



“Love Grows Here”

We at Immanuel Lutheran Church would like to congratulate you on your upcoming marriage and help you to make this the most memorable day possible.

The Immanuel Staff

Pastor Kurt Jensen

Pastor Andrew Potratz

Milianna Carlson

Office Administrator

Brett Johannes

Financial Secretary

Emily Anderson

Organist

733.4420

Jeff Baker

Custodian

Wedding Coordinators

Nicole Engelhardt

515.231.7980

Lana Voga

515.231.1799

Immanuel Lutheran Church

604 Lafayette Avenue

Story City, Iowa 50248

Phone - 733.4972

Fax - 733.4070

E-Mail – immanuel@iowatelecom.net

Website – www.immanuelstorycity.org

Revised 9/18

The Christian Wedding

“For as much as marriage is a holy estate, ordained of God, and to be held in honor by all, it is important for those who desire to be married to consider what the word of God teaches concerning it.”

The Church Wedding is primarily a dignified, religious ceremony as well as having deep theological and liturgical traditions.

The policies, fees and guidelines that follow have been carefully prepared and approved by our Church Council. You are urged to read the following material carefully as we seek to uphold the high standards of the Christian Wedding.

Making the Reservation

A reservation will be confirmed when a minister has agreed to officiate at the wedding and the date has been cleared for the wedding. The pastor performing the ceremony will need to meet with you a few times prior to your wedding. It is recommended that this be done at the beginning of the wedding planning in order to obtain your desired date. You will also be given the name of your wedding coordinator when meeting with the pastor. You should feel free to call the church office, pastor or your wedding coordinator at any time with questions you may have. Three months or more are needed for the planning of a formal wedding.

Tentative dates may be cleared by telephone. However, it is necessary for the bride and/or groom to have a personal conference with the pastor in the church office before the date can be confirmed. Dates should not be announced before this conference. This is suggested in order to reduce to a minimum the possibility of misunderstanding or error on the part of the persons involved.

You are asked to contact your wedding coordinator and set up a meeting sometime within the final month before your wedding date. They will discuss with you policies, guidelines, and helpful ideas to assist with your final preparations.

We want you to be able to enjoy your special day, and be able to look back on it with warm, wonderful memories, not of problems or stress.

Wedding Worksheet

Date of Wedding: _____ Time: _____

Pastor: _____

Bride: _____

Groom: _____

<p><u>Name of Bride's parents:</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>married divorced separated deceased</i></p> <p><u>Name of Bride's grandparents:</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>married divorced separated deceased</i></p> <p><u>Name of Bride's grandparents:</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>married divorced separated deceased</i></p>	<p><u>Name of Groom's parents:</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>married divorced separated deceased</i></p> <p><u>Name of Groom's grandparents:</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>married divorced separated deceased</i></p> <p><u>Name of Groom's grandparents:</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>married divorced separated deceased</i></p>
---	---

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____

Rehearsal Dinner Location: _____

Time: _____

If you would like to invite the pastor to attend the rehearsal dinner and/or reception, please send an invitation.

Wedding Preparation Sessions

The pastor will perform the wedding ceremony only after premarital sessions with the bride and groom. This is a time for discussion concerning the Christian significance of marriage and family life. An online premarital inventory (PREPARE) is used to give the couple a snapshot of their relationship, including strengths and growth areas. The wedding ceremony will also be discussed as an authentic worship experience for both the couple and the congregation. The couple intending marriage should contact the pastor as they begin to plan for their wedding. The marriage license should be given to the pastor at the final session or at least **one week** before the wedding.

Guest Ministers

A pastor from another Lutheran church or another Christian denomination is welcome to participate in a wedding ceremony with the understanding that he/she will comply with the statement of policy. It is the decision of the Church Council that the pastor of Immanuel pronounces the wedding vows. This will need to be discussed with Immanuel's pastor before inviting the guest minister.

The Wedding Music

Music is an appropriate expression of the splendor of the occasion of a marriage, and it boldly affirms the intention of the congregation to glorify God. Because the couple has chosen to have a church wedding rather than a civil ceremony, it is important that the music be Christ-centered, rather than couple-centered. It should reflect the fact that the couple is asking God's blessing on the marriage. Nearly every couple has a "special song", but some of these songs may be more appropriate for the reception rather than during the service.

The Board of Deacons at Immanuel respectfully requests that only sacred music be used. Please clear any other music with the pastor or Board of Deacons. It is suggested that the couple confer with the organist and the pastor concerning the musical selections. (A selection list is available upon request.)

Some contemporary sacred songs may be suitable and very beautiful. Make sure that the lyrics sanctify the marriage union as God's design for us.

If an outside organist is secured, all arrangements for the use of the organ must be cleared through the church.

Instrumental music and/or CDs or digital recordings are also permissible for the wedding music.

Guest soloists are welcome. Often the soloists are friends or relatives. The organist may suggest a qualified soloist if the couple desires.

Sample Order of Worship

Prelude Music - 5 minutes before the time of service - usher in this order:

Groom's Grandparents (Father's then Mother's parents)
Bride's Grandparents (same as above)
Groom's Parents
Bride's Mother

Lighting of the Candles (aisle runner taken back is used)

Ringing of the Bell (*if desired*)

Processional

Invocation & Prayer

(special music – optional)

Scripture Readings

(special music – optional)

The Wedding Message

(special music – optional)

The Order of Marriage

The Vows

Exchange of Rings

The Words of Union

Special Music with Lighting of the Unity Candle, God's Knot, or Sand Ceremony (*optional*)

Signing of the Wedding Documents

Prayers for the Couple

Lord's Prayer

Benediction and Presentation of the Couple

Recessional

Postlude (*special music during dismissal – optional*)

*(The service will last 30 to 45 minutes depending on the number of songs
and the size of the bridal party.)*

Common Questions About the Ceremony and Worship Service

Can We Have the Traditional Giving of the Bride?

You may choose the traditional giving away of the bride or you may choose another option. Some couples prefer not to include this tradition in their ceremony.

- A. The traditional presentation has the pastor asking the father of the Bride, “Who gives (or presents) this woman to be married to this man?” His response is “Her mother and I.”
- B. Pastor: “Who presents this woman and this man for Christian marriage?” Parents of both: “In the name of Jesus we do.”
- C. Pastor: “The joining of two lives is also the joining of two families. I now ask all of you here, will you do all within your power to support and uphold (Name 1) and (Name 2) in their life together? Will you bear them up in prayer and in affectionate encouragement, sharing the love of Christ with them, so that they may be enabled to share the love of Christ with one another?”
All: “We will with the help of God.”
- D. Who gives the bride away in cases of divorce, or the death of the father, etc.? A brother, uncle, or favorite male relative is asked to walk the bride down the aisle. Occasionally the mother of the bride walks her down the aisle to give her away. Other times a bride who has children who are older is walked down the aisle and given away by one of those children. And still other couples choose for the bride and groom to walk down the aisle together.
- E. If you have other suggestions which you would like to consider, talk to the pastor.

Who Chooses the Bible Readings For Your Wedding Service?

You may choose your Bible readings or you may ask the pastor to choose them. Below is a list of suggestions which might help you. You might have some other passages you would like to have read at your wedding. Consider looking at a passage in several different translations such as the New International Version, New Revised Standard Version, New Living Translation, King James, or The Message, as well as others.

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31
Genesis 2:18-24
Ruth 1:16-17
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
Proverbs 31:10-31
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hosea 2:19-21

New Testament

Matthew 5:3-12	Romans 8:31-39
Matthew 5:13-16	Romans 12:1-2, 9-18
Matthew 7:24-29	Colossians 3:12-17
Matthew 19:4-6	1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13
Matthew 22:35-40	1 John 3:18-24
Mark 10:6-9	1 John 4:7-12
John 2:1-11	
John 15:9-12	
John 15:12-17	

Common Questions Continued...

What Will the Sermon Be About? Will the Sermon Reveal What We Talked About in the Premarital Sessions?

Nothing from the premarital sessions is revealed. Your premarital visits with the pastor are confidential. The sermon will be about you as a couple and your life with God. The sermon for a wedding is usually about 7-8 minutes long.

Can We Have Holy Communion At Our Wedding?

The Sacrament of our Lord's body and blood is very appropriate at a wedding. However, you will want to keep in mind that the Sacrament is for the whole church. If you wish to have Holy Communion at your wedding, ALL those gathered will be invited to the Lord's Table. Communion is not just an individual communing with God, but the community with all the church. Adding the Sacrament will extend the time of the wedding about fifteen minutes.

Other Concerns/Ideas for Your Wedding

Which Pastor Will Preside Over Our Wedding?

Who does the wedding depends on the pastors' schedules. The pastors do not wish to play favorites or to have you play favorites. If you prefer one over the other, you will need to change your wedding date to fit their schedule.

Step-Children

Many of today's couples are forming blended families. Some couples like to include their children in the service and even make promises to them as well. As the promise is made to the children a small token might be given. This could be a bracelet, a necklace, a ring, a Bible or some other small gift. What works well for a promise is to take one of the wedding vows, and rework it so that it will be appropriate to make to a child as you become a family.

How Old Should Child Participants Be?

A child much younger than 4 or 5 years of age might be rather disruptive during your ceremony. After walking to the front you might want to arrange for them to go and sit with their parents.

What About a Nursery?

A nursery is located on the main floor, just past the youth director's office. Video of the service is available in the nursery. If you should anticipate a number of small children at your wedding, arrangements for someone to provide nursery service is very much appreciated by parents.

Can We Video the Ceremony?

Many people wish to video their wedding. The best place to video is from the balcony. We understand you will want the best position possible, however, movement is very disruptive during the service, so we ask that any cameras set up front be positioned, turned on, and left until after the ceremony. We also request that there is no videographer movement throughout the rest of the sanctuary during the ceremony.

Concerns/Ideas Continued...

Wedding Pictures

Flash Pictures taken during the service are very disruptive. Amateur photographers should be invited to take pictures at other times. Please include a notation on the bulletin that pictures may not be taken during the ceremony.

Professional photographers covering the wedding are aware of this factor and take it into consideration. Time exposure photos may be taken from the balcony during the service. Some couples prefer to take most of their pictures before the service. An instruction sheet is provided in your packet for the photographer. If they should have another questions, they may check with the pastor or the coordinator.

What About Flowers and Decorations?

Live flowers or high quality artificial flowers may be used on the altar. The family or florist is responsible for placing flowers on the altar. Decorating in front of the altar may be done according to your desire, remembering the ceremony is a worship service in God's house. Bouquets or ribbons are often used to decorate the pews. These should be attached with hooks that hook over the side of the pew (these are provided by the church). **NOTHING IS TO BE TAPED OR STAPLED TO THE WALLS OR FURNISHINGS, AND NO FURNITURE INCLUDING FLAGS ARE TO BE MOVED OR REMOVED.**

The church has only the candelabras on the altar and a unity candle and holder. Arrangements for use can be made through your coordinator. Additional candelabras and the aisle cloth must be secured from your florist. If you are using candles other than the altar candles, precaution should be taken to use only dripleless candles.

Seasonal Decorations - with the OK of the pastor, the church may be decorated for the appropriate season. You will be responsible for the decorations or getting church decorations (Christmas) in place.

Banners - the church has a wedding banner which we can hang in front. Contact your coordinator.

The Paraments (colored cloths) remain the color of the church season; they are not changed to white for a wedding. The pastor may wear the robe which they normally wear on Sunday morning.

Who chooses, buys and writes up the bulletins?

Bulletins may be used for the wedding service and are most appropriate when there is music or scripture with congregational participation. It can also provide a listing of the members of the wedding party. Buying and printing the bulletins is your responsibility. You should also have a rough draft done for the pastor to preview before you have them printed (at least one week prior to the wedding).

What About Rice/Birdseed or Bubbles?

The use of rice is discouraged for weddings. Bird seed is used more appropriately and obviously requires little clean up on the sidewalks. Bubbles may be used, but members of the wedding party should be located as to keep guests a little farther from the building. The bubbles can stain the wooden doors and make a soapy mess on the glass. Packages of birdseed or bubbles should be distributed near the exit door and used only outside the church building.

Concerns/Ideas Continued...

Where Should We Have the Receiving Line?

Receiving lines may occur in the Narthex but due to safety reasons are discouraged on the front steps. Some couples enjoy greeting/ushering guests out of the pews themselves.

What About Theft ... Will Our Gifts, Purses, etc. Be Safe?

While theft has not been a problem, you should provide for the security of wedding gifts as well as purses and other valuables belonging to the wedding party during the service and reception. Some couples choose to have a couple of adults take the gifts directly out the back door and load into a van. This also saves time after the ceremony.

Where Will We Dress?

A room is available for dressing by the bride and her attendants in the Cornerstone Room, the northwest corner of the lower level right next the handicapped restroom. The men may use the High School Youth room. The doors **do not** have locks for leaving things overnight, and the church **will not** be responsible for personal items such as wedding dresses, wraps, purses, silver, and glassware brought to the church for use in a wedding reception; nor shall it be liable for such items lost, stolen or damaged. Valuables should not be left at any time. However, every reasonable effort will be made to assist the wedding party in protecting such property.

All items left in the dressing rooms are the responsibility of the bride and groom, and should be removed the day/night of the wedding.

Can We Have Our Wedding at a Park?

It is preferred that your wedding take place in the church. However, if you are considering another setting, such as a park or at home, please speak to the pastor as soon as possible about this. If the pastor is uncomfortable with the setting you choose, they have the option to decline presiding over your wedding. Please realize that if the pastor does preside over your wedding in a setting outside of the church, the ceremony will still be a Christian ceremony.

We Have Family Members in Wheel Chairs—Will it be Difficult for Them to Attend the Wedding?

Immanuel Lutheran Church has an elevator that stops at all levels except the balcony. We also have a wheel chair, and handicapped accessible restrooms on the lower level. The church is also air conditioned.

Concerns/Ideas Continued...

What About Alcohol?

Alcohol is prohibited on the church grounds or in the building. Your wedding is a worship service where you make your promises before God and welcome his blessing on your life together. Having a few drinks before a worship service is not an appropriate way to prepare for worshipping God. Perhaps some members of your wedding party do not believe in God or see the church only as a traditional place for a wedding, but please respect our faith and the church building we use to express our faith.

NOTE: Many wedding traditions (such as the bachelor or bachelorette party) involve drinking. Please be cautious about your use of alcohol. Your wedding day is a special day and you would not want it marred with a tragedy or a hangover. Also, please discourage the wedding party from drinking before the wedding rehearsal or the wedding ceremony. A clear head will make things run more smoothly.

What About Cleanup?

If pictures are taken prior to the ceremony, it is recommended that between the pictures and the ceremony, any touchups are made and then everything is packed up. Perhaps the groomsmen or personal attendant can take everything out to the vehicles (this will save time later). The rooms should be left as you found them. Garbage bags will be provided for unwanted items or flower boxes.

Everything brought into the church will need to leave with the wedding party unless prior arrangements have been made with your coordinator. It's a good idea to put one person in charge of checking the entire church for any items that may have been left.

All flowers, decorations, wedding candles and aisle runner are also to be removed from the sanctuary immediately after the ceremony. Certain floral arrangements may be left for the Sunday service, but you will need to check with the pastor prior to the wedding. The entire church is to be left as you found it unless prior arrangements have been made and the pastor or coordinator is aware of them.

Custodial Questions for the Bride and Groom

1. Are dressing rooms needed?
2. Is a gift table needed, and where?
3. Is a guest book table needed and where?
4. Is a wedding candle to be borrowed from the church? (*Contact Wedding Coordinator*)
5. Approximate size of the wedding?
6. Any special requests?

Custodial Requests for the Bride and Groom

1. Don't move or remove any pictures.
2. Don't move or remove any flags or furniture.
3. Contact the wedding committee representative or pastor immediately if a problem arises—they can then contact the proper person.
4. Rice/bird seed, or bubbles are for outside the church and not in the Narthex.

Your Wedding Vows

Can We Write Our Own Vows?

You are welcome to write your own vows. However, the pastor needs to approve what you write. You will want to be certain your vows contain:

1. promises to be faithful to each other,
2. promises to remain together in all circumstances, and
3. promises to remain with each other until death parts you.
4. And since this is a Christian ceremony you will want to include God in your vows to each other.

Below are some sample vows. If you choose to use any of the examples below or other samples you have, you can make any combination so that your vows and exchange of rings are what you want. The pastor will be happy to assist you and will have the final approval.

Note: With any of these vows, some couples choose the words

“I give myself to you to be your husband/wife” rather than “I take you to be my wife/husband”

Before God and these witnesses,
I, _____, take you _____
to be my (wife/husband),
and I promise to love you,
and to be faithful to you
as long as we both shall live.

I take you, as a gift from God,
to be my lifelong companion
through tears and laughter,
sickness and health,
work and play.
I will love you faithfully,
constantly and prayerfully,
now and forever. Amen

On this day, I, _____, take you _____
To be the love of my life,
My companion and friend.
Believing that God has brought us together,
I promise before God and these witnesses,
to be sensitive to you,
to respect and cherish you,
and to remain faithful to you
from this day forward.
I also vow to stand firm in God’s love
so as to be the Christian (wife/husband)
that God wants me to be,
and you need me to be,
Till death do us part.

_____ and _____, will you join your hands, and _____ will you repeat after me:

GROOM:

I, _____, take you _____
As my wife,
Believing the sovereign hand of God
has brought us together.

I, _____, vow to love you;
Not as the world loves,
But as Christ loves.
A love that is not jealous
Or self-seeking.
But is patient and kind.

I vow to honor and cherish you,
Because you are a precious gift from God;
My one and only partner for life;
My eyes will be for you alone.

I acknowledge my God-given
responsibilities
To guide you,
To lead you,
To provide for you,
And to protect you,
In sickness and in health
For richer or for poorer
Till death do us part.

Most of all I promise to point you to Christ;
By remaining in daily fellowship with Him
For it is only when I am yielded to Christ
That I can faithfully fulfill these vows
I am making to you today.

And now _____

BRIDE:

I, _____, take you _____
As my husband,
Believing the sovereign hand of God
Has brought us together.

I, _____, vow to love you;
Not as the world loves,
But as Christ loves
A love that is not jealous
or self-seeking.
But is patient and kind.

I vow to honor and cherish you,
Because you are a precious gift from God;
My one and only partner for life;
My eyes will be for you alone.

I acknowledge my God-given
responsibilities
to respect you
As the leader of our home;
to help you become what God
wants you to be
And to encourage and support you,
In sickness and in health
For richer or for poorer
Till death do us part.

Most of all I promise to point you to Christ;
By remaining in daily fellowship with Him
For it is only when I am yielded to Christ
That I can faithfully fulfill these vows
I am making to you today.

I, _____, take you, _____ to be my beloved wife/husband,
To have and to hold, from this day forward, in joy and in
sorrow, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in want.
I promise to live with grace and forgiveness, and pray that
my words and actions are filled with truth and love.
I will honor you, I will be faithful to you, I will love you
as long as we both shall live.
This is my promise to you before Go.

I take you, _____, to be my wife/husband from this
day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come.
And with the help of God I promise to be faithful to you
as God gives us life together.

_____, 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.

_____, in the name of God,
I take you to be my husband/wife 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 our life together
to be loyal to you with my whole being,
as long as we both shall live.

I, _____, take you _____,
as my chosen (wife/husband).
I commit myself
to serve you lovingly
from this moment on:
in joy and sorrow,
in health and sickness,
in success and failure,
in triumph and tragedy.
Through the strength of Christ,
My faithfulness and devotion are yours
as long as we both shall live.

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.

I take you, _____,
to be my wife/husband,
To have and to hold you,
to honor and to treasure you,
To be at your side in sorrow and in joy,
In the good times and in the bad,
And to love and to cherish you always.
I promise you this from my heart in
front of God, our family, and friends,
for all the days of my life.

I, _____, take you, _____ to
be my wedded (wife/husband), in accordance
with God's holy will; and I do promise
and covenant, before God and these witnesses,
to be your loving and faithful (husband/wife);
in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow;
in sickness and in health; as long as we both shall live.

I, _____ take you _____,
to be the love of my life,
my companion and friend,
believing that God has brought us together.

I vow to love you
As Christ loves,
A love that is not jealous or self-serving,
But is patient and kind.

I vow to honor and cherish you,
Because you are a precious gift from God;
My one and only partner for life;
My eyes will be for you alone.

I acknowledge my God-given responsibilities
To respect and encourage you,
To help you become what God wants you to be
And to support you,
In sickness and in health,
For richer or for poorer,
Till death do us part.

Most of all I promise to point you to Christ;
For it is only with Him
That I can faithfully fulfill these vows
I am making to you today.

Ring Exchange (both): I give you this ring as a sign of
my love and faithfulness.

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.

I take you, _____,
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 better to understand
ourselves, the world, and God; through the
best and worst of what is to come until
death parts us.

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

Fees and Facilities

Use of the Church Facilities

1. The user is responsible for reimbursement of any damage.
2. Care should be exercised to protect furniture and furnishings.
3. Receptions should be completed by 10:00 p.m.
4. The coordinator should be consulted as to the hour for setting up the reception and for opening the church prior to the wedding.
5. Consult coordinator regarding placement of gift tables and/or guest book table.

Wedding Fees

The following are the fees that will be charged for weddings at Immanuel. For non-members, fees are payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church for the use of the church **no later than 1 week prior to the wedding**. The deposit is to be paid at the time of your date confirmation. The fees for those providing various services for wedding should be paid no later than the night of the rehearsal. Checks should be made out to each individual involved.

Use of the Church:

Members & Non-Members (*Custodial fees*)

▪ Wedding Ceremony & Reception	\$75.00
▪ Ceremony only	\$50.00
▪ Reception only	\$50.00
▪ Rehearsal dinner	\$25.00

Non-Members (*Charges in addition to Custodial Fees*)

▪ Use of Sanctuary	\$350.00
▪ Use of Social Hall	\$150.00
▪ Use of Chapel	\$75.00

Damage Deposit (Members & Non-Members)* \$300.00

**The Damage Deposit is due at the time of the reservation. (Checks will be cashed at that time. This deposit will be returned one week after the wedding if there were no damages. This cannot be used as payment for use of the building.)*

<u>Services:</u>	Pastor	Suggested Honorarium - \$200-\$350 <i>(includes 3-4 premarital sessions)</i>
	Church Organist ⁺	\$100.00
	Sound Engineer	\$25.00
	Wedding Coordinator	\$75.00
	Soloist	Suggested Honorarium - \$50

⁺Organist - the church organist may be available. Arrangements will need to be made directly with the church organist shortly after your wedding date has been confirmed. If another organist is used, all arrangements **must** be made through the Immanuel Church organist: Emily Anderson, 1221 Edgebrook, Story City, IA 50248, (515) 733-4420, elanders13@gmail.com

Marriage License Information

Your marriage license must be obtained from the county's Clerk of Court office. It need not be Story County, but it must be in Iowa. When you apply, you **MUST** bring with you a witness who is 18 years of age or older who knows both of you. You may apply for your license at any time prior to the wedding but keep in mind there is a three-day waiting period. For example; if you apply on Monday, you may pick up your license on Thursday. Only the bride or the groom is needed to pick up the license. It is suggested you secure your marriage license at least one month in advance of your wedding but may obtain as early as 6 months prior to the wedding date.

At this writing, the fee for the license is \$35. Blood tests are not required. The Clerk of Court requests that you arrive at their office no later than 4:00 p.m. When you apply you **MUST** have a photo ID with your name exactly as you are requesting it on the license and a witness who is eighteen years of age or older, has a photo ID, and knows both of you. Be sure you know the spelling of parents' names, including mother's maiden name, etc. If either the bride or groom is under 18 years of age, the process is more complicated and more time should be allowed. A parent's consent is required as well as a meeting with the judge. A license may be applied for up to 6 months prior to the wedding date. The license can be picked up three days after application by either the bride or groom. If you have more questions, contact the Clerk of Court's office.

The Rehearsal

The rehearsal will begin promptly at the time scheduled and last about one hour. Delay in beginning not only consumes the time of the persons involved, but also interferes with other scheduled activities. The bride and groom, therefore, should insist that all members of the wedding party be as prompt for the rehearsal as for the wedding. We suggest that the entire wedding party be at the church 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time of the rehearsal. It has been helpful to send/give an invitation along with a timetable to all parties involved in the wedding and rehearsal.

Please keep the following in mind:

1. The pastor is in charge of the rehearsal. Your coordinator will also be available to help and for any final questions.
2. Both sets of parents should be present for the rehearsal, grandparents if wanted.
3. The ushers should also be present and be familiarized with the church facilities.
4. If there are to be small children in the wedding party, it is essential that they rehearse carefully, and that they be old enough to perform responsibly. Careful thought should be given to the ages of children who will be ringbearer or flower girl. They should be old enough to be manageable and predictable. Too often, little children who are in the service “steal the show” and spoil the service. It should be noted that the bride and groom are the center of attention in the wedding service. It is a disappointment to all, when guests and the wedding party are distracted by a child who is afraid or misbehaving.

The Reception

The church offers the use of its facilities for wedding receptions and will assist in making arrangements. The availability of these facilities is subject to prior reservations and scheduled meetings.

The Social Hall and kitchen are available for receptions. The fees (*listed on page 15*) includes the use of the following items as desired:

- Crystal - punch bowl set, serving dishes, silverware servers
- Coffeemaker and servers - instructions for using Bunn coffeemaker are posted next to the coffeemaker
- Silver - silver service, silverware (*approx. 200 settings*)
- China - service for at least 200
- Tablecloths
- Dishwasher - instructions for use are posted
- Tables & Chairs - you are responsible for setting up and returning to the original placement.

Compliance with the following rules is required as a provision for holding the reception in the church:

1. The facilities must be left in the condition in which they are found.
2. No alcoholic beverages are permitted.
3. The throwing of rice/bird seed or blowing of bubbles is prohibited inside the church.
4. Smoking is not permitted in the church.
5. Furniture should not be moved from one room to another without permission.
6. Tablecloths are to be laundered and returned to the church within 5 days.

A Promise

As the pastors who preside over and witness your wedding, we feel a certain responsibility to you. Sin is a part of our lives, and even the most loving couples can have difficulty in their marriages. If you should find yourselves needing assistance in the years to come please feel free to contact us. We will do what we can to help you.

Your Christian Life and Your Marriage

What difference does it make for your marriage to be a part of the Christian Church and Christian Community?

Today's divorce rate is about 50%. What is the divorce rate for a couple who loves each other and believe in Christ? 50%. What is the divorce rate for a loving couple who believes in Christ and come to church on Christmas and Easter? 50%. But consider this: Two people who love each other, who believe in Christ, and are faithful, regular (3 out of 4 times a month) church members? The divorce rate is much lower.

Why is there such a drastic drop? The kinds of people who talk with God are the same kind of people who talk with each other. The kinds of people who experience the forgiveness of God are the same kind of people who forgive each other. The kind of people who make little sacrifices to God (Sunday Morning Worship, daily devotions,...) are the kind of people who make little sacrifices for each other. And that is what marriage is, thousands of little sacrifices that you make for each other. And that is what love is: the art of millions of little gifts and sacrifices for another.

If you have not participated in worship for some time, you may find it difficult to get started again. Please give yourself and your future spouse time. You will find the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church will welcome you.

We would like to see you not only going to church, but nurturing a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Daily Devotions

Many couples are unsure of how to go about praying together and doing daily devotions together. There are a number of good Christian Devotional books for couples. You may choose to use one that you might find at a Christian Bookstore.

Getting Started Praying Together

- ◆ Set a time each day when you will be together.
- ◆ Do a Bible Reading. You might choose to work through a book of the Bible, use a prayer book such as "Our Daily Bread", or a devotional book for couples.
- ◆ One might read the Bible while the other reads from the devotional.
- ◆ Talk about what you feel a need to pray about. If necessary write these things down. Include your needs, your fears, your joys, and your hopes. Be sure also to include others in your prayers.
- ◆ And then hold hands. You may choose to kneel together, or sit close together, or even lie close together in bed and pray for each others' list.

Praying together is difficult. Prayer is sharing your deepest feelings and thoughts. It sometimes takes energy. But you will find these daily devotions becoming an important part of your life.

Things to Remember as You Plan Your Wedding

- ✓ Reserve the Church. Contact the church office as soon as you begin planning your wedding to arrange date and time of wedding
- ✓ Arrange pre-wedding counseling. Your pastor may want to visit with you to discuss your relationship in depth and readiness for marriage.
- ✓ Arrange a meeting time with your coordinator.
- ✓ Enlist organist and notify her/him of date and time of rehearsal and wedding.
- ✓ Select appropriate music in cooperation with organists, vocalists and pastor.
- ✓ Arrange date and time for rehearsal in conjunction with the pastor. Notify parents, wedding party members, musicians and ushers to be present and on time.
- ✓ Arrange reception if there will be one held at the church. Your coordinator can help you with any questions.
- ✓ Inquire about locations in the church to be used as dressing rooms by the wedding party.
- ✓ Arrange for flowers, unity candle and other items as desired. Your local florist has many of the items you will need.
- ✓ Arrange for photographer and someone to video tape, as desired.
- ✓ Discuss related costs for the use of the church facilities with the coordinator. Your church may also have guidelines for honorariums for organists and musicians.
- ✓ Select bulletins if desired. Bulletins may be purchased through local stationer or bookstore.
- ✓ Final details for the order of service should be finalized with the pastor at least 1 week prior to the wedding.
- ✓ The marriage license should be brought to the pastor at your final meeting.

The following pages are for your use ONLY!

Bride's Family

**Brothers/Sisters
in-law**

Aunts/Uncles

Cousins

Bride's Friends

Groom's Friends

Groom's Family

**Brothers/Sisters
in-law**

Aunts/Uncles

Cousins

Wedding Party & Roles

Maid of Honor _____ Best Man _____

Bridesmaids

Groomsmen

Jr. Bridesmaid

Jr. Groomsman

Flower girl(s)

Ringbearer(s)

Personal Attendant(s)

Candle Lighters

Ushers

Music and/or Musicians

Guest Book

Hand out flowers to Wedding Party & Help as needed

Bird Seed, Roses, Bubbles, or other items for recessional

Gifts and/or Gift Table

Reception

Host/Hostess

Cake

Coffee, Punch, or other Drinks

Kitchen Help

Wedding Expenses

_____ & _____

Date _____ Time _____

	Cost	Deposit	Balance
Place _____	_____	_____	_____
Pastor _____	_____	_____	_____
Organist _____	_____	_____	_____
Vocalist _____	_____	_____	_____
Reception _____	_____	_____	_____
Photographer _____	_____	_____	_____
Video Technician _____	_____	_____	_____
Florist _____	_____	_____	_____
Caterer _____	_____	_____	_____
Cake _____	_____	_____	_____
Music (DJ) _____	_____	_____	_____
Bridal Gown _____	_____	_____	_____
Dresses _____	_____	_____	_____
Shoes _____	_____	_____	_____
Accessories _____	_____	_____	_____
Tuxedo _____	_____	_____	_____
Ring Pillow _____	_____	_____	_____
Unity Candle _____	_____	_____	_____
Guest Book _____	_____	_____	_____

Wedding/Reception Needs

Suggested:

- Wrapped Box/Basket for cards
- Hair Spray
- Camera
- Tape for cards/gifts
- Tissues
- Beverages/Snacks
- Tables & Chairs
- Punch Bowl(s)
- Coffee Server(s)
- Napkins
- Serving Plates/Bowls - at least 2 per item served
- Guest Book Table - bring the book/tape from church
- Tablecloth
- Lg. Coffee Pot
- Plates/Trays
- Silverware
- Table Décor

Other:

Possible After-Wedding Party Help List

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

Instructions for the Photographer

Since the wedding ceremony is a religious service, all photographers (amateur and professional) are asked to be reverent and respectful of the ceremony and the place. Friends and family members are requested to observe these rules, too.

1. The photographer may take pictures before or after the ceremony in any part of the building.
2. Pictures can be taken freely in the narthex of the Sanctuary and during the processional; however, no flash shall be used after the bride has arrived at the chancel.
3. No pictures shall be taken during the ceremony, whether it is in the sanctuary or elsewhere in the church, except time exposures from the balcony of the sanctuary or from the narthex.
4. Pictures are permissible during the recessional. The photographer may stand in the narthex doorway, leading from the sanctuary for these pictures.
5. The bridal party may reassemble in the sanctuary after the ceremony and pose for any parts of the ceremony.
6. The photographer is cautioned about marring furniture by standing on the pews or by placing camera equipment on the pews or by placing camera equipment on the pews or furniture in the church and will be held responsible for any damage caused.
7. For those using video equipment to record their wedding, it is recommended that this be done from the balcony.

Wedding Reservation

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
604 Lafayette Avenue
Story City, IA 50248
(515) 733-4972
immanuel@iowatelecom.net**

Name of Bride: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

___ Member ___ Non-Member

Name of Groom: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

___ Member ___ Non-Member

Date of the Wedding: _____ **Time:** _____

Area(s) Requesting: ___ Sanctuary ___ Chapel ___ Social Hall ___ Dressing Rooms

For Office Use Only:

Pastor: _____ Coordinator: _____

Fees Paid: \$ _____ Date(s): _____

Damage Deposit: \$ _____ Date: _____ Returned: _____