



# Wedding

PLANNING GUIDE



Southwood  
Lutheran Church



## Congratulations!

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Your wedding should be an occasion you will always remember as beautiful, meaningful and full of reverence and dignity. We at Southwood Lutheran Church would like to help to make your day that kind of occasion. This brochure has been designed to help you prepare and plan for your special day.

Weddings can be held in any setting, but you have chosen a church setting in order to invite God's presence at your wedding. Therefore, God is to be worshiped during the wedding ceremony. The joy and thanksgiving for the blessings the Lord bestows upon His people are to be a part of your vows.

# Wedding Planning and Procedures

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## I. Membership Requirement

Membership is required to be married at Southwood Lutheran. With membership comes expectations to be involved in the life of the church beyond your wedding ceremony. To become a member, attend two new member classes: *Discover Southwood* and *Connect at Southwood*. Classes are held three times per year and are held from 8:30–9:30AM on Sunday mornings. If you are unable to attend on the dates of the next classes, please contact Jo at JSHEETS@SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG to set up an individual meeting.

## II. Premarital Classes

Marriage is one of the most significant decisions and processes you are involved in throughout your life. Because it is so significant and takes hard work to accomplish and maintain, we feel a real sense of responsibility at Southwood to provide you with some growth opportunities to help you in that process. Couples are required to attend *Freed Up Financial Living* and *Building a Healthy Marriage*. Both are offered twice per year and are usually held on a Friday evening and Saturday morning.

▶ *Freed Up Financial Living* next classes:

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▶ *Building a Healthy Marriage* next classes:

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## III. The Rite Of Marriage In The Church

Your presiding pastor can help you develop an order of service.

NOTE: Lutheran weddings do not provide provision for “giving the bride away.” This custom is a holdover from Judaic tradition and is a medieval understanding of women as property. Furthermore, this idea is very much at odds with Martin Luther’s teaching and was not a part of his approved marriage service.

Military and Fraternal Rites are not allowed during the worship service.

Only pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) may officiate. Non-Lutheran clergy who have been ordained in a denomination holding an agreement of common communion with the ELCA may assist with the service upon special request and approval by your presiding pastor. Pastoral courtesy requires us to issue an invitation to other participating clergy. Pastors of Southwood will be responsible for the vows, exchange of rings, wedding blessing, and signing of the wedding license.

## IV. Presiding Pastor

Weddings are assigned to pastors in January and are assigned based on the pastors’ schedules.

## V. Available Dates

- ▶ **Friday weddings** are allowed at 4:00PM or 5:00PM. The church is open four hours prior to the wedding. You may decorate the sanctuary at this time.
- ▶ **Saturday weddings** are allowed at 11:00AM or 5:00PM, so that our custodians may prepare the sanctuary for Sunday worship. The church is open four hours prior to the wedding. You may decorate the sanctuary at this time.
- ▶ **Sunday weddings** are allowed during the regular 11:00AM. Worship Service following the sermon.

## VI. Suggested Order Of Service For Bulletin

- ▶ Prelude
    - ▷ Hymn/special music
  - ▶ Processional
  - ▶ Invocation and Prayer
    - ▷ Hymn/special music
  - ▶ Scripture lessons (feel free to use lay lectors)
    - ▷ Hymn/special music
  - ▶ Sermon
    - ▷ Hymn/special music
  - ▶ Exchange of Vows and Rings
  - ▶ Wedding Blessing
    - ▷ Lighting of the Unity Candle\*
    - ▷ Hymn/special music
    - ▷ Communion Service\*
  - ▶ Prayers and the Lord’s Prayer
    - ▷ Hymn/special music
  - ▶ Benediction
    - ▷ Presentation of the Couple
  - ▶ Recessional
  - ▶ Postlude\*\*
- ▷ Optional items

\*If COMMUNION or the UNITY CANDLE is to be a part of the service, arrangements should be made with the pastor and discussed with the wedding coordinator.

\*\*It is appropriate for the bride and groom to usher out the guests instead of having the traditional reception line.



## VII. Rehearsal

The presiding pastor will be in charge of the rehearsal, and it will be conducted according to the established practice of the church. Rehearsals may be scheduled at 5:00PM or 6:00PM the evening prior to your wedding. If there is a wedding scheduled the day before your wedding, we will schedule an alternate time for the rehearsal.

## VIII. Music

The assigned organist for your wedding will be glad to assist you in choosing music for your wedding. Please call to set up an appointment at least two months before the wedding date. If you plan to use another organist, please let the Worship & Music Director (Denise Makinson, 402.423.5511) know as soon as possible. The music at your wedding plays a significant role in making that moment of your life a rich and memorable one. The following guidelines and policies are designed to help you in planning music for your wedding service at Southwood Lutheran.

The marriage service is a worship service. Since in the marriage service the assembled people of God join with the couple in asking for God's blessing, the music should accentuate the reverence of the service. The music for the wedding should express a Scriptural view of love and marriage. The music should turn our thoughts to God and enhance worship. *See page 10 for suggested solos/duets.*

The singing of hymns is encouraged to involve the congregation in the celebration of your marriage. Your organist can help you choose hymns for your wedding if you need assistance.

The use of instruments adds to the festive nature of the celebration. Be sure to contact vocalists and instrumentalists at least eight weeks in advance. If the solo requested is not in the organist's library, then the couple being married will need to provide a purchased copy, in the proper key, to the organist two weeks before the wedding. Please remember that if you need to order music, it may take several weeks for it to arrive, so please plan accordingly. Additional fees may be determined if special preparation or instructions are required. The Director of Music is happy to make arrangements for a choir or to provide music. (Please see insert for fee information.) Because of Copyright laws, photocopies of music are not acceptable.

It is important to bear in mind that there may be music that is perfectly good and acceptable in another setting, quite expressive of marital love, but nevertheless not quite in place in a Christian wedding for it expresses the faith poorly or not at all. Examples include popular love songs which do not have a Christian message. Other

examples of this include Bridal March ("Here Comes the Bride") by Wagner and Wedding March by Mendelssohn which both come from operas with pagan, non-Christian themes. "Bridal March" comes from Wagner's opera *Lohengrin*, in which the marriage only lasts a year and the bride is chastised. The Wedding March, derived from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and is unfavorable because it was played during a violent scene in the opera. The overall story is simply a pagan celebration, an idea that contradicts our faith. These pieces are inappropriate because they are not in keeping with the intent of worship to give praise and thanks to God.

## IX. Altar Colors, Flowers and Pews

Your wedding will fall within one of the seasons of the church year. All of the altar cloths, with their appropriate colors, should remain for your wedding. Flowers are a wonderful touch and are encouraged. Floral arrangements may be placed in most any location, except on the altar. All seasonal floral arrangements set up in the church at the time of your wedding (such as the poinsettias during Advent and Christmas) should remain as they are and not be moved. The altar and baptismal font may not be moved. Nothing is to be attached to the pews.

## X. Rehearsal Dinners and Receptions

You may choose to hold your rehearsal dinner or wedding reception at the church, provided that the fellowship hall is available. The wedding party is responsible for providing food, utensils, and decorative items to be used in serving at the dinner or reception. They will also need to provide their own servers. The capacity of the fellowship hall is 150. No dances may be held at the church.

Any dinner or reception needs to be concluded by 8:00PM, in order for our custodian to prepare the facility for the following day. Additional fees apply.

## XI. Wedding Coordinator

All couples planning to marry at Southwood Lutheran must meet with one of the church's Wedding Coordinators. When you schedule your wedding, a coordinator will be assigned to you. They will contact you approximately three months before your wedding and schedule a time to meet with you to go over the church's guidelines and assist you in preparing for your wedding ceremony. For all weddings that take place in the sanctuary, the Wedding Coordinator will be present for the rehearsal and the wedding to instill a sense of confidence about the procedures and protocols. They will assist the pastor and help ushers and candle lighters understand their duties. On the day of the wedding,

the coordinator will assist with last minute preparations, help with the processional, coordinate seating of honored guests and assure that the wedding guests will feel at home in our church.

## **XII. Rice and Confetti**

Rice, confetti, balloons, any type of fireworks, and bird seed may not be used. Only silk rose petals may be used inside of the church. Real rose petals may be used outside. We ask that red petals not be used due to their tendency to stain the flooring when tracked in.

## **XIII. Photographs**

We recommend that formal pictures be taken before the wedding ceremony. You will find this gives you more time to visit with your guests. In most cases, if the photographer is organized and has an assistant or the couple supplies someone to assist the photographer, one and a half hours is enough time to have pictures taken.

The photographer and guests will not be allowed to take flash pictures after the beginning procession and through the benediction. Non-flash pictures may be taken at any time as long as the photographer stays out of sight and does not disturb the wedding service. If you would like to record the wedding service, please make arrangements with the Wedding Coordinator.

If you choose to have your wedding service videotaped, you will need to provide a videographer and have it coordinated with the church staff. You will receive an audio CD free of charge from the church.

## **XIV. Slideshow/Video**

Multi-media presentations are more appropriate at receptions and/or rehearsal dinners, not part of the worship service.

A projector and screen is available for those renting the Fellowship Hall for their reception.

## **XV. Wedding Bulletins**

If you would like to have a bulletin for your service, discuss it with your presiding pastor and Wedding Coordinator. They can advise you of the order of service and other information you may want to consider having printed for your guests. Please submit a final draft to the presiding pastor before having them printed. Please bring five wedding bulletins with you to the wedding rehearsal.

Bulletin covers can be purchased through many local stores and printing is available from several local companies.

## **XVI. Candles and Candelabrum**

If you are interested in having a unity candle or candelabra, please talk to the Wedding Coordinator about the requirements. The church has a unity candle holder you are welcome to use at no charge.

Due to fire code, no "live" candles may be carried into the church or used during the ceremony and will not be allowed on the floor or aisle. Live candles that are set in stationary stands are permitted. The Church provides the necessary candle-lighting equipment if candlelighters are part of the ceremony.

## **XVII. Marriage License**

Nebraska State law requires that the application for marriage be filed at least five days prior to the actual obtaining of the license. Give the license and the return envelope to the pastor at the time of the rehearsal. The presiding pastor, your best man, and your maid of honor will sign the license immediately following the service.

## **XVIII. Smoking and Alcoholic Beverages**

Alcoholic beverages are *not* permitted in the building or on church property.

Smoking is *not* permitted inside the church building.

## **XIX. Guest Book and Gift Tables**

For your convenience, both a guest book and gift table(s) will be set up for you in the narthex. If you desire linens on the table, you will need to supply them.

Wedding gifts are the responsibility of the wedding party. It is suggested that you select someone in advance to take charge of this matter and to watch the gifts at all times. All personal valuables (purses, etc.) should be locked in a safe place or given to a friend for safe-keeping.

## **XX. Offsite Weddings**

Weddings are assigned to pastors in January. First consideration is given to the onsite weddings and pastors' schedules for the year. A decision will be made in January if the offsite wedding can be accommodated.

## **XXI. Miscellaneous**

Please note: if Civil Defense sirens sound due to severe weather warnings, normal emergency procedures will be followed (ie. all will move to the basement).

# Scripture for Weddings

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## I. Old Testament

### **Genesis 1:26–31 (NRSV)**

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

### **Genesis 2:18–24 (NRSV)**

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.” Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

### **Numbers 6:24–26 (NRSV)**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

### **Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NRSV)**

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

### **Joshua 24:15 (NRSV)**

Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

### **Ruth 1:16–17 (NRSV)**

But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

### **Proverbs 3:3–6 (NRSV)**

Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

### **Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (NRSV)**

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

### **Isaiah 63:7–9 (NRSV)**

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely;” and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

### **Jeremiah 31:31–34 (NRSV)**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

## II. Psalms

### **Psalms 23 (NRSV)**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.



### **Psalms 33:1–5 (NLT)**

Let the godly sing with joy to the Lord, for it is fitting to praise him. Praise the Lord with melodies on the lyre; make music for him on the ten-stringed harp. Sing new songs of praise to him; play skillfully on the harp and sing with joy. For the word of the Lord holds true, and everything he does is worthy of our trust. He loves whatever is just and good, and his unfailing love fills the earth.

### **Psalms 67 (NRSV)**

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

### **Psalms 91 (NRSV)**

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

### **Psalms 95:1–7 (NRSV)**

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

### **Psalms 96 (NRSV)**

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, “The Lord is king! The world is firmly

established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.” Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

### **Psalms 100 (NRSV)**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

### **Psalms 103:1–5 (NRSV)**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

### **Psalms 103:8–13 (NRSV)**

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

### **Psalms 103:15–18 (NRSV)**

As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children’s children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

### **Psalms 111 (NRSV)**

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

### **Psalms 117 (NLT)**

Praise the Lord, all you nations. Praise him, all you people of the earth. For he loves us with unfailing love; the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

### **Psalm 121 (NRSV)**

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

### **Psalm 127:1–2 (NRSV)**

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.

### **Psalm 128 (NRSV)**

Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways. You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

### **Psalm 133:1 (NRSV)**

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

### **Psalm 136:1–9 (NRSV)**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever; who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever; who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever; who spread out the earth on the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever; who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever; the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever; the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever;

### **Psalm 150 (NRSV)**

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

## **III. Gospels**

### **Matthew 5:1–10 (NRSV)**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### **Matthew 19:4–6 (NRSV)**

He answered, “Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning ‘Made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

### **Mark 10:6–9 (NRSV)**

But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

### **John 2:1–11 (NRSV)**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

### **John 15:9–12 (NRSV)**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.



## IV. New Testament

### Romans 12:9–18 (NRSV)

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

### Romans 15:5 (NRSV)

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

### 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 (NRSV)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

### 2 Corinthians 5:14–17 (NRSV)

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

### Ephesians 3:14–20 (NRSV)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.

### Philippians 4:4–9 (NRSV)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

### Colossians 3:12–17 (NRSV)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### 1 John 4:7–12, 15–19 (NRSV)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

# Sample Wedding Vows

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## Contemporary

- ▶ 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, 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ \_\_\_\_\_, 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 with all my being until death parts us.

## Traditional

- ▶ I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish as long as God gives us life together, and to you, \_\_\_\_\_, I pledge my love.
- ▶ I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband; to live with you according to God's plan from this day on; whether there are good days or bad, whether we are in sickness or health. I give you my love and my loyalty until parted by death. This is my promise to you.

# Music

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The marriage service is a worship service. Since in the marriage service the assembled people of God join with the couple in asking for God's blessing, the music should accentuate the reverence of the service. The music for the wedding should express a Scriptural view of love and marriage. The music should turn our thoughts to God and enhance worship.

*See page 4 for philosophy on music in Worship.*

## Suggested Wedding Solo/Duet List, 2015/16

- ▶ *By My Side* (Thomas J. Porter)
- ▶ *Cherish the Treasure* (Jon Mohr/arr. Bryce Inman)
- ▶ *Go Light Your World* (Chris Rice)
- ▶ *God Bless the Broken Road* (Rascal Flatts)
- ▶ *Here We Stand* (Anthony Carter)
- ▶ *Holding Hands* (Steve Green)
- ▶ ‡ *Household of Faith* (by Brent Lamb and John Rosasco) recorded by Steve Green
- ▶ ‡ *How Beautiful* (Twila Paris)
- ▶ ‡ *I Will Be Here* (Steven Curtis Chapman)
- ▶ *Keeper of the Stars* (Stalley/Mayo/Lee)
- ▶ *Let Them See You* (Jason Weeks/Scotty Wilbanks)
- ▶ *Love Never Fails You* (Brandon Heath/Chad Cates)
- ▶ *O Perfect Love* (J. Barnby)
- ▶ *On This Day* (David Pomeranz)
- ▶ *Only God Could Love You More* (Niles Borop & Dwight Liles)
- ▶ *Parent's Prayer* (recorded by Steven Curtis Chapman)
- ▶ *The Lord's Prayer* (A. Malotte)
- ▶ ‡ *The Prayer* (by Carole Bayer Sager and David Foster, often sung by Celine Dion/Andrea Bocelli or Josh Groban). NOTE: can be done either with portions in Italian or entirely in English.
- ▶ *This is the Day* (by Scott Wesley Brown)
- ▶ *This Ring* (Anthony Carter)
- ▶ *Unfailing Love* (Cary Pierce, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash)
- ▶ *Unfailing Love* (Jimmy Needham)
- ▶ ‡ *When God Made You* (Eddie Carswell & Michael O'Brien)
- ▶ *When I Say I Do* (by Matthew West)
- ▶ *You Raise Me Up* (Josh Groban)

‡ optional duets

## Congregational Hymns:

- ▶ *Be Thou My Vision*
- ▶ *Borning Cry*
- ▶ *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
- ▶ *For the Beauty of the Earth*
- ▶ *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*

## Organists/Pianists

- ▶ Denise Makinson, Worship & Music Director  
402.423.5511  
dmakinson@southwoodlutheran.org
- ▶ Kim Collier, Worship & Music Assistant  
402.430.4290  
kcollier@southwoodlutheran.org
- ▶ Carol Meyer  
carolwmeyer@gmail.com

## Soloists/Instrumentalists

A list of Southwood soloists and instrumentalists is available should your music selection need them. Please contact your assigned organists/pianist for a recommended list. The performers prefer to have the music 30 days in advance of the wedding, to allow for adequate preparation.

Soloist and instrumentalists set their own fees. The following are suggested fees:

- ▶ Vocal performers \$75 for the first song per performer. and \$50 for each additional song per performer.
- ▶ Instrumentalists \$50–150 per service depending upon the requested music selection.

## Wedding Coordinators

- ▶ **Karla Bandemer**  
605.261.5997  
karla.bandemer@yahoo.com
- ▶ **Melanie Schilousky**  
402.217.7428  
schilousky4@gmail.com
- ▶ **Tracy Poppe**  
402.440.1431  
tracypoppe05@gmail.com

## Fees

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### Facilities:

Facility fee paid at time of booking wedding.

#### ❖ **Sanctuary: \$250.00**

Includes use of the sanctuary, dressing rooms, custodial fees and premarital counseling.

Full length mirrors and clothing racks are placed in dressing rooms.

A unity candle holder and glass pedestals for flowers are available to you at no charge.

#### ❖ **Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Area: \$200.00 per event**

Includes use of Fellowship Hall, tables & chairs, and kitchen area for receptions and rehearsal dinners.

Events must be finished by 8:00PM

### Services Rendered:

All checks are due one week prior to your wedding.

#### ❖ **Clergy: \$250.00 suggested honorarium**

Check made payable to the Pastor performing the ceremony.

#### ❖ **Organist/Pianist: \$150.00**

Check made payable to the organist/pianist playing for the ceremony.

This fee includes one meeting with the organist to consult on music, one rehearsal with soloist(s), participation in the rehearsal and wedding ceremony. If additional time is needed from the organist beyond this, a fee of \$25 per hour will be charged.

#### ❖ **Wedding Coordinator: \$150.00**

Check made payable to your Wedding Coordinator.

#### ❖ **Sound System Operator: \$60.00\* (no recorded music) or \$150.00 (if using recorded music, wedding & rehearsal)**

Check made payable to the sound system operator.

\*The \$60 fee includes two hours on the wedding day (set up, sound check prior to the wedding and the actual wedding). If additional time is required, the cost would be \$30 per hour.





Wedding Couple: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time of Wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

## Couple's Checklist

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- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Read through Wedding Guidelines, sign agreement, make building deposit.
- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Register for and attend premarital classes.  
Must attend both *Freed Up Financial Living* and *Building a Healthy Marriage* prior to wedding date.

### 3 months prior to wedding date

Your Wedding Coordinator, \_\_\_\_\_, will contact you.

- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Contact Director of Music, Denise Makinson (if using own organist).
- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Meet with Organist/Pianist to select music.

### 2 months prior to wedding date

- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Meet with presiding pastor: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Select Scripture lessons for wedding (have an idea before meeting with the pastor).
- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Select vows for wedding (have an idea before meeting with the pastor).

### 1 month prior to wedding date

- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Meet with Wedding Coordinator to review service details.
- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Get marriage license.
- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Finalize order of service and program with presiding pastor.
- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Finalize music with organist/pianist and special music.
- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Finalize service details with Wedding Coordinator.

### 1 week prior to wedding date

- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Turn in wedding fees to church office.

### Rehearsal Items Needed

Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Bring marriage license.
- ☐ Bring at least five copies of program.
- ☐ Have soloist, special music, recorded music there to rehearse with.
- ☐ Make sure ushers, candle lighters, honored guests, wedding party will be there and *on time*.
- ☐ Please arrive early so that rehearsal can begin promptly at scheduled time—rehearsal should not take more than one hour!



**Southwood**  
Lutheran Church

402.423.5511 • [southwoodlutheran.org](http://southwoodlutheran.org)  
4301 Wilderness Hills Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68516  
Sunday Services at 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00AM