



First  Lutheran  
CHURCH

*Where faith and life meet*



1655 18th Ave E | Alexandria, MN 56308 | 320.762.2196 | [www.firstlutheranalexandria.com](http://www.firstlutheranalexandria.com)

Congratulations!

We are pleased that you are considering having your wedding at First Lutheran Church! We are excited to help you prepare both for your wedding day and your life together.

Knowing that you are trusting in God to walk with you in your married life, your wedding ceremony will be a worship service with God's blessings upon your relationship as a key focus. The pastors and musicians will assist you in preparing for this celebration.

To help you grow in faith and strengthen your relationship with one another as you begin your married life, we ask that all engaged couples attend a required premarital program from LifeWorks, which takes a look at nine different areas of life. At the present time because of Covid-19 restrictions in person retreats are not being held. However, an online option is available and you can learn more at their website [www.lovecommitsucceed.com](http://www.lovecommitsucceed.com).

This booklet will help you get started with your planning. It contains detailed instructions including guidelines and policies for weddings at First Lutheran as well as helpful information for planning an offsite wedding.

We look forward to helping you prepare for your wedding and marriage!

God's blessings to you,

Pastor Greg Billberg  
Pastor Kari van Wakeren  
Pastor Ben Jacobson

# Scheduling Your Wedding at First Lutheran Church

## STEP 1: SECURE A WEDDING DATE

Weddings are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis for members of First Lutheran as well as for non-members and are subject to the availability of the pastors. It is good to have alternative dates in mind in case the church is not available for your first choice. We do not schedule weddings on Sundays or the following holidays: Good Friday, Easter, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Friday weddings at First Lutheran may be scheduled after 4:00pm. Saturday weddings may be scheduled no later than 3:00pm.

A wedding date will only be guaranteed after you return a completed Wedding Couples Contract for First Lutheran and the \$100 church deposit to the church office. The online Wedding Couples Contract for First Lutheran can be accessed at [www.firstlutheranalexandria.com](http://www.firstlutheranalexandria.com).

## STEP 2: PASTORS' SCHEDULES

Pastors determine which weddings they will officiate based on their schedules. Though you may request a specific pastor, such a request is not guaranteed. Outside clergy may participate in your wedding ceremony with permission from your First Lutheran wedding pastor. Please discuss this with your wedding pastor before making any arrangements. When you meet with your wedding pastor you will go over the order of service, select scriptures, vows, music and rehearsal time.

## STEP 3: SCHEDULE THE REHEARSAL

Rehearsals are typically scheduled for the evening before the wedding. They last approximately one hour. Your wedding pastor will be there to guide you through the rehearsal. Please be prompt.

## STEP 4: FOLLOW THE PREMARITAL COUNSELING POLICIES

All couples getting married at First Lutheran are required to attend a LifeWorks Pre-marriage Retreat in person. These retreats are offered at a variety of times and locations throughout the year. First Lutheran usually hosts a retreat in the spring and the fall. Attending this retreat is a valuable investment in your marriage and fulfills the state requirement of the hours of counseling required to get a discount on your marriage license. For information regarding the retreat visit [www.lovecommitsucceed.com](http://www.lovecommitsucceed.com) or email [zacharylee@lovecommitsucceed.com](mailto:zacharylee@lovecommitsucceed.com). After attending the retreat, please call the church so you can schedule a time to meet with the pastor performing the ceremony.

## STEP 5: YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE

Weddings are regulated by the State of Minnesota. You need to apply for a marriage license and can do so in any county. There is a minimum five-day waiting period in Minnesota and the license cannot be applied for more than six months prior to your wedding. We suggest you apply for your license no later than one month prior to your wedding. More information is available online at the State of Minnesota. The license must be given to the church office at least two weeks prior to your wedding date. No wedding will be conducted without a valid marriage license.

# YOUR WEDDING REHEARSAL

Wedding rehearsals are typically scheduled for the evening before the ceremony. The purpose of the rehearsal is to help the wedding party and participants learn their respective roles in the ceremony. Please make sure to have your wedding party, parents, ushers, and readers in attendance. Please inform all involved to arrive fifteen minutes before the rehearsal begins. The rehearsal will last approximately one hour.

## SANCTUARY DECORATIONS

The banners on the walls of the sanctuary and the paraments (cloths) on the altar, lectern and pulpit will not be changed or removed. Generally, you can expect the altar, lectern, and pulpit paraments to be as follows:

- Advent (four weeks prior to Christmas): Blue
- Epiphany (January 1 to Ash Wednesday): Green
- Lent (Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday): Purple
- Season of Easter (Easter Day and seven weeks following): White
- Season of Pentecost (most of June, July, August, September, October, November): Green

We have a unity candle holder available for use. It holds two taper candles and a three inch candle. You may choose between our granite candles or seven taper candelabra on the altar. Plant stands are available for use as well. Please see *Florist Guidelines* for more information regarding flowers.

Decorating needs to be scheduled with the church office. Decorating may take place the day of rehearsal, but not during the rehearsal time. All decorations must be removed immediately following the ceremony. You are responsible to return any rental equipment that you use.

## GUEST BOOK, GIFTS AND CARDS

We will provide a tall, round table with a black tablecloth for your guest book, and a rectangular table with a black tablecloth for your gifts and cards. You may choose to decorate these tables however you wish. The church assumes no responsibility for any gifts or cards brought into the church. Someone should be in charge of the gifts at all times which includes during the ceremony.

## WEDDING PROGRAMS

Wedding programs are a nice addition to the wedding ceremony. Please consult with your pastor to make sure you have the correct order of service before printing.

## RECEIVING LINE

You may have your receiving line inside of First Lutheran in the Gathering Space just outside of the sanctuary. When you leave the church you are permitted to celebrate outside by blowing bubbles or throwing birdseed.

## USHERS

Ushers have a very important role to fulfill in your wedding party. We recommend having four ushers when more than 100 guests are expected. Groomsmen may assist with ushering, but having designated ushers is essential. Ushers begin seating guests 20 minutes before the service begins. No guests may be seated by an usher after the bride's mother is seated. Late arriving guests will be asked to use the side aisles to be seated.

## GUEST SEATING

The couple decides on special seating arrangements, and who should usher the following persons into the Sanctuary:

Grandparents of the Groom, Grandparents of the Bride

Parents of the Groom, Parents of the Bride and any other honored guests.

## FACILITY USE GUIDELINES

Weddings scheduled on Saturday may begin no later than 3:00pm. Friday weddings may be scheduled at any time.

- Please call the church office to request a time for the building be open on the day of your wedding. Flowers can be delivered up to two hours prior to your wedding ceremony.
- Dressing areas will be available for your wedding party. We suggest that those areas be emptied prior to the ceremony so that personal items are not left at the church or stolen during the ceremony. First Lutheran is not responsible for any lost or stolen property.
- You are expected to appoint someone to oversee the clean up of the dressing areas and assigned rooms. This person is responsible for making sure nothing is left behind by the wedding party and for returning the rooms to the condition you found them in.
- All wedding materials including bulletins, personal items, wedding gowns, etc., cannot be kept in the church prior to your wedding day.
- The Sanctuary seats approximately 350 people.
- No aisle runners are permitted.
- No candid photography may be taken during the ceremony by wedding guests.
- First Lutheran is a smoke-free facility. You may smoke in the parking lot provided that you dispose of your cigarettes in your vehicle ashtray.
- Food and drink are allowed in the dressing areas. No food or drink is allowed in the sanctuary.
- No alcohol or drugs allowed in the church or any part of the church property. Any offenders will be asked to not to participate in the wedding and to leave the church property.
- No church property may be removed from the building grounds.
- First Lutheran will provide a sound and technology person for your wedding. No substitute sound people are permitted in the sound booth.
- If you wish to serve a meal after your wedding here at First Lutheran, we will provide a kitchen supervisor at the cost of \$100.00 plus the cost of food. This fee includes preparation, service, and cleanup.

# FLORIST GUIDELINES

It is your responsibility to secure a florist and to coordinate delivery times. Please give a copy of this page of guidelines to the florist.

To: Florist  
From: First Lutheran Church  
1655 18th Ave E | Alexandria, MN 56308  
320.762.2196

It is our goal to provide a worship service that is meaningful for the wedding party and their guests. We appreciate your cooperation in following these policies:

- Flowers are to be delivered and set up at least two hours before the ceremony begins. It is the responsibility of the florist and the wedding party to set up all flowers and for delivery times to be coordinated with the church.
- The use of real rose and flower petals is NOT permitted in the sanctuary. The petals can stain the carpet.
- If the wedding party desires, two large floral arrangements may be placed in the altar area. Flower stands will be provided at no charge. Please notify the church office one month in advance so proper arrangements can be made for the stands.
- Because the altar is sacred, we only allow the following to be placed there:
  - presentation flowers which can be given to the parents during the ceremony (you must provide your own vase)
  - flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones (you must provide your own vase)

# PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

It is your responsibility to secure a photographer and/or videographer. Please give a copy of this page of guidelines to the photographer/videographer.

To:                 Photographer/Videographer  
From:             First Lutheran Church  
                      1655 18th Ave E | Alexandria, MN 56308  
                      320.762.2196

It is our goal to provide a worship service that is meaningful for the wedding party and their guests. We appreciate your cooperation in following these policies:

- You can move some furnishings, including chairs in the sanctuary, prior to the ceremony in order to take pictures and video. However, the altar area may not be adjusted or rearranged. Please move furniture back to its original position no later than one half hour before the ceremony.
- One half hour prior to the ceremony is set aside for last minute details. There will be no formal photography during this time.
- You cannot move up and down the center and side aisles during the ceremony. Processional and recessional pictures may be taken from the center aisle only if you do not obstruct the aisle while being used by the wedding party.
- You can use flash photography only during the processional and recessional.
- You cannot put equipment on the altar area without the express permission of the wedding pastor.
- You cannot connect any equipment to the sound system.
- You cannot tamper with the lighting or electrical systems.

# WEDDING MUSIC POLICIES

The wedding ceremony is an act of worship on the part of all present to offer thanks and to ask God's blessing on the couple's life together. The spoken language and music combine to express the faith of the couple and the Christian community present for the ceremony. The music you choose should reflect and enhance the religious celebration of the service. It should create an atmosphere of prayer and joy. Some music is very suitable for this purpose, and other music may not be as suitable. You may select hymns, vocal solos, choral numbers, and chamber music. Secular music must be approved by your wedding pastor and the pianist. The list of musical selections below are suggestions and not considered an exhaustive list.

Pre-recorded music may be used provided it meets the approval of your wedding pastor. If you want to use this option, you must provide the music on a mp3 file or jump drive. We must have it at least a week in advance so we can make sure it works with our sound board.

## PROCESSIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Preludes are played during the seating of the guests. Preludes are generally not listed in the wedding program and do not need to be selected by you, unless there are pieces you specifically desire. You can plan on approximately 10-15 minutes of pre-ceremony prelude music being played before the wedding, which can also include vocal or instrumental solos appropriate for the seating of parents and grandparents. Processional music is played as the wedding party enters the sanctuary.

Air (from Water Music).....	G.F. Handel
Air in F Major.....	G. F. Handel
Air from <i>Suite No. 3 in D</i> .....	Bach
Bridal Chorus (bride only).....	Richard Wagner
Canon in D.....	Johann Pachelbel
Hymne.....	Vangelis
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring.....	J.S Bach
Joy.....	George Winston(/Bach)
Largo from <i>Xerxes</i> .....	Handel
Ode to Joy.....	L. Beethoven
Trumpet Tune Henry.....	Purcell
Trumpet Voluntary.....	Jeremiah Clarke

## RECESSIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Water Music Suite Hornpipe.....	G.F. Handel
Prelude in Classic Style.....	Young
The Prince of Denmark's March.....	Clarke
Ode to Joy.....	L. Beethoven
Psalm 19.....	Marcello
Rondeau from <i>Simphonies de Fanfare</i> .....	Mouret
The Wedding March.....	F. Mendelssohn
Trumpet Tune.....	Purcell

## SUGGESTED VOCAL SELECTIONS

And On This Day.....	English
God, a Woman and a Man.....	Green
He Has Chosen Me for You.....	Pipes
Household of Faith.....	Green
How Beautiful.....	Paris
I Will Be Here.....	Chapman
In This Very Room.....	Harris
O How He Loves You and Me.....	Band
O Perfect Love.....	Barnby
Only God Could Love You More.....	Niemann
Surely the Presence.....	Heritage Singers
The Gift of Love.....	Hopson
The Lord's Prayer.....	Malotte
Panis Angelicus (O Lord Most Holy).....	Franck
The Prayer.....	Carole Bayer Sager/David Foster (recorded by Josh Groban)
Time for Joy.....	Limpic

## SUGGESTED HYMNS

Hymns may be sung by the guests or a soloist. If a hymn is sung by the guests, it must be accompanied by the pianist. Hymns from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal that are not listed can also be included in the service. Any hymn not found in the ELW hymnal must be approved by your wedding pastor.

All Are Welcome.....	#641
Beautiful Savior.....	#838
Children of the Heavenly Father.....	#781
For the Beauty of the Earth.....	#879
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father.....	#585
Holy, Holy, Holy.....	#473
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee.....	#836
Lord of All Hopefulness.....	#765
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.....	#631
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.....	#858
Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God.....	WOV #783
The King of Love My Shepherd Is.....	#502
Where Charity and Love Prevail.....	#359

## WEDDING BIBLE VERSES

Because a First Lutheran wedding is a Christian worship service at least one scripture must be read. These are suggested readings—you are invited to choose passages not listed here as well.

- Genesis 1:26-31**.....*God creates humankind, blesses them, and declares creation as very good*
- Genesis 2:18-24**.....*God creates man and woman for each other*
- Psalms 33**.....*A psalm about the greatness and goodness of God*
- Psalms 100**.....*A psalm of thanksgiving calling all earth to praise God*
- Psalms 127**.....*A psalm asking for God's blessing in the home*
- Psalms 128**.....*A psalm of blessing for a happy home*
- Psalms 150**.....*A psalm praising God's surpassing greatness*
- Ruth 1:16-17**.....*Where you go I will go*
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**.....*For everything there is a time and a season*
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**.....*Two are better than one*
- Song of Solomon 2:10-13**.....*Praise for the coming spring*
- Song of Solomon 8:6-7**.....*Describes the power of love*
- Isaiah 61:10-11**.....*We rejoice like a couple about to be married because God gives us his righteousness*
- Isaiah 63:7-9**.....*Rejoice because God has saved us*
- Matthew 7:24-29**.....*Jesus tells people to build their lives on God*
- Matthew 19:5-6**.....*Jesus quotes God's intent in creation for husband and wife to become one flesh*
- Matthew 22:34-40**.....*The two greatest commandments: Love the Lord and love your neighbor*
- Mark 10:6-9**.....*Jesus quotes God's intent in creation for husband and wife to become one flesh*
- John 2:1-10**.....*Jesus blesses the wedding at Cana with his presence and performs his first miracle*
- John 15:9-17**.....*Jesus commands us to love one another as he has loved us*
- Romans 12:9-18**.....*Marks of a Christian include genuine love for each other, hope, and patience*
- 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13**.....*The gift of love and a Christian description of love*
- Galatians 5:13-14**.....*We are called to serve one another in love*
- Galatians 5:22-25**.....*The fruits of the Spirit*
- Colossians 3:12-17**.....*A description of our new life in Christ and how it impacts our relationships*
- 1 John 4:7-16**.....*God is love and a description of how God's love is at work in our lives*

# WEDDING ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Solo (*optional*)

Processional

Welcome and Greeting

Declaration of Intention

Prayer

Scripture Readings

Message

Song

Exchange of Vows

Giving of Rings

Unity Candle/Sand (*a song works well here*)

Blessing of Marriage

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Presentation of Couple

Recessional

## WEDDING VOW OPTIONS

Your wedding vows should reflect the complete sharing that marriage implies and a commitment that is life-long. Your vows should also express how your marriage commitment and faithfulness depend on God's grace and love. Below are some examples. You may also choose to write your own vows.

### ***Option 1***

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.

### ***Option 2***

In the presence of God and this community, I \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband. To have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

# FIRST LUTHERAN WEDDING FEES

(Effective July 1, 2020) A non-refundable check for \$100.00 is due in the church office ten days after your wedding date has been scheduled. This deposit check, when received, will reserve your date on the church calendar, and will be applied to your custodial fee on the day of your wedding. Please make this check payable to First Lutheran Church.

## ON-SITE RATES

- \$100 Custodian (for ceremony only, \$200 for ceremony and reception)
- \$200 Pastor
- \$150 Pianist/Organist (if coordinated through church)
- \$100 Soloist (if coordinated through church)
- \$100 Sound Tech (always needed and provided by First Lutheran Church)
- \$200 Sanctuary Fee for first 2 hours/\$50 for each additional hour (non-members)

## OFF-SITE RATES

- \$275 Pastor (plus mileage if over 15 miles away)
- \$150 Pianist/Organist (if coordinated through church)
- \$100 Soloist (if coordinated through church)

## OPTIONAL EXPENSES

- \$150 On-site reception Fee (for first 2 hours/\$50 for each additional hour)
- \$100 Use of Kitchen (for caterers and cleanup)

## FEE PAYMENTS

All fees are due 30 days prior to the wedding date and can be dropped off at First Lutheran Church or mailed. Checks should be payable to First Lutheran Church. If you have musicians that are not coordinated through First Lutheran, you should pay them directly.



We have read the Wedding Information Packet and we understand that our wedding will be in accordance with all these policies.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(Wedding Participant Signature) (Wedding Participant Signature)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**COUPLE INFORMATION AFTER MARRIAGE**

Participant #1 full legal name: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant #2 full legal name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Emails (if different):

Email #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Email #2: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Members:** Do you plan on remaining members at First Lutheran Church or would you like your membership transferred to another church? If so, where?

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

For Office Use Only:

Date Information Sheet Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Deposit Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Life Works Retreat Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage License Received: \_\_\_\_\_

All Remaining Fees Received: \_\_\_\_\_