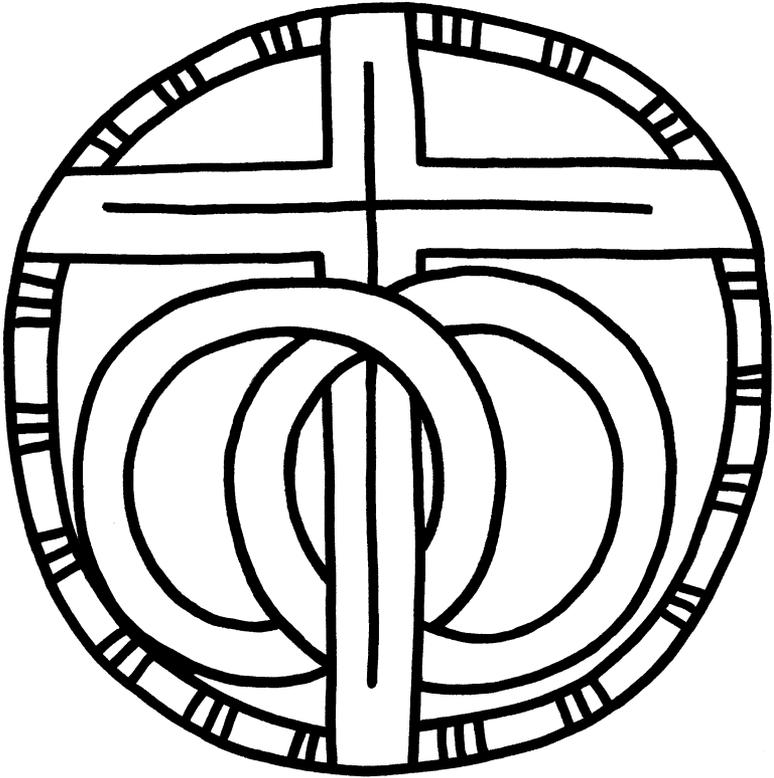


Wedding Guide



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Introduction

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! This booklet is intended to be both a manual for policies and procedures for weddings at New Promise, and a resource for planning your wedding service. At New Promise Lutheran Church, we take marriage seriously and celebrate it as a visible, human expression of God's covenant with us. Marriage is one of the greatest gifts God has given the human family and we hope and pray that your covenant of marriage will be both gift and blessing.

Wedding Date

One of the first things you will want to do once you have made the decision to be married is to set a date. Often requests for a wedding service are made a year or more in advance. A minimum of three months is required though scheduling may be more difficult with shorter notice. Please confirm the date of your wedding service with both the Church secretary and the officiating pastor to be sure that there are no conflicts with either the church or the pastor's schedule. The church secretary will confirm both the availability of the space(s) requested, and will coordinate with the church musician and Building Manager. No weddings are permitted during Holy Week, the week of Christmas, or Sundays.

Note: Do not sign contracts with reception facilities or print invitations until a date is confirmed by both the officiating clergy and the church secretary.

Premarital Counseling

While couples tend to spend considerable time planning for a wedding which lasts a few hours, relatively little time is spent planning for a marriage which is intended to last a life-time. At New Promise we believe it is important for couples to participate in a minimum of three premarital counseling sessions for the purpose of better understanding the strengths and weaknesses of their relationship with the aim of becoming better prepared for the challenges they will face over the course of their marriage. A \$35 dollar fee is required to cover the cost of the assessment tool used for this purpose. Checks should be made out to **“Life Innovations Inc.”**

Officiating Clergy

The officiating pastor for all weddings is assigned by New Promise Lutheran Church. In addition to officiating at your wedding service, the officiating clergy

will provide premarital counseling, work with you to plan your wedding ceremony including the service bulletin, prepare both a church marriage certificate and the marriage license from the state of Utah (this you must apply for and give to the pastor in advance of the wedding date), and coordinate the wedding rehearsal.

Guest clergy are welcome to participate in wedding ceremonies at New Promise but you must notify the officiating pastor and it is to be understood that the final decision regarding the service belongs to the officiating pastor.

Marriage License

For the marriage license, both parties must appear at the County Clerk's office with proof of age, proper identification, and pay a license fee of \$50 by check, cash, or money order. The license fee is non-refundable and includes one certified copy. A marriage license is then issued and becomes effective immediately but must be used within 30 days from the date of issue. A license issued in Washington County may be used in any county in the State of Utah. For more information go to www.washco.utah.gov. Please present your license to the officiating pastor at the wedding rehearsal.

Music

Music is an important element of a wedding ceremony. Early in planning of your ceremony you should meet with the church musician to discuss the music to be used at your ceremony. Music does not have to be "sacred" or "religious" to be appropriate for your wedding service but it must be consistent with the Christian covenant of marriage and be respectful of the worshiping community.

If you wish to use a musician other than the church musician you must first consult with the officiating pastor and the church musician. Compensation of the alternate musician is your responsibility as is the compensation of any special musicians such as soloists, instrumentalists, etc.

Rehearsal

Wedding rehearsals are typically scheduled the day before the wedding and never more than three days before the wedding and must be scheduled in consultation with the officiating pastor and the church musician. All those

participating in the wedding ceremony should be in attendance. For small weddings a rehearsal can be optional.

Reception

Wedding receptions may be held in the Luther Hall of the church which is spacious and attractive and can accommodate gatherings up to 300 people. If a couple wishes to have their reception at the church, Luther Hall should be reserved at the same time the Sanctuary is reserved. Additional fees are required for use of the Luther Hall (see Fee section). The use of Luther Hall also includes the use of the kitchen for heating and serving purposes only. Food for the reception should be catered or prepared in advance. No food is to be left in the kitchen following the reception and the kitchen should be adequately cleaned.

Setup and Cleanup

Couples are responsible to enlist assistance for setting up and decorating before the wedding and cleaning up after the wedding. You should coordinate with the Building Manager when you wish to be in the building for setup and clean up. Clean up must be completed the day of the wedding. Building Manager fees cover the opening and closing of the building and supervision of cleanup to pre-wedding conditions.

Photography

Most couples want to remember their wedding ceremony through photographs and video. Photographs and video are permitted during the wedding ceremony, but out of respect for the congregation and in order to maintain a worshipful atmosphere it is requested that all photography be handled by one designated wedding photographer. Also no flash photography is allowed from the opening greeting (which follows the processional) to the closing benediction (which precedes the recessional). Likewise video taken during the wedding ceremony must use natural lighting only. After the ceremony, couples are welcome to use the sanctuary for photographs requiring special lighting and to allow wedding guests to take their own pictures. In most cases the officiating pastor can also be available to participate in staged photographs by the photographer and others.

Note: please notify your photographer and guests of these restrictions.

Other Considerations

Guest Book - Many couples choose to have a guest book for people to sign before and after the service and also at the reception. Couples are invited to bring a guest book for this purpose and to display it in the gathering area outside the sanctuary. It is recommended that you ask a family member or usher to make people aware of the guest book as they come in.

Unity Candle - Unity candles are often used in wedding ceremonies to symbolize that in marriage two individuals become one, as it says in Matthew 19:4-6. This is a welcome symbol in a wedding ceremony and couples are invited to bring their own unity candle set for this purpose.

Bulletins - The wedding fees cover the cost of production and printing of a wedding bulletin that the officiating pastor will work with you to establish. Your bulletin will be printed in black and white on a high quality cream colored paper. If you would prefer a designer wedding paper you can provide that to the church for the printing of your bulletin or have the printing done at a place of your choosing. Color printed bulletins would require an outside printer.

Flowers - Wedding couples are to make their own flower arrangements with a florist of their choice. There are many options for flower placement at the front of the church with the exception of the Altar. You should make plans for where flowers will be placed prior to placing an order for flowers. No arrangements are to be tacked or taped to the walls or pillars in the church.

Fees

Church Use Fees (waived for members of New Promise)

Refundable deposit	\$300.00
Sanctuary (includes Bulletin and certificates)	\$100.00
Sanctuary with Luther Hall	\$200.00

Officiating Pastor \$200.00

Musician \$125.00

Media Services:	
Technician for Sanctuary use	\$25
Technician for Luther Hall use	\$25
Other Media Options:	
Audio Recording	\$25
Video Recording	\$100
Full Visual Media for Wedding Service	\$75
Building Manager	\$50

Note: Fees should be made out to the individuals providing service (building manager, musician, media technician, etc...).

NOTES

Appendix I

Scriptural Suggestions

Scriptures to be used as a part of the marriage ceremony are chosen on the basis of the meaningfulness to the bride and groom. It is suggested that one or two readings be made and possibly three (combining, Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel readings). Also secular readings can be read during the wedding ceremony so long as they are consistent with the Christian understanding of Marriage.

Below are some common readings used at weddings. You are welcome to use passages from this list or others of your choosing. You may want to talk with the Officiating Minister about these or other potential readings. The Officiating Minister may also have recommendations for readings based on premarital conversations.

Old Testament Readings

General

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female he created them...)

Genesis 2:18-24 (and they become one flesh...)

Song of Solomon 2:10-13 (The voice of the beloved)

Song of Solomon 8:7 (Many waters cannot quench love...)

Isaiah 63:7-9 (God's steadfast love lifts up the people)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (Two are better than one...)

Psalms

Psalms 33 (Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield)

Psalms 100 (We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture)

Psalms 117 (The steadfast love of the Lord)

Psalms 127 (Unless the Lord builds the house)

Psalms 128 (Blessed are those who walk in the Lord's ways)

Psalms 136 (O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever)

Psalms 150 (Let everything that breathes praise the Lord)

New Testament Readings

Epistles

Romans 12:1-2 (Present your bodies as a living sacrifice...)

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 (Love is Patient Love is kind...)

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33 (Marriage and the Church)

Philippians 4:4-7 (Rejoice in the Lord always...)

Colossians 3:12-17 (Clothe yourselves in love...)

1 John 4:7-12 [13-16] (Let us love one another...)

Gospels

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)

Matthew 5:12-16 (Let your light so shine...)

Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (wise man who built his house on the rock)

Matthew 19:4-6 (They are no longer two but one...)

Mark 10:6-9 (They are no longer two but one...)

Luke 6:32-38 (Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful...)

John 2:1-11 (Wedding at Cana, Miracle of wine)

John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you...)

Appendix II

Lutheran Book of Worship: Service of Marriage

GREETING

Stand

*The bride, groom, and wedding party stand in front of the minister.
The parents may stand behind the couple.*

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

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 [name] and [name] and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end. (162)

C Amen

FIRST LESSON

PSALM

SECOND LESSON

GOSPEL

HOMILY

INTRODUCTION

A 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 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.

P [Name] and [name], if it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

VOWS

Stand

The bride and groom face each other and join hands. Each, in turn, promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words:

**I take you, [name],
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.**

GIVING OF RINGS

The bride and groom exchange rings with these words:

I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

ACCLAMATION

The bride and groom join hands, and the minister announces their marriage by saying:

P [Name] and [name], by their promises before God and in the presence of this congregation, have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife.

C **Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever.**

P Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

C **Amen**

NUPTIAL BLESSING

*Sit
The bride and groom kneel.*

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.

C **Amen**

The parents may add their blessing with these or similar words; the wedding party may join them.

May you dwell in God's presence forever; may true and constant love preserve you.

The bride and groom stand.

PRAYERS

Stand

A Let us bless God for all the gifts in which we rejoice today.

P Lord God, constant in mercy, great in faithfulness: With high praise we recall your acts of unfailing love for the human family, for the house of Israel, and for your people the Church.

We bless you for the joy which your servants, [name] and [name], have found in each other, and pray that you give to us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you, whose work alone holds true and endures forever.
(276)

C **Amen**

A Let us pray for [name] and [name] in their life together.

P Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your grace upon [name] and [name], that they may fulfill the vows they have made this day and reflect your steadfast love in their life-long faithfulness to each other. As members with them of the body of Christ, use us to support their life together; and from your great

store of strength give them power and patience, affection and understanding, courage, and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world, that they may continue together in mutual growth according to your will in Jesus Christ our Lord. (277)

C Amen

Other intercessions may be offered.

A Let us pray for all families throughout the world.

P Gracious Father, you bless the family and renew your people. Enrich husbands and wives, parents and children more and more with your grace, that, strengthening and supporting each other, they may serve those in need and be a sign of the fulfillment of your perfect kingdom, where, with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God through all ages of ages. (278)

C Amen

When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the Peace.

LORD'S PRAYER

When there is no Communion, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.

OPTION B: Our Father, who art in heaven

**C Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever.

C Amen

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Notes
