



**Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# MARRIAGE CEREMONY PLANNING BOOKLET

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A Guide to Assist in Planning  
Your Marriage Ceremony

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Congratulations on your decision to be united together as husband and wife! We at Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church (DMELC) want your marriage ceremony to be the most special and memorable day in your life. We are prepared to work with you and to do everything possible within the limits of time, good judgment, and the teachings of the Lutheran church to help you celebrate with joy the blessings of your “special” day!

This informational pamphlet has been prepared to help acquaint you with some of the possibilities and options for your marriage ceremony, and to answer many of the questions you may be asking about the marriage ceremony itself.

We hope you find this helpful as well as informative. We also hope this will enable you to begin planning for a beautiful ceremony that is meaningful to you as you look forward to a new life together as husband and wife.

### **Processional**

“Trumpet Voluntary”	Clarke
“Largo”	Handel
“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring: “A Festive Trumpet Tune”	Bach Martin

### **Vocal Selections**

“The Lord’s Prayer”	Malotte
“Friends”	Smith
“Wedding Song”	Denver
“O Perfect Love”	Barnby
“His and Hers”	Madsen
“The Wind Beneath My Wings”	Henley/Silbar
“Our Sacred Pledge”	Terry
“Honestly”	Sweet
“Two Candles”	Salsbury
“Wedding Candle Song”	Ridings
“You Light Up My Life”	

### **Recessional**

“Wedding March”	Mendelssohn
“Trumpet Air”	Purcell
“Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah”	Huges

Note: *If other music is desired, consult with the pastor.*

## Marriage Ceremony Music

The couple must contact the organist regarding the date and the time of the service. As planning for the service progresses, consultations, specific music requests, and rehearsal times with the organist and any soloist(s) will be arranged. In making musical selections, your ceremony music should reflect our praise of God and God's steadfast love in Christ who is the foundation of and model for marriage. The following are recommendations of possible selections for ceremony music. However, this is not an exhaustive list.

### **Prelude**

"He Shall Feed His Flock"	Handel
"Largo"	Handel
"Panis Angelicus"	Franke
"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"	Bach
"Sanctus"	Gounoud
"Ave Maria"	Schubert
"Ave Maria"	Bach
"Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"	Bradbury
"Morning Has Broken"	Smith
"Nocturne"	Mendelssohn
"Canon in D"	Pachelbel
"My Sheep Will Supply My Need"	Wilson
"Grant Us Thy Peace"	Mozart
"A Festive Trumpet Tune"	Martin
"The Lord's Prayer"	Malotte
"A Wedding Prayer"	Fortunate

## A Service of Word & Thanksgiving

At DMELC, all marriage ceremonies are viewed as a Christian service of Worship and Thanksgiving. It is presided over by the congregation's pastor, unless special arrangements have been approved by the pastor and congregation council.

The marriage ceremony is a sacred and holy moment that has special meaning for the baptized children of God. Within the Lutheran church, marriage is an expression of our baptism. In marriage, one particular human being can become an embodied expression of God's unconditional love, revealed in Jesus Christ, for another particular human being. (*The Christian Life*, 184) Through this union, the married couple can experience God's love in an intimate way that can strengthen their faith and help them to grow in their love for one another.

With this in mind, the following are important to consider:

- A church marriage ceremony is more than a convenient or beautiful place to be married. It is a blessed event focused on God's presence in uniting two individuals through holy matrimony.
- A pastor may hesitate or even refuse (after consultations) to perform the marriage ceremony for couples who 1) have not professed and demonstrated interest in Christ's Church, or 2) make no specific plans to become active members of this or another congregation in the immediate future.

## Wedding Planning

All requests for a marriage ceremony at DMELC must be submitted to the pastor who will check the suitability of the proposed wedding date, make arrangements to provide pre-marital consultation sessions, and present the request to the church council for approval. No Marriage ceremonies will be scheduled during Holy Week due to the solemnity of the period, or during times that conflict with established church functions.

A 6-month advance notice is strongly encouraged for appropriate planning. The marriage ceremony bulletin will be arranged with the pastor for contextual information. The Parish Secretary will be invited to counsel and/or provide clerical services. The **couple** is responsible to purchase and provide the bulletin covers two (2) weeks before the ceremony and proofread it before the printing.

Other responsibilities of the couple are:

- Altar flowers (ordered through a florist)
- Runner (ordered through a florist)
- Other adornments (i.e. Bows attached by ribbon on pews is permitted)
- Securing a photographer

## **New Testament**

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39	<i>If God is for us, who is against us</i>
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18	<i>A living sacrifice and genuine love</i>
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13	<i>The greatest gift is love</i>
Ephesians 3:14-19	<i>The greatness of Christ's love</i>
Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33	<i>Walk in love, as Christ loved us</i>
Philippians 4:4-9	<i>Rejoice in the Lord always</i>
Colossians 3:12-17	<i>Clothed in gifts of God</i>
1 John 3:18-24	<i>Let us love in truth and action</i>
1 John 4:7-16	<i>Let us love one another for love is of God</i>

## **Gospels**

Matthew 5:1-10	<i>The beatitudes</i>
Matthew 5:14-16	<i>You are the light, let your light shine</i>
Matthew 7:21, 24-29	<i>A wise person builds upon the rock</i>
Matthew 19:4-6	<i>What God has united must not be divided</i>
Matthew 22:35-40	<i>Love, the greatest commandment</i>
Mark 10:6-9	<i>They are no longer two but one</i>
John 2:1-11	<i>The wedding at Cana</i>
John 15:9-17	<i>Love one another as I have loved you</i>

## **Bible Readings**

The following are suggested scripture readings that may be appropriate for a marriage ceremony. It is important that the couple take time to reflect on the readings to select texts reflective of their relationship.

### **Old Testament**

Genesis 1:26-31	<i>Woman and man created in God's image</i>
Genesis 2:18-24	<i>Companionship rather than loneliness</i>
Proverbs 3:3-6	<i>Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart</i>
Song of Solomon 2:10-13	<i>The voice of the beloved</i>
Song of Solomon 8:6-7	<i>Many waters cannot quench love</i>
Isaiah 63:7-9	<i>God's steadfast love lifts up the people</i>
Jeremiah 31:31-34	<i>The new covenant of the people of God</i>

### **Psalms**

Psalm 33	<i>May God be merciful to us and bless us</i>
Psalm 100	<i>We are God's people</i>
Psalm 117	<i>The steadfast love of God</i>
Psalm 121	<i>The Lord keeps watch over you</i>
Psalm 127	<i>Unless the Lord builds the house</i>
Psalm 128	<i>Happy are they who follow in God's ways</i>
Psalm 150	<i>Let everything that breathes praise</i>

## **Marriage License**

Any license issued in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania may be used. The most important aspect of obtaining a license is timing. Please keep in mind the following facts:

- Application for a license may not be made prior to 60 days in advance of the wedding.
- Both persons need to be present for the application.
- Couple needs to know their own birthplace and the birthplace of their parents.
- Birth certificate and photo ID are required.
- In case of remarriage, a divorce decree from a former marriage or proof of widowhood (death certificate) is required.
- A fee will be charged to process the license, ranging from \$35.00 and up.
- A physical or blood test is **not** required.
- There is a three-day waiting period between making application for the license and receiving it. Thus, the latest a couple could apply for a "Saturday" marriage would be the preceding Tuesday.

Note: The Marriage License must be brought to the rehearsal.

## **Rehearsal**

Marriage ceremony rehearsals are usually scheduled for the evening before the ceremony with the officiating pastor, organist, couple, wedding party, and ushers present. The rehearsal will last approximately one hour.

A valid marriage license and funds to cover all costs are to be given to the pastor at the rehearsal (*Fees for the marriage ceremony can be found on page 8*). The pastor will then distribute such funds to the appropriate personnel the day of the wedding.



## **Vow 4**

    (name)    , I take you to be my husband/wife, I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful wife/husband, to share with you in plenty and want, in joy and sorrow, in sickness and health, to forgive and to strengthen you, and join with you. So that together we may serve God and others, as long as we both shall live.

## **Vow 5**

I take you     (name)     to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you, I will respect, trust, help and care for you; I will share my life with you; I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will try with you to better understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and the worst of what is to come until death parts us.



## **Marriage Vows**

The vows are those of the bride and groom, and provisions can be made for those who wish to write their own. The vows must indicate the complete sharing which marriage implies and make clear that the vows are a life-long commitment. It is not a “formula” but the “promise of fidelity” that makes the marriage.

### **Vow 1**

(name), I take you to be my husband/wife. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful wife/husband, to share with you in plenty and want, in joy and sorrow, in sickness and health, to forgive and to strengthen you, and join with you as one flesh until my dying day, this is my promise to you.

### **Vow 2**

(name), I take you to be my wife/husband from this time onward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all circumstances of our life together, to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being, until death parts us.

### **Vow 3**

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.

## **Marriage Ceremony**

The ceremony will reflect the order of worship as recorded in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal (page 286). Special features may be added upon consultation with the pastor.

Photography and photographic arrangements are permitted as follows:

- *Flash photography* is permitted during the Procession and Recession.
- Worship furnishings may not be removed
- *Still photographs* may not be taken in the chancel during the ceremony,
- *Stationary videotaping* may be done in a procedure worked out in consultation with the pastor.

Following the ceremony, as the couple is departing, only the use of birdseed and the pre-filled bubble containers is permitted outside the church building.

## Activity on the Church Premises

- There is a **smoke-free policy** for the church buildings that must be followed strictly.
- A wine toast at receptions held in the church's Social Hall is permitted. The host is responsible for guests' appropriate behavior.
- Consumption/use of any other alcoholic beverage and/or illegal drugs is not permitted on church property **prior to, during, or after** the marriage ceremony. Any member of the wedding party, regardless of whom the person might be, under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, during the ceremony **will not be permitted** to participate in the ceremony.

## Fees for Marriage Ceremonies

### **Use of the church building**

- *No charge* for congregation members
- \$100.00 non-members
- \$300.00 if the congregation council approves of the ceremony consisting of non-church members and an interim pastor

### **Sexton**

- \$50.00 (cleaning before & after ceremony)

### **Parish Secretary**

- \$25.00 (preparation and printing ceremony bulletins)

### **Organist**

- \$150.00 (regular church organist)
- Amount for substitute organist is to be negotiated by couple

### **Pastor**

- An honorarium amount is to be determined by the couple in consultation with the pastor

Note: All fees/honorarium are to be given to the pastor at the ceremony rehearsal.