



Wedding Information



For St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Weddings at St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Even though love has brought you together as a couple, the service of worship at a wedding is not primarily about the love that you have for each other. It is also about the promises, faithfulness and responsibilities that members of a community have for one another. At the heart of a Christian Marriage Service are the promises made to us by God and revealed to us through the faithfulness of our Savior, Jesus Christ. In light of God's promises, this service is also about the promises you will make in the presence of God and the congregation. The wedding does not begin and end with you, the couple. All those who gather to witness your exchange of vows are not merely spectators, but also participants in the service. This means that they are making a commitment to support you and pray for you as you begin your life together as husband and wife.

The Service of Marriage is one of the worship services of a Lutheran congregation. Receiving God's blessings in the marriage service is a small part of our lifelong walk with God in Christ. Faithfulness in worship is an important part of our overall faith journey. If you are not members of a congregation of faith, we invite you to seriously consider becoming one. We also welcome you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings.

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and its staff will cooperate in every way possible with couples who desire a church wedding. However, in the event that a wedding cannot be held at St. Andrew's for any reason, the pastor will inform the couple as soon as possible.

Wedding services may be performed at St. Andrew's when at least one individual is a member of this congregation. For non-members, St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church may perform weddings as a courtesy. These will be considered by the Pastor on a case-by-case basis.

The use of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages is prohibited in or near the church property. This guideline is to adhere to by the wedding party, guests of the wedding and anyone providing a service to the wedding. The only exception to this policy is when the Great Hall is used for the reception. In this case, the rules governing the Great Hall apply.

An official representative of St. Andrew's is required to be on the church grounds for any event, such as wedding rehearsals, rehearsal dinners, weddings and wedding receptions, utilizing the church property.

While there is much room for flexibility in your wedding, the following guidelines are offered to make the occasion more enjoyable for you and to the glory of God.

General Guidelines

1. Setting the date

Those who plan to be married must first contact the pastor to set a date and time for the wedding. Although every effort will be made to celebrate your marriage on the date that you select, unavoidable conflicts can and do occur. It is wise to make sure of the availability of the pastor and of the church prior to making other arrangements. The pastor will want to make these and all arrangements for the marriage with the couple themselves.

Marriages are not celebrated during Lent and Holy Week because of the solemn character of these times of the church year.

2. Planning the Wedding

Couples should plan to meet with the pastor two or three times before the wedding. In these sessions, the nature of marriage, the history of the couple, and the nature and content of the marriage liturgy will be discussed. While weddings must be planned in the keeping with the practices of the church, there are many options which can be exercised to personalize the service. A service will, therefore, be designed that will truly be your own, while preserving the elements essential to a service of prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

Announcement of your wedding and/or general invitations to the congregation will be published in the Sunday bulletin at your request. You may want to welcome members of the congregation to share in your joy and offer prayers on your behalf.

The presiding minister at a marriage is, except under unusual circumstances, the pastor of the congregation. Assisting ministers are welcome and may be either ordained or lay persons. Our marriage rite encourages family members, members of the wedding party, and others to carry out functions not reserved for ordained clergy.

The Holy Communion is a beautiful and meaningful addition to the Marriage service. If you choose to be married within the context of a Communion liturgy, it must be with the understanding that reception of the elements of the bread and wine are open to all baptized Christians. The order of service can be abbreviated to suit the needs of a wedding while still remaining within the liturgy of the Church and retaining all of its integrity.

St. Andrew's sanctuary will accommodate approximately 180 people. If you are expecting more than 180 people, another church should be secured for the wedding.

No furniture within the facility is to be moved without prior permission. If prior permission is granted, it is to be done only under the supervision of a representative of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church.

3. Wedding Music

The choice of music must be appropriate for a Christian wedding. Wedding music is selected by the couple in consultation with the pastor and the organist.

Our organist will suggest and demonstrate numerous compositions to choose from, thus adding to the dignity and uniqueness of your wedding liturgy. Some of the more popular selections include:

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - J. S. Bach
Canon in D Major - J. Pachelbel
Trumpet Tune - Purcell/Clarke
Trumpet Voluntary - J. Clarke (also known as The Prince of Denmark's March)
A Trumpet Chorale – J.S. Bach
Overture from Royal Fireworks Suite - G.F. Handel
The Heavens Are Telling – L. Van Beethoven
Psalm Nineteen – Benedetto Marcello

The organist of this congregation is available to serve as organist for weddings in the church. If he/she is not available, we will assist you in locating a competent organist. The pastor will contact the organist to clear the date and time of wedding on his/her calendar. You will also want to establish a time to meet with him/her for the purpose of selecting music.

Music sung by soloists will be selected in cooperation with the organist and will have his/her approval. He/She will recommend/secure a soloist if you desire him/her to do so. Soloists should be musicians who have the competence to require only the accompaniment of the organist. It is not the organists responsibility to teach soloists how to sing what has been selected. Soloist fees are established by the soloist and not the church.

4. Promises

You will want to consider the promises you will be making to one another during this service. The standard vows from Evangelical Lutheran Worship are printed in the text of the liturgy. The following are suggested alternatives:

OPTION A: I take you to be my

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.

OPTION B: In the presence of God

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, 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.

OPTION C: I take you, (name), to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise you:...

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

5. Scriptures

You will want to select three readings from the Bible. One will come from the Old Testament, one from the Epistles, and one from the Gospels. The following are some suggested readings. You may choose others if you like, with the pastor's guidance. (The full text is located on pages)

Many times these readings are read by family members, members of the wedding party, and others associated with the wedding. Readings are not reserved just for the pastor.

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:18-24

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

Song of Solomon 8:7

Isaiah 63:7-9

Ruth 1:16-17

Hosea 12:6

New Testament

Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Ephesians 5:21-33

Romans 12:9-13

Romans 12:15-21

Romans 13:8-10

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Galatians 5:22

Philippians 2:1-8

1 Peter 4:8-9

1 John 3:18

1 John 4:8-12

1 John 4:16-18, 19

Gospel

Matthew 19:4-6

John 2:1-10

Matthew 13:31-32

Matthew 13:44

Matthew 13:45-46

Matthew 13:47-48

Matthew 22:36-39

John 2:1-10

John 15:9-13,17

6. Congregational Hymns

You may want to consider the use of some hymns. The following is a list of suggested hymns from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Lutheran Book of Worship and With One Voice* for use in a wedding. Others, of course, are possibilities, and can be suggested by the pastor or organist.

Hymn Number	Title
WOV 751	As Man and Woman We Were Made
WOV 749	Where Love Is Found
ELW 312/WOV 648	Jesus Come! For We Invite You
ELW 648	Beloved, God's Creation
ELW 816/LBW 513	Come My Way, My Truth, My Life
ELW 585/LBW 288	Hear Us Now, Our God and Father
ELW 836/LBW 551	Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
ELW 840/LBW 534	Now Thank We All Out God
ELW 308/LBW 76	O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
ELW 488/LBW 224	Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
ELW 586	This Is A Day, Lord Gladly Awaited
LBW 287	O Perfect Love
ELW 556	Morning Has Broken
ELW 631	Love Divine, All loves Excelling

7. Rehearsal

A rehearsal will usually be scheduled the evening prior to the wedding. It is important for everyone involved in the wedding to be present for the rehearsal and to arrive on time.

You will want to bring the following on that evening:

Your Marriage License

Cash or checks for remaining fees

8. Scheduled Contributions

The following contributions have been established for weddings at St. Andrew's:

	Non-members	Members
Pastoral Service	\$150.00	N/A
Organist	\$100.00	\$100.00
Sanctuary	\$100.00	N/A
Custodian/Admin	\$50.00	\$50.00
Security Deposit*	\$100.00	N/A
	\$500.00	\$150.00

* This deposit needs to be separate from all other contributions. It will be returned as long as all terms of the contract are met.

For non-members a \$100.00 deposit must be made when the wedding date is established and the remainder of the contributions paid at the rehearsal.

Upon consultation with the pastor, these contributions are subject to adjustment due to need and individual circumstance.

9. Miscellaneous

Unity Candle

The lighting of a unity candle is a relatively recent addition to the traditional wedding ceremony. The unity candle ceremony uses two taper candles with a large pillar candle (called the "unity candle") in the center. At the beginning of the wedding ceremony, a representative from each family (usually the mothers of the bride and groom) light the two taper candles. Later in the ceremony (usually after the formal vows), the bride and groom use the two taper candles to light the large pillar (unity) candle together.

If a unity candle is to be used during the ceremony the wedding couple is responsible for the purchasing of same.

Flowers, Rice and Bubbles

The use of flowers is your choice. You are responsible for making arrangements for them. Most florists in the area are familiar with wedding procedures and can help you make your selections. (St. Andrew's uses Jen Mor Florists for our weekly flower arrangements.)

Flowers may be placed in the flower stands provided in the sanctuary. Other arrangements may be placed on stands or in front of the altar, but they are not to be placed on the altar at any time, for both practical and liturgical reasons.

NOTE: Flowers and/or bows may NOT be attached to the chairs with wire or any kind of tape. Elastic bands, ribbons or pipe cleaners may be used.

Guests are to refrain from throwing rice, confetti or bird seed and from releasing balloons. Soap bubbles are encouraged, and can be great fun. They will be used on the exterior of the church facility and not inside.

Wedding Bulletins

Bulletins for a wedding are not necessary but we have several examples available if you desire to have a bulletin published by the church. Bulletin covers are available through various publishers and if use of this type of bulletin is desired you will need to pay for these. Please allow at least 4 weeks for the delivery of these bulletins from an outside source. The church will set up the bulletin copy and print it for you. You will have the opportunity of seeing a proof before the bulletin is printed.

Photography

To ensure that the sacred nature of the wedding is honored, photographers are asked to consult with the pastor prior to the wedding liturgy. Flash photography is **not** permitted during the liturgy itself, during which the photographer may only take shots from the back and sides of the church, going no farther forward than the front pews. Scenes can be recreated for photographers following the service. Videography, with existing light, is permitted from a camera on a tripod from the back or sides of the church.

Will the pastor come to the reception or rehearsal dinner?

Please understand that the following is information, not a request for an invitation. Pastor Payne is happy to attend wedding receptions and rehearsal dinners if her schedule permits it, but only if she is invited. It is permissible to invite Pastor Payne and to ask her to provide an invocation at the reception, although such an invitation is neither required, nor expected. On occasion she is accompanied by her husband if he is invited. However, it is inappropriate and presumptuous on her part to come without an invitation.

10. Finally

The staff of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church rejoices with you as you plan for your coming wedding. We look forward to celebrating this happy day with you and we pray that God will bless you as you plan for it. Feel free to call upon us for any assistance we can provide.

Church Office: (302) 736-1617
Pastor: The Rev. Patricia J. Payne
Organist: Bonnie Hironimus

Old Testament Readings

Genesis 1:26-31

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

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

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

²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Genesis 2:18-24

¹⁸ The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

¹⁹ Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³ The man said,
"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,
for she was taken out of man."

²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

¹⁰ My lover spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me.

¹¹ See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.

¹² Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.

¹³ The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.
Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."

Song of Solomon 8:7

⁷ Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the LORD has done for us—
yes, the many good things he has done
for the house of Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.

⁸ He said, "Surely they are my people,
sons who will not be false to me";
and so he became their Savior.

⁹ In all their distress he too was distressed,
and the angel of his presence saved them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old.

Ruth 1:16-17

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."

Hosea 12:6

⁶ But you must return to your God;
maintain love and justice,
and wait for your God always.

New Testament Readings

Romans 12:1-2

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

³¹But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

1 Corinthians 13

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 5:21-33

²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Romans 12:9-13

⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹²Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 13:8-10

⁸Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet, and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself. ¹⁰Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Galatians 5:22

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Philippians 2:1-8

¹If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

1 Peter 4:8-9

⁸Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

1 John 3:18

¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

1 John 4:8-12

⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:16-18, 19

¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. ¹⁷In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. ¹⁸There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us.

Gospel Readings

Matthew 19:4-6

⁴"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female, ⁵and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh? ⁶So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

John 2:1-10

¹On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come."

⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons¹

⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

Matthew 13:31-32

³¹He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³²Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

Matthew 13:44

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."

Matthew 13:45-46

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

Matthew 13:47-48

⁴⁷"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.

Matthew 22:36-39

³⁶"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.

John 2:1-10

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John 15:9-13, 17

⁹"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

Marriage Ceremony from the ELW

ENTRANCE

The assembly stands as the ministers and the wedding group enter. Music—hymn, song, psalm, instrumental music—may accompany the entrance.

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The minister may introduce the service with these or similar words.

OPTION A: Dear friends

Dear friends: We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of *name* and *name*, to surround them with our prayers, and to share in their joy.

The scriptures teach us that the bond and covenant of marriage is a gift of God in which a man and a woman are joined as one, an image of the union of Christ and the church. As *name* and *name* make their promises to each other today, we remember that at Cana in Galilee our Lord Jesus Christ made the wedding feast a sign of God's reign of love.

Let us enter into this celebration confident that, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now also. We pray that this couple may fulfill God's purpose for the whole of their lives.

OPTION B: The Lord God in goodness

The Lord God in goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of a family can become a burden. But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

OPTION C: Have come to make their marriage vows

Name and *name* have come to make their marriage vows in the presence of God and of this assembly. The uniting of this man and this woman in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort they give one another in prosperity and adversity, and that their love may be a blessing to all whom they encounter.

Let us now witness their promises to each other and surround them with our prayers, giving thanks to God for the gift of marriage and asking God's blessing upon them, that they may be strengthened for their life together and nurtured in the love of God.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

The Lord God in his goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage; founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden.

But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with his abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

Name and *Name*, if it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, **with your promises you will now** bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

DECLARATION ADDRESS

OPTION A: Will all of you

The minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

Will all of you, by God's grace, uphold and care for *name* and *name* in their life together?

We will.

OPTION B: Families, friends

The minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

Families, friends, and all those gathered here with *name* and *name*, will you support and care for them, sustain and pray for them in times of trouble, give thanks with them in times of joy, honor the bonds of their covenant, and affirm the love of God reflected in their life together?

We will.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the following or another prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

OPTION A: Gracious God

Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to reveal your love to all people. Enrich *name* and *name* with every good gift, that their life together may show forth your love; and grant that at the last we may all celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no end; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OPTION B: Eternal God

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so bring your joy to this wedding by his presence now. Look in favor upon *name* and *name* and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate the unending marriage feast with Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READINGS

The assembly is seated. Two or three scripture readings are proclaimed. When the service includes communion, the last is a reading from the gospels. Responses may include a psalm in response to a reading from the Old Testament, a sung acclamation preceding the reading of the gospel, or other appropriate hymns, songs, and psalms.

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

VOWS

The presiding minister may address the couple in these or similar words.

Name and name I invite you to declare your vows to one another.

The couple may join hands. Each promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words.

OPTION A: I take you to be my

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.

OPTION B: In the presence of God

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, 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.

OPTION C: I take you, (name), to be my wife, and these things I promise you:...

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

GIVING OF RINGS

OPTION A: This ring as a sign

When rings are to be exchanged, the presiding minister may say this prayer.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God of grace, for your love and faithfulness to your people. May these rings be symbols of the promise *name* and *name* have made with each other; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The couple may exchange rings with these or similar words.

Name, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

OPTION B: This ring as a symbol

When rings are to be exchanged, the presiding minister may say this prayer.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God of grace, for your love and faithfulness to your people. May these rings be symbols of the promise *name* and *name* have made with each other; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The couple may exchange rings with these or similar words.

Name, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow.
With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you,
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ACCLAMATION

Name and *name*, by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have joined themselves to one another as husband and wife.

Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause. A sung acclamation, hymn, or other music may follow.

Other symbols of marriage may be given or used at this time.

MARRIAGE BLESSING

OPTION A: Most gracious God

The couple may kneel. The presiding minister may extend a hand over the couple while praying for God's blessing in the following or similar words.

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to endure the cross for our sake, that we may have abundance of life.

By the power of your Holy Spirit pour out the abundance of your blessing on *name* and *name*. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let your love be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads.

Bless them so that their lives together may bear witness to your love. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death.

Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast forever in your heavenly home, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Parents or others may speak additional words of blessing and encouragement at this time. The assembly stands. Prayers of intercession for the world and its needs may be prayed. These prayers, prepared or adapted for the particular occasion, may include the following or similar petitions. An assisting minister may lead the prayers.

OPTION B: The Lord God

The couple may kneel. The presiding minister may extend a hand over the couple while praying for God's blessing in the following or similar words.

The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, establish and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life's end.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OPTION I: Seeing how greatly God has loved us

The assembly stands as the ministers and the wedding group enter. Music—hymn, song, psalm, instrumental music—may accompany the entrance.

Seeing how greatly God has loved us,
let us pray for the whole world.

For the Christian community everywhere;
for the life and ministry of the baptized,
and for all servants of the gospel,
that the church may be the risen body of Christ in the world.
Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

For all who are joined by bonds of marriage, kinship, and friendship,
and for communities everywhere;
for the nations, for all those who govern,
and for justice and peace throughout the world.
Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

For those we love easily,
and for those with whom we struggle,
for those different from us
and for those familiar to us,
that we might be instruments of God's peace.
Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

For those who suffer in any way,
and those who are lonely,
for the sick, the dying, and those who are bereaved,
for those who are poor, hungry,
homeless, or unemployed,
for the victims of violence, hatred, and intolerance.
Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

For all those who are joined to us in love;
for our families, friends, and neighbors,
for those separated from us by distance or discord,
and giving thanks also for those who have gone before us
(especially *name/s*).
Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

Other intercessions may be added.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Creator of all,
you make us in your image and likeness
and fill us with everlasting life.
Hear the prayers of your people
and grant to *name* and *name*
grace to live in unity and joy
all the days of their lives;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and praise forever.

Amen.

OPTION II: On this day of rejoicing

The assembly stands as the ministers and the wedding group enter. Music—hymn, song, psalm, instrumental music—may accompany the entrance.

On this day of rejoicing, let us bless God
for divine love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

We praise you, O God,
for the joy that *name* and *name*
have found in each other,
and we pray that their love and faithfulness
may reflect your gracious love and enrich our common life.
Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

Give them gentleness and patience,
affection and understanding,
readiness to trust one another,
and, when they hurt each other,
grace to acknowledge their fault
and to give and receive forgiveness.
Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

If pastorally advisable:

Give to *name* and *name* the gift and heritage of children
in accordance with your will; make their home a haven of peace.

OR

You have given *name* and *name* the gift and heritage of children;
make their home a haven of peace.

Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

Use us to support *name* and *name* in their lives together.
Give us such a sense of your constant love
that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you.
Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

Strengthen and bless friends and family gathered here,
even as we call to mind those who are absent from us.
Console those who mourn the loss of loved ones,
and be present with those for whom love is a stranger.
Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

Look graciously on the world you have made
and for which your Son gave his life.
Strengthen marriages, families, and communities everywhere.
Defend and guide all who suffer want or anxiety.
Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

Other intercessions may be added.

We give thanks to you, merciful God,
for those who have died (especially *name/s*).
Strengthen us by the example of the saints,
and bring us all to the marriage feast of the Lamb.
Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Most gracious God,
you have made us in your image
and given us over to one another's care.
Hear the prayers of your people,
that unity may overcome division,
hope vanquish despair,
and joy conquer sorrow;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A service with communion continues with the peace. After the presiding minister greets the assembly, the couple may greet each other with the kiss of peace, and the assembly may greet one another in peace.

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this holy meal, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. So strengthen us in your service that our daily lives may show our thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

PEACE

If it has not been included earlier in the service, the greeting of peace may be shared.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The couple may greet one another with the kiss of peace. All present may greet one another with a gesture of peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

BLESSING

OPTION A: The blessed and holy Trinity

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing in these or similar words.

The blessed and holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace, now and forever.

Amen.

OPTION B: God almighty send you light and truth

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing in these or similar words.

God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

ST. ANDREW'S WEDDING FORM (Office)
Date Completed _____

Wedding Arrangements for: _____ on _____

Bride's Name _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Married Before: Yes _____ No _____ Date of Divorce: _____

Member of St. Andrew's Yes _____ No _____ Church _____

Groom's Name _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Married Before: Yes _____ No _____ Date of Divorce: _____

Member of St. Andrew's Yes _____ No _____ Church _____

Bride's Parent(s) Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Member of St. Andrew's Yes _____ No _____ Church _____

Groom's Parent(s) Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Member of St. Andrew's Yes _____ No _____ Church _____

Interview Dates _____ Time _____

_____ Time _____

Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Rehearsal Dinner _____ Place _____ Time _____

Wedding Date _____ Time _____

Place of Wedding _____ Formal _____ Informal _____

Names to be used in ceremony: Groom _____ Bride _____

Maid/matron of Honor _____ Best Man _____

Bridesmaid (1) _____ Usher (1) _____

Bridesmaid (2) _____ Usher (2) _____

Bridesmaid (3) _____ Usher (3) _____

Bridesmaid (4) _____ Usher (4) _____

Bridesmaid (5) _____ Usher (5) _____

Bridesmaid (6) _____ Usher (6) _____

Flower Girl _____ Ring Bearer _____

Bridal Escort _____

Flowers provided by _____

Candles _____

Special Music _____

Organist _____

Photographer _____

Location of Reception _____

Residence after marriage _____

Pastor performing marriage _____

SPECIAL NOTES:

ST. ANDREW'S WEDDING FORM (Member)

(This form is completed by the Church Office for the Altar Guild/Facility Usage Committee)

Wedding Date _____ Time _____

Wedding Of _____ & _____

Groom's Phone Number _____ Bride's Phone Number _____

Phone Number where bride can be reached the week of the wedding _____

Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Candles:

1. Unity yes/no

2. Side Candles yes/no

Flowers:

Vases Yes _____ No _____

Stands Yes _____ No _____

Name of Florist: _____ Phone Number: _____

Has florist done a wedding here before? Yes _____ No _____

Are flowers to be left at church? Yes _____ No _____

Photographer: _____ Phone Number: _____

Special Musicians: _____ Phone Number: _____

Officiating Pastor: _____ Phone Number: _____

Pastor's Comments:

ST. ANDREW'S WEDDING FORM (Non-Member)

(This form needs to be given to the Church not later than 30 days prior to the Wedding)

Wedding Date _____ Time _____

Wedding Of _____ & _____

Groom's Phone Number _____ Bride's Phone Number _____

Phone Number where bride can be reached the week of the wedding _____

Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Candles: Unity Candle yes/no

Flowers:

Vases Yes _____ No _____

Stands Yes _____ No _____

Changing Rooms: Yes/No How Many: _____

Name of Florist: _____ Phone Number: _____

Has florist done a wedding here before? Yes _____ No _____

Are flowers to be left at church? Yes _____ No _____

Photographer: _____ Phone Number: _____

Special Musicians: _____ Phone Number: _____

Officiating Pastor: _____ Phone Number: _____

Pastor's Comments:

Wedding Arrangements and Preparation

- Who is lighting the altar candles before the ceremony? Do the mothers of the bride and the groom know that they are lighting the tapers on Unity Candle before the service begins? The altar candles should be lit 25 minutes before the ceremony. The tapers for the Unity Candle are lit right before the ceremony.
- Are the ushers prepared for their duties and know where to place the guests? Determine if guests are to be seated according to side (bride/groom) or open seating?
- Make a list of guests who will be seated in the reserved rows and make sure they are in place before you send the bride down the aisle.
- Is the guest book out in a visible place for signing?
- Who is taping cards and watching gift table?
- Who is taking the gifts to the reception site?
- Are you having a receiving line at the church?
- How many rows do you need reserved?
- Who is taking the Unity Candle and tapers after the ceremony?
- Who has the license and is taking responsibility for getting it signed? A black pen should be used.
- Decide what rooms the bride and groom and their attendants will be staying in before the service.
- Make arrangements for photos to be taken after the service, not during it. No flash photography during the service.
- No throwing of rice, etc.

**Use Agreement for Non-Member Weddings
Worship Sanctuary - St. Andrew's Lutheran Church**

Wedding Date _____ Time _____

Wedding Of _____ and _____

Bride's Address _____

Phone number (home) _____ (cell) _____

Groom's Address _____

Phone number (home) _____ (cell) _____

Clergy performing marriage _____

Phone number (Home) _____ (cell) _____

Approx. number in Bridal Party _____ Approx. number of reserved rows _____

The Worship Sanctuary accommodates up to 180 guests.

Access to the building will be permitted 2 hours prior to the wedding and hour prior the rehearsal.

Additional information may be required concerning the names and phone numbers of the florist, photographer, and musician 30 days prior to the wedding.

Contributions for this event:

Pastoral Services	\$150.00	_____	
Organist	\$100.00	_____	
Sanctuary/Custodial/Admin	\$150.00	_____	
Security Deposit (Refundable)	\$100.00	_____	(Separate Check)

\$100.00 Deposit on Agreement Balance Due at Rehearsal _____

At no time will decorations be attached to any walls.

In consideration of the use of facilities of St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the undersigned agrees to release St. Andrew's and their agents, employees, and representatives from any claims for personal injury, death, and property damage which may arise from or during the use of said facilities pursuant to said grant of permission, and do further agree to defend, indemnify and save harmless the said St. Andrew's church and their agents, employees, and representatives from any and all such claims. I the undersigned have read and understand and agree to comply with the Rules for Use of Church Facility. User is Responsible for Any Damage to the facility.

Bride's Signature

Groom's Signature

Application approved by _____

St. Andrew's Representative

Sign both sides of this contract & return with a deposit check payable to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in the stamped envelope provided. A copy will be returned to you. Thank-you.

***Use Agreement for Non-Member Weddings
Worship Sanctuary - St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (Page 2)***

RULES FOR THE USE OF CHURCH PROPERTY

Groups using church facilities are expected to be responsible for the care of those facilities. This includes the need to return the rooms to, the condition that existed at the beginning of the event.

Do not permit running in corridors or rooms. Do not allow your group in areas other than your assigned rooms. Do not block doorways, halls, or exits. Use of electrical appliances or equipment is by permission only.

Clean up will include the removal of trash to the outside containers at the rear of the building. Bags will be provided.

*In addition to a custodial fee, any damage that may occur to the facility through improper use, St. Andrew's will charge the user the cost of labor to restore. (Minimum of \$50.00)

DECORATIONS ARE NOT TO BE ATTACHED TO ANY WALLS

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN ANY AREA OF THE BUILDING

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE NOT PERMITTED ON CHURCH PROPERTY, BUILDING OR GROUNDS

THE THROWING OF RICE, BIRDSEED, CONFETTI, ETC. IS NOT PERMITTED

Bride's Signature

Groom's Signature