

PLANNING A



Immanuel Lutheran Church
2 Michigan Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 454-3655

Table of Contents

THE BIBLE SPEAKS ON MARRIAGE	2
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS.....	4
WEDDING FEES.....	6
GENERAL RULES APPLYING TO ALL WEDDINGS.....	7
THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR MARRIAGE	9
SPECIAL NOTES APPLYING TO ALL WEDDINGS	12
SOME SUGGESTED READING MATERIALS.....	13
TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE.....	14
A CHECKLIST FOR YOUR CHRISTIAN WEDDING SERVICE	15
WEDDING APPLICATION AND INFORMATION FORM	16
APPENDIX 1	18

A SPECIAL WORD TO THE BRIDE AND GROOM

Dear Future Bride and Groom:

What rich blessings are yours as you prepare to get married. Marriage is a high estate in God's creation. It was God, Himself, who instituted marriage, and He promises to bless it. Pray for His blessing, and He will give it.

Your coming marriage will mean many hours, perhaps even weeks and months of careful preparation on the part of both of you. As the day approaches you may become even busier. Therefore, it is important that you take time now to do some serious thinking and planning for the wedding itself. Both of you, together with your church, want your wedding to be the significant Christian event that you are anticipating.

Since you plan to have your marriage before God's altar, Immanuel Lutheran Church has planned this booklet to help you. We hope that it may serve to answer some of the questions you may have as you plan the important steps and fine details of your wedding. But more than this, we hope that it will help you and those who attend your wedding to express your faith in God in a worshipful and deeply meaningful way.

May this booklet be a help and a blessing as both of you prepare for this very important day in your lives.

God Loves You and So Do I,

Pastor Craig Bickel

THE BIBLE SPEAKS ON MARRIAGE

PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

At the very beginning of the Bible, we read that God instituted marriage: ***“And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone – I will make him a helper fit for him” (Gen. 2:18)***. It was God who realized that it was not good for man to be alone. It is God who has arranged that there should be male and female who would enter into marriage and, in this relationship, share each other. The man compliments the woman; the woman compliments the man. One of the purposes of marriage is companionship. You will share each other’s joys and sorrows, successes and failures.

LOVE IN MARRIAGE

According to the New Testament, *“Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it”,* while wives are to *“submit themselves unto their husbands as unto the Lord”* (Ephesians 5). Unfortunately, so-called “Love” today quite easily turns to “Hate” when selfishness replaces infatuation. Indeed, many feel the opposite of love is not hate, but selfishness.



Real love is a giving process and the joy of a mature love life is in the giving rather than the receiving. A mark of marital maturity is indicated if you enjoy doing more for your mate than for yourself. Some say this giving and receiving is a fifty-fifty proposition. Those who seem to have the happiest marriage indicate that marriage is more a **seventy-five / twenty-five** arrangement in which each decides to give seventy-five and take twenty-five. When you, as a Christian husband or wife, strive to measure up to God’s standard of unselfish love, your home and marriage will be truly Christian and God rejoices. The more you love Christ, the deeper and truer will be your love for each other.

SEX IN MARRIAGE

God gives another purpose to marriage when He says **“Be fruitful and multiply”** (Gen. 1:28). Sex is of God. It is good, right and Holy when shared in the bonds of the committed love of marriage. It is for the creation of human life. Therefore, Christian marriage is the making of a Christian home. You are not “more Christian” if you have the most children possible for you to have. The essential principle is for your real desire and Godly reasons for having children.

PERMANENCE OF MARRIAGE

Jesus Christ summed up positively and simply the role which a man and a Woman play in the creation of new life: ***“But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate” (Mark 10:6-9)***. Our Master emphasized that marriage is a life-long union. That is why you will be asked to make the vow that binds you until death. Be very sure that you want to make that promise to each other; to love, comfort, honor and keep yourselves for each other so long as you both shall live. When you make this promise on your wedding day, you will understand each other as saying, **“My own beloved, with all my heart and with God’s help, I will make this promise to you.”** The more you both love Christ, the deeper and truer will your love be to each other. This is God’s great ideal for marriage as shown in both the Old and New Testaments.

RELIGION IN MARRIAGE

One of you may not be a church member or you may not be of the same Christian denomination. The best way to establish a happy Christian home is to decide on a common denomination. That way, you can be together in worship, have the same religious practices, support your children in satisfactory, mutually acceptable religious training. Most churches offer courses of instruction to people wanting to become adult members. This offers opportunity for clarification of misconceptions and giving right answers from proper sources. Following such a course, you can decide whether you want to join and give assent to the teachings that were expressed. May every couple say with conviction, **“But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).**

Surveys show that the happiest marriages come to people who: 1) belong to and attend church regularly; 2) participate in the purpose and the work of the church; and 3) carry the spirit and practice of religion into their home. It may sound trite, but it is, nevertheless, true: ***“The family that prays together, stays together.”***

INVITE CHRIST TO YOUR WEDDING

Why not invite Jesus to your wedding? Really invite Him. Go ahead. Put Him at the top of your guest list. Invite Him? How? Determine to have a genuine Christian wedding. Decide that your wedding will be a positive Christian witness, clearly honoring Him as the unseen but recognized Sender of everything. You may want to pray the following.

Dear Lord Jesus, we want you to come to our wedding and be a guest in our home through all the years ahead. Take the place of honor, for the honor is yours. Let all that we do mirror your will for us. Give us your gifts that will be for our good. Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Amen.

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

As soon as the bride and groom have determined the date of their wedding, they should telephone the church office to clear the date and time, get the necessary information and receive this wedding book.

Couples (either both or one) who are **NOT MEMBERS** of Immanuel must attend the **12 week Adult Discovery Class** prior to their wedding.

All couples must also attend **Pre-Marriage Counseling** before their wedding.

After both the bride and groom have read this book, they will then meet with the Pastor conducting their wedding to make detailed arrangements for the wedding.

YOUR WEDDING SERVICE

Here are five fundamental and very important theological understandings about a Christian wedding service which the church considers primary.

1. A CHRISTIAN WEDDING SERVICE IS A SERVICE OF WORSHIP.
2. A CHRISTIAN WEDDING SERVICE IS A PUBLIC SERVICE.
3. A CHRISTIAN WEDDING SERVICE IS A CORPORATE SERVICE.
4. A CHRISTIAN WEDDING SERVICE IS A TIME OF CLEAR PROCLAMATION.
5. A CHRISTIAN WEDDING SERVICE IS A TIME OF CELEBRATION.

THE OFFICIANT

The Pastor of Immanuel will conduct the wedding. However, if a close relative or friend of either the bride or groom is the Pastor of a sister Lutheran (LCMS) congregation, the couple may request permission to have him officiate at the wedding. **Non-Members** pay a fee of **\$200.00** for the Pastor's service.

THE ORGANIST/PIANIST

The organ/piano in Immanuel Lutheran Church is a delicate and expensive instrument and should be used only by capable organists/pianists. For this reason, our organist/pianist is directly responsible for the organ/piano. Your organist/pianist should be thought of as a person who performs extra service to the bride and groom, other than performing at the organ/piano during the service. He/she must spend an extra week-night to attend the rehearsal, meet with the soloist and practice special music. We charge a fee of **\$150.00** for the Organist/Pianist. Also, an additional fee of \$25.00 per rehearsal (all other rehearsals other than main wedding rehearsal) will be charged.

EVENT COORDINATOR

The *Event Coordinator* will do the rehearsal and, on the day of the wedding, will come at least **an hour and a half** prior to the wedding for all weddings. He/she opens the church, lights the candles, and will see to it that all the grandparents, parents and bridal party come in at the proper time, and will handle any problems. He/she will then lock up after the wedding. We charge a fee of **\$200.00 for the first 4 hours (for rehearsal and four hours on wedding day)**. **If you require additional time on your wedding day, \$40 per hour will come out of your security deposit.** Please make check payable to "Immanuel Lutheran Church."

SOUND TECH

If your service will have anything more than a CD song or organist for the music, we will need to have a sound person to assure all goes well for you. The cost is \$50 for this person. They will set up microphones and run the sound board for you.

CUSTODIAN

The custodian will do general cleaning but you are responsible for making sure the facility is clean and things are put back following the service. **There is a \$50.00 custodial charge for all weddings.**

CHURCH CHARGES

If neither the bride or groom is a member in good standing of Immanuel Lutheran Church at least a year before the wedding plans begin (i.e. engaged, set wedding date on calendar, attend Discovery Class), non-member rates will apply.

UNITY CANDLE

You will have use of our Candelabra. You may purchase your own candles or we will furnish them for a \$25.00 charge.

FLOWERS

When ordering flowers for your wedding, please note that there is room for two arrangements that can be placed in brass urns, furnished by the church and placed on either side of the Raredos (statue). Additional flowers may be placed in the gold vase, on the unity candle or stands rented from the florist and may only be placed on the lower level of the Chancel area.

Both of the brass urns and the gold vase take a 2-pound deli container as a liner that the florist fills and brings to church and may be obtained from the D&W or Meijer delis. Normal practice is to have **NO** flowers on the Altar.

Potted flowers may be placed coming down the steps of the chancel area. **Nothing** may be on or along the Communion Rail.

Bows may be placed on the pews with or without flowers but no tape or wire may be used. Affix bows with rubber bands, additional ribbon or pew clips. The church does not supply pew bows.

WEDDING BULLETIN

Many people wish to have a bulletin containing the order of worship. This is helpful for those who are worshipping with you and also will be a helpful remembrance of your wedding day. The Administrative Assistant has several different types of bulletin covers which can be shown to you. The bulletin covers can be ordered through the church office. To see what bulletin covers we can order, please go to <http://www.concordiasupply.com/Church-Bulletins/Wedding-Bulletins-11>. The layout and printing of the bulletins can be done by the Administrative Assistant for a fee of **\$20/first 100 and \$10 each hundred after**. If you were to desire this, you would need to email your service information to the church office **at least two weeks** prior to the wedding.

<p>When paying your wedding fees (listed above), you can write two separate checks, payable to "Immanuel Lutheran Church." The first check would be for the non-refundable fees and the second check would be for the Security Deposit. The Security Deposit check will not be cashed unless there is a problem. The Administrative Assistant will mail a letter outlining the total fees owed. Your fees and Marriage License should be brought to the church office two full weeks prior to the wedding.</p>

The fees for those assisting in the wedding are subject to change.

WEDDING FEES

Wedding – Use of Sanctuary Only

	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>NON-MEMBERS</u>
Sanctuary Use	\$250	\$500
Pastor	Discretion	\$200
Event Coordinator	\$200 for first 4 hours <i>(for rehearsal and 4 hours on wedding day)</i> / \$40/hour for each hour thereafter <i>(this will come out of security deposit if needed)</i>	
Custodial/Clean-Up	\$50/hour	
Organist/Pianist (includes wedding rehearsal & ceremony)	\$150	\$150
Organist/Pianist (other rehearsals as requested)	\$25/hour	\$25/hour
Sound Tech	\$50 (see p. 4 – Sound Tech)	
Unity Candles	\$0 if you furnish candles \$25 if we furnish the three candles	
Production of Program/Bulletin	\$20/first 100 and \$10 for each 100 thereafter	
Security Deposit	\$250	\$500

Wedding – Use of Sanctuary and Parlors/Old Kitchen for Reception

The above Sanctuary Fees will apply plus the additional charges below:

	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>NON-MEMBERS</u>
Parlors/Kitchen Use	\$150	\$300
Event Coordinator	\$40 for additional hours of reception	
Custodial/Clean-Up	\$50/hour for additional hours to clean reception area	
Security Deposit	\$200	\$400

Wedding – Use of Sanctuary and Ministry Center for Reception

The above Sanctuary Fees will apply plus the additional charges below:

	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>NON-MEMBERS</u>
Gathering Area Only	\$250	\$500
Gathering Area & Kitchen	\$500	\$750
Event Coordinator	\$40 for additional hours of reception	
Custodial/Clean-Up	\$50/hour for additional hours to clean reception area	
Security Deposit	\$300	\$600

GENERAL RULES APPLYING TO ALL WEDDINGS

1. The **total estimated fees and security deposits** must be received by the church no later than **two full weeks** before the wedding date. The security deposit (or the remaining portion not used to repair damage) will be refunded within two weeks of the wedding. Please submit two separate checks (one for the non-refundable fees and one for the security deposit).
2. Caterers must be approved by Immanuel.
3. Capacity must not exceed permitted fire code regulations or internal rules established by the church.
4. A proof of the program or bulletin that the church is to produce must be received by the church **at least two full weeks prior to the wedding.**
5. Decorations and layout must be pre-approved by the Event Coordinator or church office prior to decoration application.
6. Certain parking rules or restrictions may apply depending on time of day, seasonal considerations, parking garage availability, etc.
7. Member sanctuary fees only (not Ministry Center fees) will apply to a non-member if the non-member is from a sister congregation and the Pastor confirms the non-member is in good standing.

Sanctuary and Ministry Center – Use Policies

Alcohol. Alcohol use (other than sacramental) is prohibited. Exceptions to this rule may be granted for responsible alcohol use in the Ministry Center or in the Parking Area with prior approval from the Board of Lay Ministry for a church event or other permitted event (explained below).

Smoking. Smoking is not permitted in the Sanctuary or the Ministry Center. A designated area exists outside on the West side of the Ministry Center.

Permitted Events. The Sanctuary and Ministry Center may be used by the church or its members provided (i) the event is pre-authorized and (ii) proper notice is provided. In all events, we should also consider our overriding mission of *Connecting People to Jesus*. Examples of events that are likely to be authorized include: funerals, weddings, wedding receptions, family gatherings, birthday parties, reunions, and music recitals. In addition, the Sanctuary and ministry Center may be used for non-religious meetings or events provided there is a community nexus (e.g., medical community, Michigan hill community, etc.) or a charitable purpose associated with the organization. No event will be authorized if the requesting organization or association takes a position that is contradictory to the primary teachings of the LCMS. Events that involve the following are typically prohibited: paint or a substance that leaves permanent stains profanity or offensive language or conduct, open flames or candles (except for candles in glass containers used in weddings or services), rigorous activity which could result in damage or injury, etc.

Notice. Proper notice must be in writing and provided 45 days before an event not involving the use of the kitchen, or 60 days for an event involving the use of the kitchen (funerals are the obvious exception. Any event must fit within the event schedule maintained by the church office.

Fee Structure. The fees for use are set forth above and may be changed from time to time. The goal of the fee structure is to fully cover expenses and upkeep, and to ensure that sufficient funds are retained to cover depreciation and damage that may occur. Fees will be higher for use of the kitchens due to the higher costs of cleaning and repair associated with the kitchen.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The Pastor must have the license before he can perform the marriage ceremony. In this, as in all other duties of his office, he must comply with the requirement of the Holy Scripture and the laws of the State. The marriage license must be brought into the church office with your wedding fees two full weeks before your wedding. You may secure your marriage license from the **Kent County Clerk's Office** if one of you resides in Kent County or from the country where you reside. You may also apply online (\$3.00 fee payable with VISA or MasterCard) at www.accesskent.com/MLR/. Proof of age is required: Birth Certificate (recommended), driver's license, state ID or passport. You must have two pieces of identification, (a certified copy of a birth or baptismal certificate, Michigan ID, or a driver's license). You also need your Father's full name (first, middle and last). You must also have your parents place of birth. A waiting period of three days after application is required. The license is valid for a 33-day period. The **marriage license** fee is **\$20.00 for residents and \$30 for out-of-state applicants.** For further information, call (616) 632-7640. Should you desire a copy of your license, you can also obtain this at the Kent County Clerk's Office for a nominal fee.

THE REHEARSAL

Call the church office to get a message to the Event Coordinator to set up your Rehearsal Date and Time. It is normally scheduled for the evening before the wedding and will be at 6 p.m. unless other arrangements are made with the Event Coordinator. The primary purpose of the rehearsal is not to ensure perfection on the part of those participating in the wedding, for the wedding is not a performance, but rather to acquaint the members of the wedding party with the wedding procedures in order to make them less nervous during the wedding. Every member of the wedding party should be present for the rehearsal as well as the ushers and parents of the bride and groom. **The rehearsal will last from thirty-minutes to one hour and will be conducted by the Event Coordinator.**

VIDEO TAPING OF THE SERVICE

If you have your service video-taped, the photographer may take a video of the procession, but as soon as the bride and groom are at the altar, the video must be taken from the back or sides of the church in specific locations outlined by the Event Coordinator.

PHOTOGRAPHER

The photographer may take any pictures during the ceremony without the use of a flash from the back of the church. We also ask that he/she not be distracting to the worshipers.

The Pastor requests that, if you want any pictures with him following the service, they be taken before any other pictures.

YOUR WEDDING MUSIC

THE SERVICE MUSIC

Musical selections that will be used are only those songs which are written with a sacred text. The selections may be played on the organ, piano, or electronic keyboard.

FLOWERS

We ask that you contact the florist and notify the church office as to when the flowers will be delivered. The church **will be opened one and a half hours prior to your wedding.** You may wish to leave them for Sunday's worship service. It will be announced in the church bulletin if you notify the Administrative Assistant. Make arrangements for this weeks in advance.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR MARRIAGE

The way a wedding service should be performed is not laid down in scripture. However, the Bible does demand that everything be done decently and in order. Accordingly, each congregation establishes certain regulations regarding ceremonies, including the marriage service which makes for uniformity and easy performance. In the next paragraphs, we shall present the guidelines for procedure at Immanuel Lutheran Church. When you meet with the Pastor, he will go through the service to best fulfill your wishes for your special day.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

When the mother of the bride is ushered to her place, the organist will know that the bridal party is ready for the processional.

THE PROCESSIONAL

As pre-arranged, the bridal party approaches the Chancel with the men on the pulpit side and the women on the lectern side.

INVOCATION – congregation is standing

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

PRAYER

Eternal God, our Creator and Redeemer, as You gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of Your Son, so by His presence now bring joy to this wedding. Look with favor upon [] and [] and grant that they, rejoicing in all Your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end. Amen (or you may write one)

EXHORTATION (optional) – congregation is seated

We are gathered here in the sight of God and of His Church to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in holy marriage. This is an honorable estate which God Himself has instituted and blessed, and by which He gives us a picture of the very communion of Christ and His bride, the Church, God has both established and sanctified marriage and has promised to bless therein all who love and trust in Him and who seek to give Him their faithful worship and service, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Union of husband and wife in heart, body and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity, and when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into in advisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS –

You are asked to select three readings you desire to be used for your special day. (See Appendix 1 for some suggestions.)

WEDDING ADDRESS

The Pastor will give a sermonette for the bride and groom. This address also proves very helpful to those present.

SOLO OR HYMN BY THE CONGREGATION (optional)

RITE OF MARRIAGE – CEREMONY OF MUTUAL CONSENT

The Pastor shall say to the man . . . Answer “I will.” Then the Pastor shall say to the woman . . . Answer “I will.”

EXCHANGE VOWS

The couple face each other and join hands and say after the Pastor:

The man: I (name),/ in the presence of God and these witnesses,/ take you (name) to be my wife,/ 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,/ until death parts us,/ and I pledge you my faithfulness.

The woman: I (name),/ in the presence of God and these witnesses,/ take you (name) to be my 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,/ until death parts us,/ and I pledge you my faithfulness.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

After the couple has exchanged the vows, the Pastor shall give a sign to the best man to lay the ring or rings upon the open book offered by the Pastor, The groom takes the bride’s ring first and places it on the ring finger of her left hand. If there are TWO RINGS to be used, the bride shall present the ring to the groom as soon as he has placed hers on her finger, using the words “this ring is a sign of my love and faithfulness.”



The Pastor shall say: “May the giving and receiving of these rings ever be a symbol to you of the never-ending circle of love which God has given to you as individuals and also as a couple. To this end, may God bless you through the heavenly Bridegroom, JESUS CHRIST, our LORD.”

PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE



After the presentation of the ring or rings, the Pastor shall say “Join your hands.” The groom before God and in the presence of this congregation, I pronounce you husband and wife. Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever.”

“You have been joined by the love of God the Father in the life of the Spirit of Christ, and man must not divide you.”

WEDDING BLESSING

The bridal pair may now kneel for the wedding blessing.

MARRIAGE PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE MARRIAGE OR UNITY CANDLE

A hymn or solo may be sung at this time.

PRAYER FOR ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE WORLD

We include all our needs in the prayer which our Lord Jesus taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Appropriately, the ceremony closes with the benediction.

INTRODUCTION

After the benediction, the Pastor congratulates the couple. The couple is introduced. The bride receives her flowers and then leaves the chancel by way of the main aisle. The bridal party follows the bride and groom. The ushers or bride and groom may then take their places at the front pews to direct the people as they leave.



RECESSIONAL

SPECIAL NOTES APPLYING TO ALL WEDDINGS

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” I Corinthians 14:40

- The Pastor may withdraw his consent to conduct a marriage.
- No weddings will be held during Holy Week or Christmas Eve/Day.
- Weddings requiring someone other than a staff musician must clear this with the Organist/Pianist, as well as all music selections and rehearsal schedules. (Check with Pastor to approve selected songs.)
- The ushers must be on duty at least **thirty minutes** before the service begins. They shall see to it that reverence is maintained in the church at all times.
- According to custom, the relatives and friends of the groom are seated on the right side (facing the altar) of the church, and those of the bride on the left. The front pews are reserved for the immediate relatives of the couple.
- In proceeding down the aisle, the attendants shall walk in normal time and natural way. The purpose of processions is to get to the altar, not to parade.
- **No flash pictures shall be taken during the service.**
- The Best Man and Ushers are responsible for seeing to it that **no rice be thrown inside or outside the church building.**
- Friends and visitors shall remain in their pews at the close of the service and give the parents and relatives of the bridal party an opportunity to leave first.
- Always consider your Pastor your friend. Feel free to call him to discuss with you any spiritual or family matters.
- Alcohol (other than sacramental) is not allowed on church grounds. Any consumption of alcohol on the church property will be grounds for dismissal from the church ceremony. Exceptions to this rule may be granted for responsible alcohol use in Ministry Center or in the Parking Area with prior approval from the Board of Lay Ministry for a church event or other permitted event.
- Smoking is not allowed on the church grounds except in the designated area which is outside on the West side of the Ministry Center. **Please inform your wedding party as well as your guests.**
- No potted flowers are to be placed on the altar.
- Whenever possible, fresh flowers are to be used in the altar area, but artificial flowers may be used.
- All wax candles being used must have a plastic sheet underneath to prevent damage from dripping wax. Following the wedding, please make sure the wax hardens prior to moving the candles.
- For further information, please call the church office or Pastor Craig at: (616-454-3655).

A BLESSED MARRIAGE

“Marriage, happy marriage, the kind of marriage God intended for you, is, as you can see, not something which you can expect accidentally to stumble into, not something which just happens. It is, rather, a tremendously precious prize to be won with God’s help by thoughtful, prayerful, unselfish living—each for the other. If you achieve it, as I hope you will, then you will find in marriage much greater happiness than you could have found in the single estate, and this happiness will endure not only for the brief honeymoon period, as some folks seem to suppose. Rather, it will grow and develop into an even finer, fuller, and more perfect union with the passing of time.” (from “Make yours a happy marriage”)

MARRIAGE POLICY

The marriage policy of Immanuel Lutheran Church, a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is and always has been consistent with the Synod’s beliefs on marriage. We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32). The official position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as set forth in 1998 Res. 3-21 (“To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions”), is that homosexual unions come under categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testaments (Lev. 18:22, 24; 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-10) as contrary to the Creator’s design (Rom. 1:26-27). These positions and beliefs can be found on the LCMS website, along with other statements, papers and reports on the subject of homosexuality and same-sex civil unions and “marriage.” Our pastors will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with these beliefs, and our church property may not be used for any marriage ceremony, reception or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy.

SOME SUGGESTED READING MATERIALS

There is a great wealth of helpful reading material explaining the nature of the Christian marriage generally, and specifically. A church bookstore or any bookstore will be able to supply you with these books.

Unity in Marriage by W. J. Field, Concordia Publishing House

In the Presence of God by Otto W. Toelke, Concordia Publishing House

Making Your Marriage Succeed by Tho F. Adams, Harper and Brothers Publishers

Homemade Happiness by Wayne Behoney, Broadman Press

Come Prepared to Stay Forever Dr. James E. Hine, The Interstate Publishers

Love for a Lifetime by Dr. James Dobson

YOUR NOTES

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE

1. By God's grace and power, may you share your home with God at all times and look to Him for guidance in all your undertakings. Build your marriage on a Christian Foundation. **Become active in the same church** immediately after the honeymoon. Do this, not only for the spiritual guidance you will receive, but also for the company you will find there.
2. By God's grace and power, may you love your mate and express daily the infinite depth of your love—through words and deeds. **A sincere compliment to your mate at least once a day** – as Billy Sunday would say, “Go ahead! Compliment your wife. I know it will shock her, but it will do her good just the same.”
3. By God's grace and power, may you take God as a partner in all business affairs and monies regularly setting aside tithes for His work. No one should be a slave to a budget. However, it is a good thing to **start a marriage with an intelligent approach to the way you are going to handle money.**
4. By God's grace and power, may you **keep progressing** in thoughts, words, and deeds so that you will be a joy to your mate, children and friends.
5. By God's grace and power, may you **remain calm** in every situation remembering your attitude will help others as well as yourself.
6. By God's grace and power, may you **be gracious and hospitable** in your home making it a joyous place for all who may enter it.
7. By God's grace and power, may you **live** up to the best in yourself and help others to live this truly **in the “image of God”**, through Jesus Christ.
8. By God's grace and power, may you **respect each other** for what you are. Go out on a date at least once a week. Put as much effort into keeping as you did into winning your mate!
9. By God's grace and power, may you **pray together**. Do this every day! Set aside a time each day when you will listen to God as you read His word and when you will speak to Him in prayer. Establish your family worship.
10. By God's grace and power, may you **worship together**. Do this weekend by weekend. You will experience the truth of Jesus' word: “Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it.”

*Except you build it, FATHER
The house is built in vain;
Except you, SAVIOR, bless it,
The joy will turn to pain.
But naught can break the marriage
of hearts in you made one,
And love your SPIRIT hallows
Is endless love begun.*
GOD BLESS YOUR HOME ALWAYS.

A CHECKLIST FOR YOUR CHRISTIAN WEDDING SERVICE

Did You:

1. Arrange for meetings with the Pastor?
2. Have a date and time approved by your church?
3. Pick your music?
4. Pick your soloist and solos?
5. Make arrangements for rehearsal?
6. Select your florist?
7. Select your photographer?
8. Secure your license?

List dates and other information here:

Dates for consultation with Pastor _____

Date of the wedding _____ Time _____

Date of rehearsal _____ Time _____

Date for Consultation with Event/Wedding Coordinator _____

Music selected for:

Dates for consultation with Organist/Pianist: _____

Processional: _____

Recessional: _____

Hymns by the congregation _____

Solo numbers _____

“Whether therefore ye eat or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!!!”
1 Corinthians 10:31

WEDDING APPLICATION AND INFORMATION FORM

Date Application Completed _____

Date application received by church office _____ Initials of Staff Member

Wedding Day _____ Date _____ Time _____

Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Groom

Name (full) _____

Present Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone (home) _____ (Cell) _____

Birth Date _____ Place of Birth _____

Confirmation Date _____

Church Affiliation _____ Active _____ Inactive _____

Occupation _____

Place of Employment _____ Phone _____

Father's Name _____

Mother's first and maiden name _____

Grandparents attending Wedding? _____

Bride

Name (full) _____

Present Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone (home) _____ (Cell) _____

Birth Date _____ Place of Birth _____

Confirmation Date _____

Church Affiliation _____ Active _____ Inactive _____

Occupation _____

Place of Employment _____ Phone _____

Father's Name _____

Mother's first and maiden name _____

Grandparents attending Wedding? _____

How long have you known each other? _____

NEW ADDRESS AFTER WEDDING:

_____ Phone _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Bulletin Announcement & Prayer on Sunday? Yes No

Wedding Service folder? Yes No Printed by church? Yes No

How many needed? _____ (\$20 for first 100; \$10 for each 100 after that)

(We use this link for bulletins - www.concordiasupply.com)

Number of guests expected to attend: _____

Marriage License: Please bring to the church office by _____

(Two full weeks prior to Wedding) Church office hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-4:30 PM

Reception:

If you wish to hold your reception at the church, please contact the church office (454-3655).

NO SMOKING OR DRINKING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON CHURCH PREMISES.

SERVICES AND FEES

All fees must be paid by check and received at the church office at the time the marriage license is brought in (two full weeks prior to the wedding).

Service/Person	Member	Non-Member	Fee
Sanctuary Use	\$250	\$500	_____
Pastor	Discretion	\$200	_____
Event Coordinator	\$200 for first 4 hours <i>(for rehearsal and 4 hours on wedding day)</i> / \$40/hour for each hour thereafter <i>(this will come out of security deposit if needed)</i>		_____
Custodial/Clean-up	\$50/hour		_____
Organist/Pianist <i>(includes wedding rehearsal & ceremony)</i>	\$150	\$150	_____
Organist/Pianist <i>(other rehearsals as requested)</i>	\$25/hour	\$25/hour	_____
Sound Tech (see p. 4)	\$50	\$50	_____
Unity Candles	\$0 if you furnish candles \$25 if we furnish the three candles		_____
Production of Program/Bulletin	\$20/first 100 and \$10 for each 100 thereafter		_____
Security Deposit (sanctuary use only)	\$250	\$500	_____
TOTAL FEES:			_____

This application replaces any other wedding detail information you may have received including fee schedule (10/20/15).

APPENDIX 1

Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Joshua 24:15 "But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served 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."

Psalms 33:20 We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

Ruth 1:16 "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."

Genesis 12:2 I will bless you and you will be a blessing.

Genesis 15:1 Do not be afraid, I am your shield.

Genesis 28:15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.

Deuteronomy 4:31 The LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon you.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.

Judges 5:31 May they who love the LORD be like the sun when it rises in its strength.

2 Samuel 22:31 God's way is perfect; he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.

Jeremiah 17:7 Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD whose confidence is in him.

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 30:11 I am with you and will save you.

Jeremiah 31:3 I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.

Lamentations 3:22f His compassions never fail, they are new every morning.

John 13:34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

John 14:6 I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.

John 20:29 Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

Romans 12:9-18 The Christian's duty to love and all that is encompassed by that duty: hope, patience, prayer, compassion, and more. Be sure to compare this passage to the 13th chapter of First Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 13 Perhaps the most famous of all wedding Bible verses, this chapter defines the ultimate gift of the Spirit: Love.

1 Corinthians 14:1 "Make love your aim" in all that you do. (Verses 2-5 go on to discuss the superior gift of prophecy rather than speaking in tongues.)

1 Corinthians 16:14 Be certain that everything you do is motivated by love.

2 Corinthians 5:14-17 Through Christ's sacrificial love, we have become new creations.

Ephesians 2:4-10 God's gracious love for us saves us through faith.

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 Be loving and forgiving, speaking only good and imitating Christ. "...let not the sun go down upon your wrath..." (KJV) Check on more modern translations for a better reading.

Ephesians 5:21-33 This passage depicting the Christian home is difficult for some because it deals with "submission theology." However, the general thought is *mutual* submission. Understand it from an early church point of view.

Philippians 2:1-5 Guard against selfishness. Be humble and serve others.

Philippians 4:4-9 Rejoice and don't be anxious. Live honorably and justly, and God's peace will be a part of your lives.

Colossians 3:12-17 The Christian life lived in love and harmony. Do all in Christ's name.

Colossians 3:18-20 More submission theology with the admonition to husbands to love their wives.

1 John 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us..." (KJV)

1 John 3:16 Christ's example of sacrificial love.

1 John 3:18-24 Believe in Christ, and keep His commandments by loving one another.

1 John 4:7 Love each other because love comes from God.

1 John 4:16-19 God loves us. If we live in love, it serves as a sign that God lives in us. We are capable of love only because God loved us first.

Revelation 19:1; 5-9 A glorious celebration in heaven for the marriage of the Lamb of God. The church is depicted as the Bride.