



Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
And over all these virtues put on
love, which binds them all
together in perfect unity.
Let the peace of Christ rule in
your hearts.

Colossians 3

Marriage Manual



For couples considering a
wedding service



Dear Bride and Groom,

Congratulations on your choice to be married in the Church to celebrate your Christian faith and your deep love for each other! What a great witness to your friends and family that your wedding day, and your whole marriage, will be nurtured and centered in Christ!

It will be my privilege to share with you some spiritual tools that will guide and strengthen your growing relationship. God certainly wants you to enjoy each other and be rock solid in your new life together. This is why it is **required** that you **have a church family membership** before you marry.

The forms included with this letter are to help you prepare for your wedding day. I know it may seem like a lot of details, but don't worry. I will go over them with you so that we can design the wedding style you want, and start preparing for a marriage that will last.

Please fill out the **Marriage Application** form and bring it with you to our first counseling meeting. You can download it and the **Marriage Manual** at our church website. We will go over it in more detail at our last gathering and walk through the different traditions of a wedding day.

At some point in the planning you will want to talk to our Music Director to discuss your desired songs, solos, or instruments.

If you have questions about any of these wedding forms, please feel comfortable to call and share them with me. I want you to have more than just the best wedding day possible. I want you to have all the resources and encouragement of a church family that will support you and your marriage!

Again, I rejoice with both of you during this special time of preparation knowing that the Lord has planned great blessings for your new relationship. **Now is the time** to start your marriage off right by worshipping together, keeping Christ in your new chapter!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Chris Fairbairn

Pastor Chris Fairbairn

St. Paul Lutheran Church
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*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11*

OUR COVENANT FOR COUNSELING

God wants for both of you the healthiest marriage that is firmly established and nurtured on the values Christ offers you for your new relationship. Your church family is here to be your spiritual support and encouragement towards that lasting and fulfilling life as husband and wife.

Your pastor agrees to:

...keep everything and anything that is discussed in strict confidence. If you desire anything to be shared (with family or friends) you will need to instruct me.

...be very open and completely honest with you. I consider it my serious obligation to advise you as I see necessary.

...be open to disagreement and discussion.

...be prompt and prepared for all sessions.

...be available to you either individually or together, by phone or in person, should you have any questions or concerns between sessions.

You are asked to agree to:

...be open, honest and candid in all discussions.

...be diligent in carrying out all enrichment activities between sessions.

...be prompt and prepared for all sessions.

...alert me of any undue concerns or anxieties regarding our discussion or your needs.

...**Sexual abstinence until marriage**- To honor God and your future spouse in this way will truly strengthen your relationship and the joy of your wedding night.

We all agree to:

...maintain a relaxed and yet a serious attitude during the counseling session.

...be diligent in prayer.

And finally:

...The couple is requested to be **faithful in regular** Sunday or special **worship** opportunities during the time of the engagement and counseling process.

...agree to participate in one post-marital counseling session following the wedding. This session will be scheduled after the first six (6) months of marriage.

Signed: _____
Groom

Pastor Chris Fairbairn Bride

SELECTING A WEDDING DATE

Your wedding day is one of the most important days of your life. I believe that all the riches of the world cannot equal a home filled with love. Right now you have many hopes and dreams for your Christian marriage.

It is necessary to select a date soon enough to allow for pre-marital guidance sessions with the pastor and to pick out appropriate music with the music director. **Before** setting a date with others, such as the florist or reception hall, please contact the pastor to confirm that the date you would like is available for both securing the church and for the pastor. Please make these reservations early to avoid any conflicts.

The time of the wedding ceremony and the wedding rehearsal should be determined with the pastor at your first pre-marital counseling.

As available, the church gymnasium and Parish Hall may also be reserved for a reception if desired. *Please notify the church office immediately if there are any changes.*



STATEMENT OF POLICIES

1. All couples who desire to be married by a pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church must attend a series of pre-marital counseling sessions with the pastor.
2. While membership in St. Paul Lutheran Church is not required, the couple must promise to **attend worship services faithfully together**. This is meant for the spiritual nurture and benefit of the couple. If neither of the two are Lutheran by faith, they must agree to attend the sessions of the Pastor's Newcomer class to learn the basics of the Christian faith. It should be clear that a **church wedding is for committed Christians**.
3. Since divorce is contrary to the will of God (Matthew 19:6), it can be a barrier to re-marriage. However, if the divorced person sees his/her sin and seeks Christ's forgiveness, the grace of God takes this barrier away. More can be shared on this as needed.
4. The wedding service is designed to be a worship service. So it makes sense that all wedding music, readings, vows, and any friends/relatives who take a part in the service are to be discussed with the pastor and music director. (See section "Selecting the Music.")
5. The couple may wish to have wedding bulletins printed by the church instead of a specialized printer. The pastor will help you choose the bulletin cover and edit the contents.
6. Wedding flowers and extra decorations are the responsibility of the wedding couple. Throwing rice or bird seed is not allowed *inside* church buildings.
7. The church will be open one hour before the wedding begins, unless requested otherwise.
8. >> Please, NO alcoholic beverages are permitted on church property. Be responsible for any damages incurred by your wedding party.

SEXUALITY ISSUES -- Please **DO NOT SKIP**

Since the issues of sexuality and living together are such important premarital topics in the church and society today, we offer the following Christian perspective on these issues.

1. Expressing Love

There are many good, Christian ways to express your love for each other. You have probably done many of them during your dating. You may have sent love letters, cards or notes to each other. Perhaps you have sent flowers or given gifts. Every couple seems to have their own special way of saying "I love you."

There are also many physical ways that couples express love for each other. A special look can express much love. A gentle touch can be very loving. Of course there are such expressions as holding hands, hugging, and kissing, just to name a few.

In God's Word we learn that one of the best ways to show love is to give of ourselves for the sake of the other. It is this kind of love that prompted our heavenly Father to sacrifice His own Son for us (see John 3:16). When we love someone we seek to put them and their needs first, instead of seeking to fulfill our own selfish needs (see Corinthians 13:4-8).

We also learn in God's Word that sexual intercourse between unmarried persons is **not** an appropriate way to express love. God created men and women as sexual beings and encourages them to unite sexually, but **only** inside the bonds of marriage (see Hebrews 13:4). God considers sexual intercourse outside marriage to be a sin against His Commandments and urges us to "flee from sexual immorality" (1Corinthians 6:18).

Christian couples who wish to honor God in their lives will not engage in sexual intercourse prior to their wedding. They will reserve this special gift of themselves for their spouse until after they have been married. Until then they will look for other God-pleasing ways to express their love to each other.

2. Living Together

An extension of this issue is the common practice today of couples living together prior to marriage. This arrangement usually includes sexual intercourse. As has been said above, ***such activity is not pleasing to God.***

Even if the couple is not "sleeping together" there is a strong temptation to give in to the natural desires that are present in all of us. It is much better not to put yourself in a situation where you are tempted to violate God's will.

There are other reasons why living together before marriage is not a wise thing to do. As Christian people, when you live together before marriage you give a poor witness of your faith to those around you. You may even lead others into sin because they see what you do and think it is therefore alright and then do it too (see Luke 17:1-3). Would you one day tell your children they could repeat your past decision to live with a boyfriend or girlfriend?

Even from a secular, sociological perspective, living together before marriage is harmful.

A recent research study of the National Marriage Project of Rutgers University (January, 1999) entitled “Should We Live Together” found that 1) living together before marriage increases the risk of breaking up after marriage, 2) living together outside of marriage increases the risk of domestic violence for women, and the risk of physical and sexual abuse for children, and 3) unmarried couples have lower levels of happiness and wellbeing than married couples.

For the Christian couple who is seeking to lead a God-pleasing life, living together outside of marriage should be avoided.

3. What If?

Understanding God’s will concerning sexual intercourse and living together before marriage, what should you do if you are already involved in these activities?

First of all, we realize that addressing these issues can create a sense of guilt, defensiveness, shame, or embarrassment. These emotional responses, or guilty feelings, are internal signals indicating discomfort and possible disconnection from God.

Our intent **IS NOT** to make people “feel bad,” but to create awareness of what God wants (the very best) for His loved children, who want to honor their Christian values.

Second, there is good news for you. The God who has said “Thou shall not,” is also the God who offers love and forgiveness through Jesus. Confessing your sins to Him and asking for His forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ frees you from your sins. Our loving God removes your sin, setting you free to live forgiven and restored (see Psalm 103:12), empowered to make better choices from **this point forward!**

Living in God’s forgiving love and grace you may wish to consider the following options:

- If you’re sexually active, but not living together, consider making a promise to God and to one another that you will refrain from sexual intercourse until you are married. What an awesome gift to give one another on your wedding day as you give yourself to each other in “heart, **body**, and mind.”
- If you’re living together **consider getting married “sooner”** rather than “later.” If your goal is to honor God in your life together as husband and wife begin now by not putting off the wedding but getting married just as quickly as possible. This might be a particularly good option if there are already children in the family. (Don’t wait for 6, 9, 12 months or more)
- Another option is for one or the other of you to move out until the wedding. Perhaps you can move in with a parent, sibling, or friend. What an amazing witness you will be to your family and friends when they hear that you wish to prepare for marriage by honoring God in this way. There may be other options as well. The pastor officiating at your wedding will be happy to discuss these issues and any other concerns you may have. Again, our goal is not to be critical or judgmental, but to assist you to have the best possible life together, built on the foundation of Jesus Christ and His Word.

Finally, as we believe God created us male and female and the **only Biblical model for marriage** is between one man and one woman we will not perform homosexual weddings at St. Paul.

From our church website:

Note: MARRIAGE POLICY

The marriage policy of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Northville, MI, a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is and always has been consistent with the Synod's beliefs 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 Testaments (Lev. 18:22, 24; 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.

For an An Affirmation of Marriage with explanation of our beliefs above, [click here](#).

<http://mercyjourney.blogspot.com/2013/06/lcc-nalc-acna-lcms-affirmation-of.html>

THE WEDDING SERVICE

In planning the service, most brides and grooms think: “It’s our wedding, isn’t it?” In a limited sense the answer is “yes.” You are the ones being married. But in a more important and deeper sense, the answer is “no.”

While you have control over many “secular” things regarding your wedding day, your wedding service is the responsibility of the church. The Christian Church’s worship practices are determined by God, based on Scripture, and tested over more than 2,000 years of the history of God’s people. God clearly has *ownership* over your wedding service.

Here are five fundamental and very important facts about a Christian wedding service, which I hope you will understand and appreciate.

1. **A CHRISTIAN WEDDING SERVICE IS A SERVICE OF WORSHIP.** A Christian worship service always insists that God be placed in the center of worship, and that we direct our attention to Him. Anything, or anyone, that shifts the focus from God and our worship of Him—or that hints at an acceptance of things which He does not accept—cannot be a part of the service. Everything in the Christian wedding service must give evidence that we are at worship, bringing our willing commitment before the Lord for His blessing. Whatever may be “cute” or sentimental should be discussed and used with caution.
2. **A CHRISTIAN WEDDING SERVICE IS A PUBLIC SERVICE.** The word “public” means that the service belongs to all the people of God, not to one or two people. Some wedding ceremonies are attended only by the pastor, bride, groom, and two witnesses, but since they are shaped by Scripture and by our Christian worship history, even these “private” weddings are public. Even a wedding held at a hotel or golf club is a service of worship that is an expression of your Christian faith.
3. **A CHRISTIAN WEDDING SERVICE IS A CORPORATE SERVICE.** “Corporate” means that all the Christians present are linking spiritual hands and uniting in one great act of worship! Everyone has an important part of the worship process, whether they listen, speak, sing, or witness your vows. A Christian wedding service is not a performance in which the bride and groom and wedding party are the actors, the pastor is the stage-prompter, and everyone else is the audience. That’s not the way it is at all. It is our hope that everyone present will participate in this worship as we together acknowledge that marriage is God’s idea, and that in this wedding the bride and groom are openly accepting God’s plan, a plan designed by Him and protected in His Word.
4. **A CHRISTIAN WEDDING SERVICE IS A TIME OF CLEAR PROCLAMATION.** In the wedding ceremony we want to say some very important things about Christ, His love, forgiveness, and God’s plan for marriage. We want to say these things aloud and with openness. The pastor shares and reads the Word of God to proclaim His presence and blessing over your whole married life together.
5. **A CHRISTIAN WEDDING IS A TIME OF CELEBRATION.** Christians celebrate a lot of things. At your wedding we also want to celebrate. We want to celebrate God’s goodness to you, the bride and groom, in finding each other and committing to that delightful relationship called “marriage”, which God in His wisdom and love established for the two of you. We all have the opportunity to celebrate the promises of God that He will never leave us or turn His back on us since nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. This is truly what will make your marriage last a lifetime!

SELECTING THE MUSIC

The right kind of music is essential to a meaningful wedding service. Therefore, care must be taken in the selection of solos, soloists, hymns, and processional and recessional music. When music is included in the order of service, the music director will meet with the couple and help make those arrangements. The goal is to glorify God.

Hymns are always welcomed when Christians gather to celebrate and witness your wedding. Spiritual songs and hymns are optional as desired.

A guest organist selected by the wedding party and approved by the music director may also perform. Soloists will be expected to rehearse with the organist as determined by the music director, but not required.

The use of instrumental music in the wedding ceremony is encouraged and should be chosen in consultation with the music director. Please bring your final selection of all music to the pastor.



MARRIAGE LICENSE

By law we must have your marriage license in order to marry you.

- Obtain the marriage license in the county where the wedding is being performed. If your wedding is at St. Paul, Northville, you would get your license at Wayne County Clerk office in Detroit. Call them for their requirements (see below).
- Bring the license packet of forms to the church office **two weeks** before the wedding date so that our church secretary can type in all the names and details.
- On your wedding day the Bride's Maid/Matron of Honor and the Best Man will put their signatures, along with the pastor's, on all the forms. You will get one copy of the official license and a church wedding certificate to commemorate the special day. All other copies will be brought back to the church by the pastor and then mailed to be filed with the county clerk, unless you were requested to mail this yourselves.

A marriage license usually:

- Requires a birth certificate
- Has a 3 day waiting period
- Expires 30 days after you have filed for the marriage

THE USE OF CANDLES, FLOWERS, AND DECORATIONS

Vases of flowers may be placed on the altar. Your florist should try to use the vase liners as provided by the church. In the event of a Saturday or Friday wedding, the couple should indicate whether or not the flowers will or will not remain in the church for the following Sunday services. Additional flowers may also be placed wherever they do not obscure the altar. The church has flower stands for this purpose.

The church candelabrum will be lighted for the wedding service. The wedding ushers do this.

Candleholders and candles in the center aisle (attached to the pews - five on each side of the aisle) are available for rent from the church, if you choose to use them. Please mark your interest on the **Wedding Fees** sheet if you would like to include them in the ceremony.

A white runner may be used in the aisle. This must be purchased by the bridal party from their florist. The **church aisle is 75' long**.

No other decorations should be brought into the church without sharing your creative ideas with the pastor. Decorations in good taste are usually just fine.

Please make arrangements for **someone to be in charge of picking up** any bows, candles, or other decorations that are yours so that they do not get misplaced, lost, or mistaken by our janitor as something to be thrown away.

UNITY/MARRIAGE CANDLE

Some couples may choose to have a unity candle. The unity candle consists of three candles; the larger center candle represents the marriage unity/couple. It is lit during the wedding by the Bride and Groom, who light it with the two smaller candles (representing them or their families), which are lit before the service either by the usher(s) or by a representative of each family.



A Thought About

WEDDING GUESTS

The people who attend your wedding are not spectators who are watching your show. They are participants in a **worship service**, where you happen to also be getting married to the one person God had chosen for you to love for a lifetime.

When you're deciding who to invite to your wedding, keep in mind that these are people who are your witnesses, the people who actually hear you make your promises. They should be people that really matter to you, the people you talk to and listen to, the people whose opinions matter to you. Don't invite people based on social obligations or expectations of gifts, but on who cares about you.

After your wedding day, these people are more than just your friends and relatives. They become much more meaningful, in that they now have the spiritual responsibility to **remind and encourage each of you in your vows**, to support and help you remain committed to the deep and wonderful promises you made to each other and to your Lord. Along with your Christian faith, these witnesses become a powerful ingredient to a marriage that will stay together.

TAKING PICTURES

Photographers are accustomed to observing the rules of churches in which they work. It is the responsibility of the bridal couple to inform the photographer of the following expectations:

1. The photographer may take flash pictures of the bridal party anywhere on the church premises at any time before the ceremony begins, and he or she may also take flash pictures of the participants after the final blessing, as they begin their procession down the aisle.
2. During the ceremony it is helpful and less distracting when the photographer remains in an inconspicuous location and takes no flash pictures. He may take pictures without using a flash or strobe during the ceremony from the rear of the church or from the balcony.
3. When taking the posed pictures after the service, the bridal party and the photographer will keep in mind that any activity in the church should show reverence and dignity.
4. As a courtesy, if you choose to have any pictures that include the pastor, it would be nice to have those taken early on among the first poses with the photographer.

Depending on your arrangements with your wedding party, it has proven helpful and courteous to the wedding guests who are waiting patiently, to have as many pictures as possible taken before the wedding service itself. Most photographers are familiar with this and it cuts down on the delay between the service and the reception.

Please share this information with your photographer! You can simply pass this page on to him.

EXAMPLE *Order of Worship for the Wedding of*



*Katherine Alison Schmidt
and
Sean Michael Daniels*

*St. Paul Lutheran Church
March 6, 2010*

Pre-Service Music

Seating of the Grandparents and Parents

"Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" Bach

Processional

*"Canon in D" Pachelbel
"Trumpet Voluntary" Purcell*

Invocation

Honorable Estate of Marriage

*Scripture Readings 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
Mark 10:6-9 & Colossians 3:12-15*

Wedding Address

Hymn O Father, All Creating

*O Father, all creating,
Whose wisdom, love, and pow'r
First bound two lives together
In Eden's primal hour,
Today to these your children
Your earliest gifts renew:
A home by you made happy,
A love by you kept true.*

*O Spirit of the Father,
Breathe on them from above,
So mighty in your pureness,
So tender in your love
That, guarded by your presence
And kept from strife and sin,
Their hearts may sense your guidance
And know you dwell within.*

*Unless you build it, Father,
The house is built in vain;
Unless you, Savior, bless it,
The joy will turn to pain.
But nothing breaks a marriage
Of hearts in you made one;
The love your Spirit hallows
Is endless love begun.*

Parental Blessing

Promises of Intent to Wed

Marriage Vows

Exchange of Rings

Prayer of Blessing

Lighting of the Unity Candle

Pronouncement of Marriage

Wedding Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

"Hornpipe" from Water Music

Handel

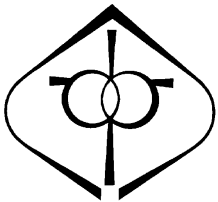


Participants

Maid of Honor Kristin
Bridesmaids..... Nicole
Sarah
Danielle
Vivian

Best Man..... Michael
Groomsmen..... Victor
John
Henry

Readers..... Madelyn & Denise
Organist..... Marty
Officiant Rev. Christopher Fairbairn



*We love one another
because Christ first loved us.*

The Marriage Unity Candle

The two outside candles have been lighted to represent our lives to this moment. They are two distinct lights, each capable of going their separate ways. To bring bliss and joy to our home, there must be the joining of these two lights into one light.

From now on, our thoughts will be for each other rather than for our individual selves. Our plans shall be mutual, our joys and sorrows shall be shared alike.

As we each take a candle and together light the center one, we will extinguish our own candles, thus letting the center candle represent the union of our lives into one flesh. As the one light cannot be divided, neither shall our lives be divided but a united testimony in a Christian home. May the radiance of this one light be a witness of our unity in the Lord Jesus Christ.



EXAMPLE Wedding Service of Christian Marriage for

*Tracy Marie Libstorff
and
Scott Tyler Miklusak*

**April 21, 2011
St. Paul Lutheran Church**

Please Stand as the Bride enters.

1. When the wedding party has come to the foot of the altar, the pastor says:

P In the name of the Father and of the **+** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen *Sit*

P We are gathered here in the sight of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in holy marriage. Today we celebrate with **Scott & Tracy** as they pledge their commitment to one another and make their promises before the Lord. God has established marriage and honored it with the promise to bless all who love and trust in Him through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(To the congregation) The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort they will give one another in prosperity and adversity. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unwisely or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Prayer: [personal] Gracious Lord, our heavenly Father, look with favor upon **Scott & Tracy**, your children, and keep them together. Bless their union with Your Holy Spirit; in love, in forgiveness, in growth, through temptation and in faith keep them one. In Jesus' saving name we pray. Amen!

The Scripture Readings

2. Appropriate portions of Holy Scripture are read.

Genesis 2 (New Living Translation)

P And the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion who will help him." So the LORD God formed from the soil every kind of animal and bird. He brought them to Adam to see what he would call them, and Adam chose a name for each one. He gave names to all the livestock, birds, and wild animals. But still there was no companion suitable for him. So the LORD God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He took one of Adam's ribs and closed up the place from which he had taken it. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib and brought her to Adam.

"At last!" Adam exclaimed. "She is part of my own flesh and bone! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken out of a man." This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united as one.

1 Corinthians 13

P A marriage ceremony represents one of life's greatest commitments. But it also is a declaration of love. So I share with you what God wrote about love in a letter to the Corinthian Christians. I believe it is a good model of love and it is an example of **true love** that I hope you pursue in your marriage: God said--

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails.

If you love someone, you will be loyal to them no matter what the costs. You will always believe in them, always expect the best in them, and will always stand your ground in defending them.

[The Wedding Couple's Chosen Scripture]

Ecclesiastes 4

P Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work:

If one falls down, his friend can help him up.

But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

*3. A **Message** may follow. A hymn may be sung.*

YES Consent:

The Hymn "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus"

The Vows

4. If the bride and bridegroom have been seated for an address and/or a hymn, they now stand.

*The pastor asks the bridegroom: **Face Me***

I now ask you, in the presence of God and these witnesses, to express your sincere intent. . .

P name , will you take name to be your wife, to live with her in holy marriage according to the Word of God? Will you love her, comfort her, honor her, and keep her in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be husband to her as long as you both shall live?

R **I will.**

5. The pastor asks the bride:

P name , will you take name to be your husband, to live with him in holy marriage according to the Word of God? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him, cherish him, and keep him in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be wife to him as long as you both shall live?

R **I will.**

6. The pastor leads the bride and bridegroom to the altar.

7. *The bridegroom, taking the right hand of the bride and **facing her**, says after the pastor:*

I, name, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, name, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death parts us, and I pledge you my faithfulness.

8. *The bride, in the same way, says after the pastor:*

I, name, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, name, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death parts us, and I pledge you my faithfulness.

The Hymn “In You Is Gladness”

9. *Get rings. The bride and bridegroom exchange rings, saying:*

The rings which you now exchange are the symbol to you, and to all, of the promises that you have made this day to each other.

Receive this ring / as a pledge and token / of wedded love and faithfulness.

10. The pastor may speak a blessing upon the pledging of their love with the exchange of rings (place stole over hands):

P Grant your blessing, O Lord, to your servants name and name that they may be ever mindful of their solemn pledge and, trusting in your mercy, abound evermore in love all their days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. ✠ Amen.

Unity Candles – Solo / Roses (Optional)

11. *The bride and bridegroom **YES kneel**, and the pastor says:*

P Now that name and name have consented together in holy marriage, have given themselves to each other by their solemn pledges, and have declared the same before God and these witnesses, I pronounce them to be husband and wife, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

What God has joined together, let no one separate. ✠ Amen

Couple Stands

The Wedding Prayer

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, grant that by your blessing ___name___ and ___name___ may live together according to your Word and promise. Strengthen them in faithfulness and love toward each other. Sustain and defend them in all trial and temptation. Help them to live in faith toward you in the fellowship of your Church and in loving service to one another that they may always enjoy your heavenly blessing; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **G** Amen

G LORD'S PRAYER

12. The pastor pronounces the Blessing.

P **The eternal God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, grant you his Holy Spirit, be with you, and richly bless you now and forever.**

G Amen

Kiss ? Face people: "I present to you . . . Mr. & Mrs. Scott Miklusak."

Exit

The parents of the bridal couple leave first, usually escorted by an usher. Afterwards, the wedding guests leave, with or without the direction of the ushers. They may be ushered out row by row, however, either by the ushers or by the wedding couple.

A wedding service usually lasts between 20 and 30 minutes, depending upon which options are used.

Suggested SCRIPTURES

1) THE CREATION OF MAN and WOMAN

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

26. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

31. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

2) GOD'S LOVE and OURS

1 John 4:7-12, 18-19

7. Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

8. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

9. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

10. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

11. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

18. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19. We love because he first loved us.

3) LIVE IN LOVE and PEACE

Colossians 3:12-15

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

4) TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work:

If one falls down, his friend can help him up.

But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.

But how can one keep warm alone?

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

5) THE MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE

Ephesians 5:21-33

Spirit-Guided Relationships: Wives and Husbands

²¹And further, you will submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²You **wives will submit to your husbands as you do to the Lord.** ²³For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of his body, the church; he gave his life to be her Savior. ²⁴As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must submit to your husbands in everything.

²⁵And you **husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church.** He gave up his life for her ²⁶to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's word. ²⁷He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

²⁰To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

²⁸In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife. ²⁹No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body, which is the church. ³⁰And we are his body.

³¹As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." ³²This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. ³³So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

6) TWO BECOME ONE

Mark 10:6-9

6. "But at the beginning of creation God `made them male and female.'

7. `For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,

8. and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one.

9. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

7) THE STEADFAST LOVE OF GOD

Psalm 36:5-7, 9-10

5. Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

6. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O LORD, you preserve both man and beast.

7. How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

9. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

10. Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart.

8) GOD WILL MEET ALL YOUR NEEDS

Philippians 4:19-20

¹⁹And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

9) THE WIFE OF YOUR YOUTH

Proverbs 5 Warning Against Adultery

¹ My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight,
² that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.

¹⁵ Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well.

¹⁶ Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares?

¹⁷ Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers.

¹⁸ **May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.**

¹⁹ A loving doe, a graceful deer- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.

10) MAY GOD BLESS OUR MARRIAGE

Psalm 67

God's Favor is with Us

¹Is ¹ May God be merciful and bless us.
May his face smile with favor on us.

² May your ways be known throughout the earth, your saving power among people everywhere.

³ May the nations praise you, O God.
Yes, may all the nations praise you.

⁴ Let the whole world sing for joy, because you govern the nations with justice and guide the people of the whole world.

⁵ May the nations praise you, O God.
Yes, may all the nations praise you.

⁶ Then the earth will yield its harvests, and God, our God, will richly bless us.

⁷ Yes, God will bless us, and people all over the world will fear him.

Other Suggested Texts

Gen 2:18	It Is Not Good for the Man To Be Alone
Num 6:24-26	The Aaronic Blessing
Dt 33:25b	Your Strength Will Equal Your Days
Dt 33:27a	The Eternal God Is Your Refuge, And Underneath Are the Everlasting Arms
Josh 24:15b	As for Me And My Household, We Will Serve the Lord
Ruth 1:16,17	Where You Go, I Will Go
1 Chr 17:27	Bless the House of Your Servant
Ps 23:1 -6	I Will Dwell in the House of the Lord Forever
Ps 23:1	The Lord Is My Shepherd
Ps 23:6	All the Days of My Life And Forever
Ps 27:4	One Thing I Ask of the Lord
Ps 31 :3b	For the Sake of Your Name Lead And Guide Me
Ps 37:5	Commit Your Way to the Lord
Ps 51:17-19	The Sacrifices of God
Ps 67	May God Bless Us
Ps 103:1,2	Praise And Forget Not
Ps 118:14	The Lord Is My Strength
Ps 12 1:8	The Lord Will Watch over Your Coming And Going
Ps 127:1	Unless the Lord Builds the House
Ps 128	Your wife, house, children will be fruitful
Pr 3:5,6	Trust in the Lord
Pr 3:33	The Lord Blesses the Home of the Righteous
Pr 18:22	He Who Finds a Wife Finds What Is Good
Pr 19:14	A Prudent Wife Is from the Lord
Is 41:10	Do Not Fear; I Will Uphold You
Is 54:10	My Unfailing Love for You Will Not Be Shaken
Is 62:5b	As a Bridegroom Will Your God Rejoice over You
Jer 31:3	I Have Loved You with an Everlasting Love
Ez 16:60	I Will Establish an Everlasting Covenant with You
Mt 6:33	Seek First His Kingdom And His Righteousness
Mt 7:24,25	A House Founded on a Rock
Mt 19:6b	What God Has Joined Together, Let Man Not Separate
Mt 28:20	Surely I Will Be with You Always
Lk 10:41,42	One Thing Is Needed
Lk 24:20	Stay with Us
Jn 2:2	Jesus And His Disciples Invited to the Wedding
Jn 3:29	The Bride Belongs to the Bridegroom
Jn 10:11	I Am the Good Shepherd
Jn 10:27,28	My Sheep Listen to My Voice
Ro 8:16	The Spirit Himself Testifies That We Are God's Children
Ro 8:28	In All Things God Works for the Good of Those Who Love Him
Ro 8:31,32	If God Is For Us, Who Can Be Against Us?
Ro 12:12	Be Joyful in Hope, Patient in Affliction, Faithful in Prayer
1 Cor 11:11	Interdependency in Marriage
1 Cor 13:1-13	The Greatest of These Is Love
2 Cor 11:2	I Promised You to One Husband, to Christ
Eph 4:32	Be Kind And Compassionate, Forgiving Each Other
Eph 5:20	Always Giving Thanks
Eph 5:22-33	Wives, Submit Husbands, Love
Php 4:7	The Peace of God Will Guard Your Hearts And Your Minds in Christ Jesus
Php 4:19	My God Will Meet All Your Needs
He 13:5	Never Will I Leave You; Never Will I Forsake You
1 Pe 5:7	Cast All Your Anxiety on Him Because He Cares for You
Rev 19:7,8	The Wedding of the Lamb Has Come
Rev 19:9	Blessed Are Those Who Are Invited to the Wedding Supper of The Lamb

Wedding Unity Candles can be purchased from a local florist or Hallmark store.
You may also find Unity Candles at: www.cph.org

Some Examples:



Wedding Side Candles

Item #: 882695WEB / 1984

Price: \$12.00

Availability: In Stock

Side candles to complement 88-2694 wedding candle.

Fits 7/8" sockets. Center candle and candleholder sold separately.



Wedding Candle


Item #: 881764WEB / 2004 /

Price:

\$40.00

Center Candle for wedding candelabra. Measures 14" H x 3" Diameter

For Wedding Bulletin Covers—go to: www.cph.org and type “wedding bulletins” in the SEARCH bar.



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Standard Wedding Bulletin: Love	Standard Wedding Bulletin: Love From	Standard Wedding Bulletin: Love Never	Standard Wedding Bulletin: One in	Standard Wedding Bulletin: Thank you
Price: \$6.18	Price: \$6.18	Price: \$6.18	Price: \$6.18	Price: \$6.18
				
+ Add to Cart	+ Add to Cart	+ Add to Cart	+ Add to Cart	+ Add to Cart
Standard Wedding Bulletin: To Love and	Standard Wedding Bulletin: Today I will	Standard Wedding Bulletin: Today I will	Standard Wedding Bulletin: Today I will	Standard Wedding Bulletin: Two hearts
Price: \$6.18	Price: \$6.18	Price: \$6.18	Price: \$6.18	Price: \$6.18
				
+ Add to Cart	+ Add to Cart	+ Add to Cart	+ Add to Cart	+ Add to Cart
Standard Wedding Bulletin: Two shall	Standard Wedding Bulletin: Your	Standard Wedding Bulletin: Love is	Standard Wedding Bulletin: Our	Trifold Funeral Bulletin: Well Done.
Price: \$6.18	Price: \$6.18	Price: \$6.18	Price: \$6.18	Price: \$6.18

1) If you would like the Church to print your wedding bulletins, you can order the covers from cph.org or a local store. We typically use the standard sizes: 8 ½ x 14

2) Once you have chosen a bulletin cover, please order the amount you require. Then **bring the covers to the Church office 2 weeks before the wedding**, allowing time for us to print a copy for your review and approval.

Suggested/Traditional

RESPONSIBILITIES:

PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL



Your wedding party plays a very important role throughout the wedding planning process and on your wedding day. Your wedding party is typically composed of a few family members and close friends -- people you can rely on to ensure your wedding will be a success. The size of the wedding party is up to you.

The following is a list of the most important duties each wedding party member is responsible for. In addition, there is a list outlining the financial responsibilities for each wedding party member. Please note, these lists are only basic guidelines. You can change or adapt these responsibilities to meet your individual needs and goals for your wedding. These are **not expectations** “written in stone” and are never meant to create hard feelings among your family and friends. Prayerfully talk over this list!

Maid or Matron of Honor

To be asked to serve in this capacity is a very special honor. The maid or matron of honor is a person who the bride trusts and feels she can rely on to ensure that everything on her wedding day runs smoothly. The maid or matron of honor carries more responsibility than the other bridesmaids. Responsibilities include:

- Helps bride to select her wedding apparel
- Helps to address invitations
- Supervises and organizes all logistics with the other bridesmaids for their wedding apparel
- Holds bridal shower
- Attends all pre-nuptial parties
- Coordinates purchase of bridesmaids' gift to bride
- Coordinates purchase of bridesmaids' gift to couple
- Assists in wedding day plans and preparation
- Picks-up last minute items for bride
- Handles all last minute logistics for bride
- Keeps bride on schedule and assists her throughout her wedding day
- Assists bride in dressing for the ceremony
- Witnesses wedding license
- If there is no ring bearer, she will hold the groom's ring until needed

- Holds the bridal bouquet during the ceremony
- Adjusts the bride's veil and train before the processional and the recessional
- Following reception, helps bride to change from wedding gown
- Informs bride's parents when bride and groom are ready to leave

Bridesmaids



Bridesmaids are usually the bride's closest friends and select family members.

Responsibilities may include:

- Assists maid or matron of honor with her duties
- Assists with bridal shower
- Attends all pre-nuptial parties
- Assists the bride throughout the wedding planning process
- Assists the bride throughout her wedding day

Best Man

The best man is the groom's right-hand man. He plays a very important role. Responsibilities are varied but may include:

- Coordinates and oversees all ushers' activities and duties
- Coordinates all logistics (rental and fittings) for ushers' wedding apparel
- Picks-up and returns all rented wedding apparel for the ushers and the groom
- Organizes bachelor dinner or party
- Organizes purchase of groom's gift from ushers
- Organizes purchase of couple's gift from ushers
- Attends all prenuptial parties
- Helps with honeymoon travel plans
- Attends all prenuptial parties
- Helps groom to dress on his wedding day
- Drives groom to ceremony
- Witnesses marriage license signing
- Holds marriage license until after the reception
- On wedding day, pays any and all service providers as per groom's instructions (i.e. officiating authority, photographers, musicians, etc.)
- If there is no organized transportation, drives bride and groom to reception
- Conducts "toast" to couple during reception
- If there is no ring bearer, holds bridal ring until needed
- Assists groom with changing his clothes after ceremony

Ushers

Ushers are usually the groom's closest friends and select family members. Responsibilities include:

- Seats guests at the ceremony
- Rolls and unrolls aisle runner, lights candles
- Assists best man with bachelor dinner or party
- At ceremony, provides guests with wedding programs and maps to reception
- Head usher seats mother of the groom and bride at the church
- Transports bridesmaids to reception

Flower Girl

- Carries basket with rose pedals, or confetti to be thrown before bride's path during processional (Flower girl may carry a bouquet instead of the basket)
- Attends rehearsal dinner

Ring Bearer

- Carries pillow with rings attached (If a young child, you may want to attach "fake" rings so that the actual rings do not get lost)
- Attends rehearsal dinner



Bride's Parents

- When engagement announced, notify groom and groom's parents to congratulate them
- Holds engagement party for bride and groom
- Prepares guest list for bride
- If necessary, coordinates all lodging arrangements for brides' out-of-town guests
- Provides bride and groom with special gift
- Provides groom with gift
- Serves as host and hostess of reception
- Mother helps bride choose her wedding gown
- Mother selects her own wedding apparel
- Mother helps bride to keep track of gifts received
- Mother is last person to be seated at ceremony
- Mother stores top layer of wedding cake for bridal couple while they are on honeymoon
- Mother arranges for wedding gown to be dry cleaned and preserved
- Father coordinates his wedding apparel with other men of the wedding party
- Father rides to ceremony with bride in limousine
- Father gives bride away at ceremony

Groom's Parents

- When told of engagement, notify bride and bride's parents to congratulate them
- Hold tea or party to introduce bride to family and friends
- Prepare guest list for groom
- If necessary, coordinate all lodging arrangements for groom's out-of-town guests
- Organize rehearsal dinner (This is one of the most important responsibilities for the groom's parents)
- Provides bride and groom with a special gift
- Provide bride with a gift
- Mother coordinates wedding dress with bride's mother
- Father gives "toast" to bride at rehearsal dinner
- Father coordinates wedding apparel with other men in wedding party

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Bride and her Family



- Engagement photo
 - Engagement party
 - All stationary including invitations, announcements, thank-you cards, printing, etc.
 - Bridal gown and related apparel
 - Photographer and photographs
 - Videographer
 - Bridal bouquets and reception and ceremony arrangements
- All decorations
- Ceremony music
- Reception music
- All ceremony expenses
- All reception expenses
- Wedding guest book
- Groom's wedding ring
- Groom's wedding gift
- Bridesmaids' gifts
- Lodging for bridesmaids
- All transportation of bride, groom and wedding party to and from wedding ceremony and reception
- Bridesmaids' lunch and dinner
- Medical exam and blood tests

Groom and His Family



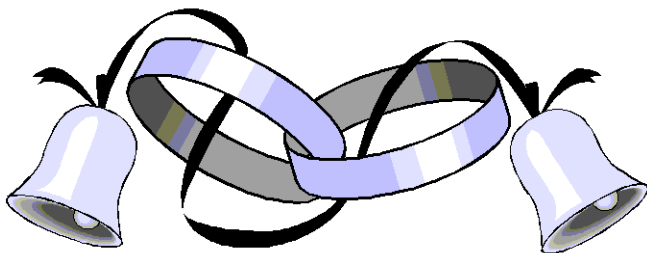
- Bride's engagement ring
- Bride's wedding ring
- Bride's gift
- Marriage license
- Wedding apparel
- Gifts for ushers
- Fee for officiating authority
- Bride's bouquet
- Bride's going away corsage
- Boutonnieres
- Corsages
- Rehearsal dinner
- Honeymoon
- Ushers' accessories
- Medical exam and blood tests

Maid/Matron of Honor and Bridesmaids

- Own wedding apparel and accessories
- Bridal shower
- Bride's gift
- Couple's gift

Best Man and Ushers

- Own wedding apparel (groom pays for accessories)
- Bachelor dinner or party
- Groom's gift
- Couple's gift





Music Selections

I.

Name of Bride & Groom	
	<u>Song Title</u> <u>Composer Name</u>
Pre-service Music (Before service as people are seated)	
Seating of Parents (Grandparents or other family)	
Bridesmaids Processional	
Bridal Processional	
Unity Candle-lighting	
Solos (occur where in service?)	
Recessional for Couple	
Postlude (not always listed)	
Hymns or Congregational Songs	

Bride's Phone #		Work #	
Grooms Phone #		Work #	
Email (optional) :			

II.

Wedding Date		Time	
Rehearsal Date		Time	

III.

	<u>Names of the Participants</u>
Soloist(s)	
Instrumentalist(s)	
Organist:	Officiant: <i>Pastor</i>

Please give a copy of this completed form to Pastor before your last meeting.

St. Paul's of Northville

Wedding date _____
 Couple's Name: _____

The Wedding Fees

	Members	Non- St. Paul Members	Notes
The Use of the Church	0	\$250.00	_____
The Organist-including rehearsal	\$250.00	\$250.00	_____
The Organist-with no rehearsal	\$150.00	\$150.00	_____
The Unity Candle Set	\$30.00	\$30.00	_____
The Custodial Fee (required)	\$50.00	\$50.00	_____
Aisle Candles	\$25.00	\$25.00	_____
Wedding Bulletin Folders per 100	Market Price	Market Price	_____
Printing of the Wedding Bulletin Folders	\$20.00	\$20.00	_____
Counseling Materials	<u>Market Price</u>	<u>Market Price</u>	_____
SUM TOTAL = \$. \$.			

Please circle any items that you would like the church to provide for your wedding.

+ + Return this completed form with payment to the pastor or church office.

Please Note: Fees are due prior to the rehearsal. Please deliver all monies to St. Paul Church at least **ten days prior** to the wedding.

A check for the **SUM TOTAL** can be made out to: St. Paul Lutheran Church and the correct amounts will then be forwarded to the appropriate people as indicated by your selections above.

Any Soloist or Instrumentalist can be arranged by yourself or through our Music Director. Please contact them (248) 349-3140 with any questions about those costs and arrangements.