

Preparing for Marriage



At
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
Holdrege, Nebraska

Congratulations!

So you are getting married! We are excited for you. This manual has been prepared for those couples seeking God's blessing upon their wedding and marriage. Its purpose is to provide you with specific information about marriage customs and practices at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church so that you can adequately prepare and plan your wedding.

May God bless you as you prepare for your wedding and for your marriage.

Our expectations

Here at Mt. Calvary we want the very best for you and your married life. We believe God is the creator of marriage as such our desire is for you to grow in your relationship with Him therefore we expect you to

Be faithful in Worship each week

Attend Marriage God's Way Retreat

Attend New Beginnings Retreat

Marriage Policy

The marriage policy of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church of Holdrege, Nebraska, a member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is and always has been consistent with the Synod's belief on marriage. We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32). The official position of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, as set forth in 1998 (Res. 3-21 ("To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions")), is that homosexual unions come under categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testament (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-10 as contrary to the Creator's design (Rom 1:26-27). These positions and beliefs can be found on the LCMS website, along with other statements, papers and reports on the subject of homosexuality and same-sex civil unions and "marriage." Our pastors will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with these beliefs, and our church property may not be used for any marriage ceremony, reception or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy.

The Wedding Service

In all services at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, God is at the center. In a wedding service the bride and groom receive God's blessing on their marriage. The following order of worship contains the principal elements of a Christian wedding ceremony.

- The Pre-Service Music
- The Lighting of the Candles
- The Seating of Grandparents and Parents
- The Procession
- The Brides Procession
- The Invocation and Prayer
- Confession and Absolution
- The First Lesson
- Solo (Optional)
- The Second Lesson
- The Message or Wedding Sermon
- The Rite of Marriage
 - The Promise
 - The Vows
 - The Exchange of Rings
 - The Pronouncement of Marriage
- The Lighting of the Unity Candle
- The Prayers
- The Lord's Prayer
- The Benediction
- The Recessional

The Music

Since a Christian marriage service is a wonderful celebration and an opportunity to give witness to our Christian faith, it is important to realize that there is a difference between music appropriate for a secular occasion, such as a wedding performed before a justice of the peace, and music used for a Christian church wedding. There are many vocal and instrumental compositions available for the service, and our Pastor and organist will be happy to give you help and suggestions. All music is to be approved by one of our pastors.

When considering if a musical selection is appropriate for a Christian wedding at Mount Calvary Lutheran, you should be able to answer yes to the following questions:

- Does it give glory to God?
- Is Jesus Christ mentioned as Lord and Savior?
- Is God's plan for the marriage relationship emphasized?
- Will those in attendance be encouraged in their faith?

Recorded Music

Sometimes the bride and groom select recorded music for the lighting of the unity candle. This music *must be pre-approved by the presiding pastor* and as per copyright laws, all recorded music must be legally purchased. This means that it must come from a purchased CD or online venue such as iTunes or [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Acceptable forms to play on the church sound system are a purchased/burned CD or an organized playlist on an mp3 player. Submit the music to the sound and video technician no later than the wedding rehearsal.

Special Music

At times a bride and groom may choose to have a special musician or musicians perform at the wedding. Again, this music *must be pre-approved by the presiding pastor*. The musician and the sound technician will need to get together before the wedding rehearsal to work out staging and balance issues so that it is ready to perform for the wedding rehearsal and the wedding itself. Meeting an hour before the wedding rehearsal is usually adequate. Inform the sound technician, of any special music and the rehearsal time.

Musicians

The Organist/Pianist: Janice Von Loh, Linda Birtell or a musician of your choice may play for your service. Please contact the organist or pianist you would like to play for your wedding.

Janice Von Loh 308-991-5202
Linda Birtell 308-995-2363

Music Suggestions

LSB 287	O Perfect Love	Only God Could Love You More
LSB 288	Hear Us Now, Our God and Father	Perfect Union Seekers of Your Heart
LSB 289	Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer	Wedding Prayer Our Lives are Thine
LSB 315	Love Divine, All Love Excelling	Lord, Make Us One O Jesus, We Have Promised
Two Become One		Serving the Lord Together
One Love		Our Prayer
Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us		Our Father
Join Our Hearts		Our Lives Are Thine
Awesome in This Place		Father, Lead Us
Father We Commit to You		Speak, Lord, In the Stillness
The God of Peace		United to Serve
I Offer My Life		Household of Faith
Household of Faith		In This Very Room
The Lord's Prayer		Parent's Prayer
Love of the Lasting Kind		How Beautiful

Scripture Readings

You are encouraged to select your own Bible readings using the following as a place to start. Enjoy!

Genesis 2:18-24; 1:31a

Psalms 20:4

Psalms 36:5-10a

Psalms 37:3-7a

Psalms 100

Psalms 118:1, 14, 24, 29

Proverbs 3:3

Proverbs 31:10-31

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Song of Songs 4:9-10a

Isaiah 40:28-31

Jeremiah 31:3, 10, 33b

Hosea 2:19-20

Matthew 7:24-25

Matthew 19:3-6

Mark 10:1-9

Luke 6:46-49

John 2:1-11

John 15:9-12

John 15:12-13, 16-17

Romans 8:35, 38-39

Romans 12:9-18

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1 Corinthians 16:13-4

Galatians 5:22-25

Ephesians 3:16-19

Ephesians 4:2

Ephesians 4:15-16.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Ephesians 5:25-33

Ephesians 5:25, 28-31, 33

Philippians 1:9,

Philippians 4:5-9

Colossians 3:12-17

1 Thessalonians 3:12

2 Thessalonians 3:5

1 Timothy 1:5

Hebrews 13:4a, 5b, 6, 8

James 3:17-18; 4:7-8a

1 Peter 1:22

1 Peter 3:1-7

1 Peter 4:8-11

1 John 4:7

Wedding Video

As a service to you, a basic video of the wedding will be provided. This includes a single camera distance view of the wedding. Sound for the video is run through the sound system so the presiding pastor and songs are heard well but the vows may be very faint. The church will make three DVD's of the service and more are available if requested. If a high quality video is desired, the bride and groom are encouraged to hire a professional videographer.

Flowers and Decorations

Decorations are not to be placed on or attached to the altar, pulpit, baptismal font, or lectern. Baptismal font and lectern can be moved to the side, but can not be removed from the sanctuary.

Flowers: Flowers may be placed on the altar or in the altar vases.

Pew Bows: Tape is not to be used on the chairs or other church furniture. Bows may be attached to the chairs using a clip.

Seating capacity: The sanctuary will seat approximately 225 individuals. By adding another row in the front and seating in the choir loft we can seat approximately 270.

Wedding Slides

We have the ability to put the wedding program on the TV's in the sanctuary. If you would like to use the TV's please contact Eileen Golus in the church office at least 4 to 6 weeks prior to the wedding. You will need a sound technician if you choose to have the wedding slides.

Church Volunteer

The church will provide a volunteer to help with some of the preparations at the church. The volunteer will unlock doors, turn heat/air up, and be available to answer questions that may arise. The volunteer will not be at the church all day, but will leave a contact number.

Photography

Still photography may be taken only from the balcony during the service. The professional photographer may use flash photography as the wedding party is processing in. He or she is not to go past the front row in the sanctuary. Please place the following statement in their wedding folder:

The marriage of _____ takes place within the context of a Worship Service. So that there are no distractions, please refrain from taking flash pictures.

The Departure from the Church

When the wedding party leaves the church after the service, the throwing of birdseed or rice is not permitted. Liquid bubbles may be released outside of the building. Balloons may be released but must stay outside of the building.

Receptions

The fellowship hall may be reserved through the church office for the reception and rehearsal dinner.

Wedding Toasts

It has sadly become the custom at many wedding receptions for the best man or maid of honor or others to seek to embarrass the bride and groom by sharing off colored jokes or inappropriate stories. You are strongly encouraged to talk with them to discourage this as you seek for your wedding to be a clear witness to your love for Christ and one another. Thank you!

Participants

The Pastor: All weddings are to be performed by or under the direction the pastor of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church or another LCMS pastor. If the bridal couple wishes to invite the officiating pastor and his wife and family and the organist and spouse to either the Rehearsal Dinner or the Wedding Reception, or both, they should notify them at least a month in advance of the Wedding. This courtesy is appreciated.

Flower Girl and Ring Bearer should be at least 4 years old to stand through the service. Younger children may be escorted down the aisle and sit with family or friends during the service.

The Board of Elders must approve all weddings.

Wedding Fees

Building Use (No Charge)

Fellowship Hall (No Charge)

Custodian (No Charge)

Clergy Couples discretion

“Marriage God’s Way” \$10

Organist/Pianist \$100

(An additional \$10 is appreciated if an extra soloist rehearsal is necessary prior to the service.)

Sound Technician \$100

(A Technician is needed if you are using slides or recorded music)

Soloist \$50 (suggested)

Please pay all fees prior to the Wedding Service to the Organist/Pianist and Sound Technician. Contact the church office if you have questions.