



Wedding Information

Congratulations! We are pleased you've chosen St. Philip's Church for your wedding.

Your wedding day is very special to you - and to us. We are here to serve you and work with you in every way possible.

Carefully read through this booklet and mark any items about which you have questions. Feel free to call any of us here at St. Philip's. We will be happy to try to supply the answers you need. The church office is open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday – Thursday and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Fridays. Contact [763-571-1500 or info@splcmn.org].

Some First Steps

1. The Date

Call the church office to set the date for your wedding. Do this as far in advance of the date as possible. You may pick up a copy of the wedding information form in the church office. As soon as the completed wedding information form is returned to the church office, your wedding will be placed on our master calendar. It is helpful if non-members who desire to be married in this congregation attend worship regularly so that you become acquainted with the building and the pastor may get to know you better prior to planning and counseling.

A non-refundable deposit/registration fee of \$125.00 is required when the information form is returned. See fee schedule.

2. The Pastor

St. Philip's pastors want to help you with your marriage. If you are a St. Philip's member and if you have a preference for a presiding pastor, please state that on your wedding information form. The pastors reserve the right to substitute for one another if necessary. If you wish another clergy person to participate in the wedding, first consult with the St. Philip's pastor who will be presiding at your wedding.

3. Marriage Preparation/Counseling

All couples being married at St. Philip's must participate in marriage preparation/counseling sessions. Discussing your hopes for marriage, your expectations of each other, and some of the strengths and growing edges of your relationship is time well spent.

Premarital workshops are arranged through the Pastors.

4. Musicians

The organist of St. Philip's plays at all weddings where organ music is desired. If the organist is not available, the organist will secure a substitute. It is the responsibility of the bride and/or groom to contact the organist of the church to discuss the music at least two months before the wedding. You will receive a letter with the name and telephone number of the organist. Before arrangements are made with a soloist or instrumentalist, please read the section about music and discuss your plans with both the pastor and the organist.

5. The License

Minnesota law requires couples to secure a license to marry. It must be applied for at least five (5) days before the wedding. However, we suggest you do this six-eight weeks ahead of time. To obtain your license, we recommend you call the marriage license number listed under the County in which you will apply for the license. There are different requirements in each county as to what you will need to acquire a license (for example: driver's license, birth certificate, whether both of you need to be present, etc.) There will be a fee for the license. The license should be brought to the church office at least one week prior to the wedding. Please note that the witnesses to your wedding must be at least 16 years old.

Marriage And The Church

The pastor officiates at your wedding, representing both church and state. But it is you who bind yourselves to each other by your promises before God and in the presence of the gathered community. You will make your promises in the presence of God, trusting that God will bless and support you as you work together to fulfill them. Thus, to be married in the church is to recognize God's intentions for marriage and to affirm them as your own.

Planning the wedding

1. The Coordinator

The services of a wedding coordinator are a part of every wedding at St. Philip's. The coordinator will assist with details regarding the wedding and rehearsal. Those details include such matters as flowers, candles, ushers, seating of guests, receiving line, etc. The coordinator will be at the church for the rehearsal and the wedding. The couple should contact the coordinator to arrange a meeting at least 2 months before the wedding.

2. The Liturgy for Marriage

The wedding ceremony is a worship service. The focus is on God. We use the order for marriage in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* book. The rite is characterized by variety and flexibility, so that it may be adapted to many situations and be open to creativity. The presiding pastor at your wedding will discuss the liturgical options with you.

Outline of the Marriage Liturgy

Processional (organ, instrumental, hymn)

Processional Hymn (optional)

The Greeting
Prayer of the Day
Hymn or Solo (optional)
First Lesson
Psalm (optional)
Second Lesson (optional)
Gospel
Sermon
Hymn or Solo (optional)
The Exchange of Vows and Rings
Pronouncement of Marriage
Blessing of the Marriage
Blessing by parents and wedding party (optional)
The Lighting of the Unity Candle (optional)
The Sacrament of Holy Communion (optional)
Hymn or Solo (optional)
Closing Prayers
The Lord's Prayer
Benediction
Recessional

Music

Guidelines In Selecting Music

The *Manual on the Liturgy - Lutheran Book of Worship* reads: "The marriage service is a service of worship, and the music therefore should be carefully and discriminatingly chosen. It should embody high standards of quality and the texts should reflect the praise of God, the steadfast love of Christ for his church as the foundation and model for love and fidelity in marriage, and the invocation of God's presence and blessing."

The marriage service is also a celebration of the love between two people. Therefore, secular music may be used, but it must be appropriate for use in a worship service and it must be approved by the pastor officiating at the wedding.

These guidelines lead to the conclusion that certain music is unsuitable for a worship service. Music which does not fit a service of worship is better used at a wedding reception.

Music used in the marriage service may be instrumental and/or vocal. It may be organ music or other instrumental music, such as strings, brass or woodwinds, performed by a soloist or an ensemble. It may be music with a text sung by a single voice, duet, small ensemble, full choir or congregational hymns. If your music includes the organ, the organ will be played by the church organist. If you include other instruments, you may use other musicians, or those from St. Philip's.

While there are many appropriate contemporary songs, it should be remembered that recordings of such music are made under ideal conditions with sophisticated electronic equipment and mixing devices. Renditions of these selections on pipe organ or by the most talented of amateurs, especially in non- studio settings, will not sound like the recorded selections.

1. Recorded Music on USB

Suggested Wedding Processionals and Recessionals

		Processional	Recessional
Trumpet Voluntary in D	Jeremiah Clarke	X	X
Trumpet Tune in C	Jeremiah Clarke	X	X
Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring	Henry Purcell	X	X
Praise to the Lord	J.S. Bach	X	
Rigaudon	Andre Campra	X	X
Processional from Sonata in C	Felix Mendelssohn	X	
Tocatta in F Major	Dietrich Buxtehude		X
Prelude in G Major	J.S. Bach		X
In Thee is Gladness	J.S. Bach		X
Hornpipe from Water Music Suite	George Friderick Handel	X	X
Now Thank We all Our God	Sigfrid Karg-Elert	X	
God of Grace and God of Glory	Paul Manz		X
Psalms IX	Benedetto Marcello		X

Please contact the organist to arrange a time for you to listen to organ pieces so that you can select your processional (walking up the aisle) and recessional (leaving) music. The organist will also play appropriate music for about 15-20 minutes before the service, as guests are seated, but you will not need to select this music.

Usually you will select vocal music in consultation with your soloist. The organist will advise you and / or assist in the consultation if you wish.

Normally, the soloist will have two copies of each piece to be sung, one for him/herself and one for the accompanist. Unless the piece is in public domain, both copies need to be legal (**not copies made on a copier**) copies. The soloist should call the organist to arrange a rehearsal time and make sure the accompanist gets a copy of the music before the rehearsal if it is difficult or unfamiliar, so she can come to the rehearsal prepared. The soloist also needs to know the music before the rehearsal.

Recommended Vocal Music

And on This Day (English)	O Lord Most Holy (Franck) Organ
Blest Are They (Haas)	O Perfect Love (Barnby) Organ
Borning Cry (Ylvisaker)	On Eagle's Wings (Joncas)
Bridal Prayer (Copeland)	One Hand, One Heart (Bernstein) Organ
Doubly Good To You (Mullins)	Parent's Prayer "Let Go of Two" (Davis)
Doxology (Vale/Patty)	Prayer for Guidance (Pote)
The Gift of Love (Hopson) Solo or Duet	Seekers of Your Heart (Tunney)
God, a Woman and a Man (Green)	Shine on Us (M. Smith)
Grow Old with Me (Lennon)	This Day (Alexander)
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father (hymn 288)	This is the Day (Brown)
Household of Faith (Rosasco)	'Til the End of Time (Green)
How Beautiful (Paris)	Time for Joy (Limpic)
I will Be Here (Chapman)	Together (Strader)
If You Could See What I See (Chapman)	Unity Candle Song (Haan) Organ
In This Very Room (Harris)	We Will Serve the Lord (Haas)
The Lord's Prayer (Marlotte) Organ	Wedding Hymn from "Ptolemy" (Handel)
Love Grows Here (Besig)	Wedding Prayer (Dunlap) Organ
Love in Any Language (Mohr/Mays)	Wedding Prayer (Williams)
Love is the Sunlight (Haas)	Wedding Song "There is Love" (Stookey)
Love Will Be Our Home (Chapman)	Wherever You Go (Haas)
Make Us One, Father (Johnson)	
Many Gifts, One spirit (Pote) solos or duet	

Congregational Hymns

Because the wedding service is a worship service, we encourage congregational hymns at your wedding service. Hymns may be sung in place of other vocal music. The following hymns from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* are suggested for your consideration:

At The Beginning Of The Service

Where Charity and Love Prevail	No. 359
Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now	No. 527
We Praise You, O God	No. 870
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	No. 858
Holy God, We Praise Your Name	No. 414

During The Service

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	No. 631
Jesus, Still Lead On	No. 624
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father	No. 585
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus	No. 802
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	No. 502

At The End Of The Service

Now Thank We All Our God	No. 840
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven	No. 865
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	No. 836

Suggested Scripture Readings

From the Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31	Male and female created by God
Genesis 2:18-24	God creates man and woman
Song of Solomon 2:10-13	Love in the spring
Song of Solomon 8:7	Unquenchable love
Isaiah 63:7-9	The steadfast love of God
Jeremiah 32:38-41	God's faithfulness
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	Two better than one
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	A time for everything

Psalms

33, 100, 117, 127, 128, 136, 150

From the Epistles

Romans 12: 1-2	A living offering
Romans 8:31b-35,37-39	God's continuing presence
I Corinthians 12:31-13:13	The hymn of divine love
I John 4:7-11	Let us love one another
I John 3:18-24	Love one another as he commanded us

From the Gospels

Matthew 19:4-6	Faithfulness in marriage
John 2: 1-10	The wedding at Cana
John 15: 9-12	Love one another
Matthew 5: 13-16	Salt and light
Matthew 7: 21, 24-29	A firm foundation

You may select one or more readings. The liturgy requires at least one scripture reading in addition to the gospel reading. The above are suggestions. Many other texts are appropriate. If you have no preference, the pastor will choose texts for you.

In addition to readings from the Bible, a selection from a secular source may be used if it is in harmony with the spirit of a Christian service of worship and with the biblical understanding of marriage. Please consult with the pastor about selections.

Exchanging Promises

This marriage vow is simple and direct.

- 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.

There are other forms which you may want to consider:

- 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 better to understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and worst of what is to come until death parts us.
- I take you, 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.
- Name, I take you to be my wife (husband) from this time onward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being until death parts us.
- *The pastor says to the man:* Name, will you have this woman as your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, keep you only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

The man shall say: *I will.*

- *The pastor says to the woman:* Name, will you have this man as your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, keep you only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

The woman shall say: *I will.*

- You may wish to write your own vows. They should be consistent with the biblical understanding of marriage, and should make clear that the promises are life-long commitment. This should be done in consultation with the pastor. If you write your own vows, be careful not to promise the impossible!

Holy Communion

As baptized Christians, you may want your marriage set in the context of the celebration of Holy Communion.

Since it is a sign of unity, the entire congregation will be invited to participate.

Celebrating marriage in the context of the Holy Communion enriches the meaning of both. Marriage often involves a festive meal; Holy Communion always does. Marriage is a sign of intimacy and union; so is Holy Communion. The Holy Communion abounds in festive marriage imagery in which Christ the bridegroom celebrates with his bride the Church the heavenly wedding banquet, which knows no end.

Other Details

1. Rehearsal

Rehearsals are normally held the evening before the day of the ceremony, and must be scheduled with the pastor. All members of the wedding party (bride, groom, bridesmaids, groomsmen, flower girls, ring bearers, musicians and parents of the bride and groom) should be present at the time scheduled for the rehearsal. The pastor and the wedding coordinator will walk the wedding party through the ceremony from beginning to end. If everyone arrives on time, the rehearsal should take no longer than an hour. This is the time to bring all your decorations. The coordinator and/or facility manager do not set up decorations but will provide guidance and advice on what has been done in the past.

In the absence of a pastor, the wedding coordinator will be in charge of the rehearsal.

2. Personal Property

It is the responsibility of the wedding party to arrange for the care of their property before, during and after the ceremony. Leave all valuable personal belongings and gifts in the care of parents, friends or attendants during the service. The church cannot be responsible for lost or stolen articles.

3. Ushers

A minimum of two ushers (more if there are over 100 guests) are necessary to light candles, seat guests, etc. Groomsmen or bridesmaids may be used as additional ushers.

4. Bulletins

It is helpful, but not necessary, to have printed bulletins to inform members of the congregation of the order of service and the names of participants in the wedding. Discuss the bulletin with the wedding coordinator.

5. Decorations

If floral decorations and an aisle runner (the aisle is 62 feet long) are desired (neither are necessary), they are provided by the couple. For liturgical reasons, flowers are placed on flower stands rather than on the altar or on the candelabra.

The church has two wedding candelabra, each holding seven candles, which are placed in the chancel. These and other decorations should be discussed with the wedding coordinator. A unity candle may be used and must be supplied by the couple.

The color of the paraments on the altar, pulpit and pastor are determined by the season of the church year. ***They are not changed for weddings.***

Absolutely no rice is to be used. Rice makes the floors and sidewalks hazardous, it is hard on the floor surfaces and it is difficult to clean up. Confetti is not to be used at weddings either inside or outside the building. No birdseed is allowed in the church building or thrown outside.

6. Conduct Of Guests

St. Philip's policy is to maintain a smoke and alcohol free environment.

As the wedding is set within the context of worship, participants and guests are expected to conduct themselves accordingly, the use of alcoholic beverages or other (illicit) mood altering chemicals are not permitted on the church premises (building or parking lot). Persons under the influence of alcohol or other controlled substances will not be permitted to participate in the wedding.

Ushers will be advised to turn away any guests that are intoxicated. It is the bride and groom's responsibility to see that the ushers and wedding party are compliant.

The pastor reserves the right to halt the ceremony if a member of the wedding party or a guest is behaving in an inappropriate manner.

7. Photographs And Videos

The wedding is a worship service of the church. Formal pictures may be taken before or after the service; consult the coordinator about photography time of other weddings that day. Photographers can speak to the coordinator or pastor about specific questions.

As a matter of courtesy to your reception guests, you should consider taking your wedding pictures prior to the service.

Videotaping And Photography

While we recognize the importance of having a complete pictorial record of what transpires at your wedding, we want it done as unobtrusively as possible and in a way that does not interfere with the worshipfulness of your service. With that in mind, we set down the following guidelines:

1. The photographer should come to the rehearsal as the Sanctuary has interesting lighting challenges.
2. We recommend no flash photography during the service. We ask that this be noted in the bulletin.
3. You may want to discuss with your photographer if they can take photos during the ceremony or if you want them only on the sides of the pews.
4. Your photographer may use the balcony for taking photos as well.

Thank you again for your interest in sharing your wedding day with us and again, our congratulations!

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