



Congratulations!

We celebrate with you as you plan your wedding and begin a new chapter in your life together!

You are, by your promises planning to bind yourselves together in the presence of God and your family and friends as husband and wife. This is a wonderful experience that you are planning for your family and friends, but most importantly, God. He is pleased when you make it a ceremony of worship dedicated to His glory.

God instituted marriage because He saw marriage as a way of bringing two people together to share their journey to fulfillment. You are, and will remain, individuals. However, with your unique gifts, you can soon learn to respect each other as creations of a loving, gift-giving God. Such respect assists you to complement each other, while, at the same time, growing to be what God planned for you as individuals.

Christian marriage, as a way of glorifying God by developing your uniqueness, requires the presence of Christ. How wonderful marriage is when “two or three are gathered in His name”, experience Christ’s loving presence day after day.

Offsite Wedding Guidelines

- Either the bride, groom, or both, must be a member of Bethel Lutheran Church by the wedding date. If you are a prospective member of Bethel, you will need to attend New Member classes and join Bethel before your wedding. Contact Sheri Kallembach, 507-288-6430, for more information on membership.
- Contact Sheri Kallembach, 507-288-6430, to schedule your off-site wedding with a Bethel pastor officiating at the ceremony and to fill out a marriage request form. Or, you may fill out our Online marriage request form by visiting the website bethellutheran.com/weddings and we will be in touch with you.





Pre-Marital Counseling

Pre-Marital Counseling is required of all couples planning a wedding with a Bethel pastor. The pastor officiating your wedding will contact you to set up individual meeting times. We will use an online assessment from the Prepare/Enrich program (<https://www.prepare-enrich.com/>) as part of the counseling sessions. Your officiant will send you login information to complete the assessment. The assessment cost is under the fees section.

The pastor officiating your wedding will want to sit down with both of you to talk about planning, as well as other matters early in your planning agenda. You will need to speak with the pastor officiating to schedule this appointment.

Fees

- Pre-Marital Online Assessment Fee: \$35 payable online
- Pastoral Honorarium: \$200 suggestion - *due two weeks prior to the wedding date.*

Recommended Fees for:

- Soloists \$125
- Accompanist \$150

The Rehearsal

The rehearsal is important and everyone in the wedding party should attend. Rehearsals are often held the night before your wedding. Please coordinate with the officiating pastor as to the time.

The Service

God instituted marriage. Out of His love, He called you together to express your love for each other. That love, centered in Jesus Christ, will be the central focus of your marriage service.

Because your marriage service is centered in Christ and is intended to praise God, it is a worship service. Your plans will want to reflect careful planning of a worship service that will assist you and your guests to bring glory to God. Your pastor is fully prepared to help you in this joyous effort.

Scripture

The scriptures you choose to have read at your marriage service are a way of telling others about your own faith, love and understanding of marriage. Choose your scripture readings with prayer as you decide to which you want to bear witness.

See the suggestions below. To read the full scriptures, visit our web page: bethellutheran.com/weddings If you wish, the pastor will choose the scripture readings for you.

- Suggested Scripture Readings -

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31
Genesis 2:18-24
Ruth 1:16-17
Psalm 33
Psalm 100
Psalm 127
Psalm 128
Psalm 136
Psalm 150
Song of Solomon 2:10-13
Song of Solomon 8:7
Isaiah 63:7-9
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

New Testament

Matthew 19:4-6
Mark 10:6-9
John 2:1-10
John 15:9-16
John 17:20-23
Romans 12:1-2
1 Cor. 12:31-13:13
Ephesians 5:21-23
Colossians 3:12-15
1 John 4:7-12





Vows

The vows you choose to make to each other are shared publicly with your guests. They reflect your commitment to each other, but also make a statement about what your relationship will be like in the future.

- Possible Vows -

I take you, ____, to be my wife/husband. To have and to hold from this day forward, for better and for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish till death do us part.

I, ____ take you ____ to be my wife/husband from this day forward 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, through the best and worst of what is to come. I will love and cherish you until parted by death.

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, as long as we live.

I, ____ take you, ____, as my husband/wife in Christian marriage. I take you for what you are, what you will be and what we will become together. I will love you and trust you above all others as long as I live, and I will seek to become one with you as we live together sharing God's love.

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.

Music

“Music selected (for weddings) should embody high standards of quality and ... reflect the praise of God, God’s steadfast love in Christ as the foundation of and model for marriage and the asking of God’s presence and blessing.”

Sound

To provide the highest quality experience at your wedding, we recommend that you employ a sound technician. The technician would be at both, the rehearsal and the wedding providing consistent sound levels to ensure that pastors, readers, soloists and others can be heard.

Marriage License

Applications for Olmsted County Marriage Licenses are obtained at the Olmsted County Government Center (151 Fourth Street SE, Rochester) or via their website (bit.ly/marriagelicenseolmsted). Please note the following information regarding your license:

- Apply within the six months before your wedding and at least 5 days before your wedding day.
- A Minnesota Marriage License is required to be married in Minnesota (regardless of what state you live in).
- You can obtain a marriage license in any Minnesota County.
- You must have two witnesses to the wedding ceremony (over the age of 16). This typically means that your best man and maid/matron of honor will sign your marriage license as the witnesses.
- An Olmsted County Marriage License fee is \$115.00, without 12 hours of premarital counseling. The marriage license fee is \$40.00 with 12 hours of premarital counseling and a signed letter & notarized from the church to verify.
- Bring your marriage license to the church office no later one week before your wedding and attach a note that includes the names of your witnesses. Their names will be added to the license.





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