.

Further details

Please visit the accompanying Wedding Information packet that contains all details regarding Building & Grounds usage guidelines and all fees.

Questions regarding this accompanying packet can be discussed by contacting the front office at 763.295.5511.



Suggested Order of Service

Fifteen minutes of pre-wedding music

- a. Guests are ushered in as they arrive
- b. Candles are lit by a designated person

Wedding Party seating order

- a. Great-grandparents and grandparents
- b. Groom's parents
- c. Bride's mother
- d. Inform the pastor of any special arrangements that may be necessary for physically challenged or blended family seating.

Wedding procession

- a. Bridesmaids with groomsmen
- b. Maid/matron of honor with best man
- c. Roll out runner, if applicable
- d. Flower girl and/or ring bearer, if applicable
- e. Bride with parents/escort

Wedding worship service

- a. The "Marriage Worship" from the Lutheran Book of Worship is the usual form and will be discussed during the counseling sessions with the officiating pastor.
- b. Introduction of the couple: you can be introduced however you want. The pastor will say, "It is my privilege to introduce to you, for the first time..." one of the following options...
 1. Very traditional = Mr. and Mrs. Husband's First and Last Name
 2. Traditional = Mr. and Mrs. Husband's Last Name
 3. Modern = Husband's First Name and Wife's First Name with Joined Last Name

If you are hyphenating or not taking one of the others last name we can discuss how you want to be presented as a married couple. If you have a legitimate title, such as Doctor, Sergeant, Judge, Senator, Reverend, etc, that you would like to be introduced as, please let the officiating pastor know.

Recessional

- a. Bride and groom
- b. Attendants, bridesmaids, and groomsmen
- c. Bride's parents
- d. Groom's parents
- e. Grandparents and great-grandparents
- f. Congregation dismissed, one aisle at a time on each side, slowly to keep receiving line moving



Suggested readings

Scripture | Choose at least one Gospel text from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. You are free to choose one more as you like. While choosing, think of people who could read these for you as well.

Gospel text |

- Matthew 5: 1-10
- Matthew 5: 14-16
- Matthew 7: 21, 24-29
- Matthew 19: 3-6
- Matthew 22: 35-40
- Mark 10: 6-9
- John 2: 1-11
- John 15: 9-12

Other possible Scriptures verses |

- Genesis 1: 26-31
- Genesis 2: 18-24
- Psalm 33, 67, 121, 127, 128, 136, or 150
- Proverbs 3: 3-6
- Song of Solomon 2: 10-13
- Song of Solomon 8: 6-7
- Isaiah 43: 1-7
- Isaiah 63: 7-9
- Jeremiah 31: 31-34
- Romans 8: 31-39
- Romans 12: 1-2, 9-18
- 1 Corinthians 12: 31—13: 13
- Ephesians 3: 14-19
- Ephesians 5: 1-2, 21-33
- Philippians 4: 4-7
- Colossians 3: 12-17

The marriage service

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

P | Welcome, we have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of (groom) and (bride) to surround them with our prayers and to share in their joy. (Groom) and (bride) want to thank those of you who have come a great distance to this very special area of the world they love so much. Thank you for setting aside this weekend to celebrate their love for each other.

(Groom) and (bride) - this is a very special day for the both of you. I want to take a moment for you to turn around and take a mental picture of the people who have come to support and uphold you in the promises you will make to each other today.



The marriage service

PRAYER

P | 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 (groom) and (bride) and grant that they, rejoicing in all Your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end. Amen.

P | 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. Because of our sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden. But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with His abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

INTENTIONS

P | (Bride), is your intention this day to share your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring with (groom) and with your promises bind yourself to him as his wife?

Bride | Yes

P | (Groom), is your intention this day to share your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring with (bride) and with your promises bind yourself to her as her husband?

Groom | Yes

P | Family and friends, will you, by God's grace, give your love and blessing and do everything in your power to uphold and care for (groom) and (bride) in their life together?

Everyone | We will

1ST SCRIPTURE READING

(name of person reading) - (scripture verse)

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

(name of song) - words printed on back of program

GOSPEL READING

MESSAGE—Officiating Pastor

VOWS—face and hold hands



The marriage service

Groom/bride | I take you, (groom/bride), to be my husband/wife and in our life together I promise this; I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect, trust, and care for you; I will be patient with you and forgive you as we have been forgiven. I will share my life with you through the best and worst of all that is to come, until death parts us.

RINGS

Groom/bride | I give you this ring as a sign of my life and faithfulness.

NUPITAL BLESSING—hand over rings

P | 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.

ACCLAMATION OF MARRIAGE

P | (Groom) and (bride), by their promises before God and in the presence of this congregation, have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife. Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder. And all God's people say: Amen.

UNITY CANDLE OR SAND AND SOLO MUSIC

Moms give sand to (bride) and (groom) and the couple pours.

PRAYERS

P | Gracious God, we come before you today with glad and joyful hearts as we witness and bless the marriage of (groom) and (bride). Pour out your blessings on them as they journey with one another throughout life. Let the love that they have for one another be a witness to the love that you have for all. May they continue to grow together, seeking out you. God, you are good, and we pray that you continually grant your goodness, mercy, and grace on (groom) and (bride). Faithful God, we also ask that you bless the families that have supported (groom) and (bride), and those that will continue to support them in their marriage. Fill the hearts of all those that are present here today; redeem us, enrich us, and renew us, to better serve you and your people. Healing God, as you bring (groom) and (bride) together in marriage, bring the entire world together in peace, unity, and love. Help us show compassion for our neighbor, and give (groom) and (bride) the strength to be models of that compassion in their marriage. We lift up to you all those who thirst for your righteousness, as we come together saying the prayer which our Lord taught us saying,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

(name of song) - words printed on back of program

BLESSING & INTRODUCTION OF COUPLE

Suggested order of service for bulletins

There is flexibility in this order.

Prelude/Gathering Music

Processional

Prayer—Pastor

Intentions—Couple

1st Scripture Reading—Guest

Song—Congregational Singing

Gospel Reading—Guest

Message—pastor

The Marriage Vows—Couple

The Exchange of Rings—Couple

Lighting of the Unity Candle/Pouring of Sand

Solo—Musical Guest

Prayers—Pastor or Guests/Family

The Lord's Prayer—Pastor

Song—Congregational Singing

Blessing—Pastor

Introduction of the Couple

Recessional

Some bulletins name the specific music pieces for preludes, processions, and solos, other bulletins merely list "prelude, etc."



