



WEST UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wedding Planning Guide

Wedding Planning

At a person's death, the church shares the grief of those who mourn and remembers the brevity of life on earth. At the funeral we give voice to sorrow, thank God for our loved one, and entrust this companion of ours into the hands of God. Trusting in God's promise in baptism that we are claimed by Christ forever, we rest in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. When the church gathers to mark the end of life, Christ crucified and risen is the witness of worship, the strength of mutual consolation, and the hope of healing.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 279

Sample Order of Service

Pre-Service Music (before wedding party)

Wedding Party Music

Music as bride enters

Welcome

Declaration of Intent Will you take ___ to be your ___ In sickness and healthy, etc.

Vow of Support Will all those gathered today, to the best of their ability, support you?

Song (Optional)

Prayer

Scripture Readings

Message

Song or Special Music

The Order for Marriage

- Marriage Vows (see suggestions)
- Exchange of Rings
- Blessing

Additional Symbol of Unity (candle, rope, sand, plant, etc.)

Special Music (Optional)

Marriage Blessing

Benediction

Presentation of Couple: (Introduce as:)

Music as you walk down the aisle

Postlude

Suggestions for Music

West Union will be happy to provide guidance for music ranging the spectrum of organ, piano, instrumental, vocal and hymnody. Before finalizing your selections, you must connect with your musician to discuss music choices for your ceremony.

If you want to include additional musicians (trumpet, strings, soloist—either family and friends or hired/coordinated through West Union Luthern), be sure to be in touch with your West Union Pastor 1-2 months before your wedding date.

Below are portions of you ceremony to consider when choosing music:

- **Processional**
 - Feel free to have a congregational hymn sung as your processional
- **Unity Candle/Sand Ceremony**
 - Potential solo/special music
- **Congregational Hymns**
- **Other Solo(s)/Special Music**
- **Recessional**
 - A congregational hymn could also be sung as your recessional

Note: www.youtube.com is an excellent resources for previewing some of the most popular wedding music as you plan.

Congregational Hymns:

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!	ELW 308
Jesus, Come! We Invite You	ELW 312
Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness	ELW 488
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	ELW 502
Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen	ELW 548
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father	ELW 585
This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited	ELW 586
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	ELW 631
Beloved, God's Chosen	ELW 648
Borning Cry	ELW 732
Lord of All Hopefulness	ELW 765
Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life	ELW 816
All Creatures, Worship God Most High	ELW 835
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	ELW 836
Now thank We All Our God	ELW 840
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	ELW 858
Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven	ELW 864
Let All Things Now Living	ELW 881

ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Cranberry hymnal)

Suggestions for Scripture

Old Testament readings:

The Creation of Man and Woman	Genesis 1:26-28
The Creation of Man and Woman	Genesis 2:18-25
Two are better than one...	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
The Beauty of Love	Song of Solomon 2:10-13
A New Covenant	Jeremiah 31:31-34
The Love of God	Isaiah 54:5-8
The Betrothal of God and Israel	Hosea 2:16-20

Psalms often add inspiring words of God's faithfulness. Consider the following Psalms: 34, 37, 100, 103, 117, 121, 127, 128, 136, 145, 150. Not all portions of these Psalms are appropriate, but you might find certain passages will add meaning to your marriage service.

The Letters of Paul often give insight into life within a community of faith. Consider the following readings from **Paul's Letters**:

The Love of Christ	Romans 8:31b-39
The Life of a Christian	Romans 12:1-2, 9-13
The Greatest Love	1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13
Living in Love and Thanksgiving	Colossians 3:12-17
The Love of God	1 John 4:7-12
The Marriage Feast of the Lamb	Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

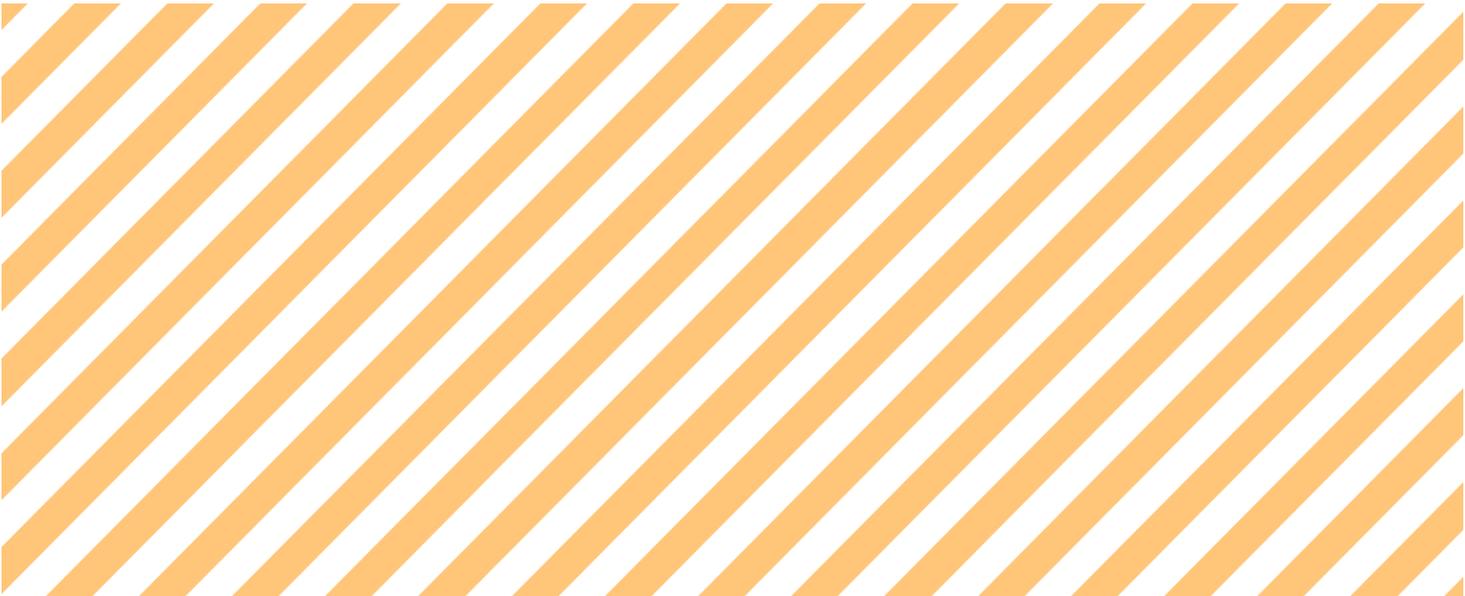
Couples are often surprised to find there are very few specific passages in the Gospels about marriage. Nonetheless, a Gospel reading is an important part of your marriage service as it witnesses to the great love of Christ. Consider the following **Gospel readings**:

The Beatitudes	Matthew 5:1-10
Salt and Light	Matthew 5:13-16
Build Your House on Christ	Matthew 7:24-29
What God Has Joined Together	Matthew 19:4-6
Two Become One	Mark 10:6-9
Loving God	Mark 12:28-31
The Great Marriage Feast at Cana	John 2:1-11
Remain in my Love	John 15:9-17
A Prayer for Oneness	John 17:20-26
Treasure is Where Your Heart Is	Luke 12:32-34

Suggested Marriage Vows

The following are some standard wedding vows. If you wish to write your own, please consult with the pastor who will be officiating at your ceremony.

- 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.
- I take you, (name), 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, (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 and trust you, help you and care for you; I will honor you with my body; I will share my life with you; I will forgive as we have been forgiven by God; 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 as long as we live.
- In the presence of God and this community, I, (name), take you, (name), to be my wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy plan.



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