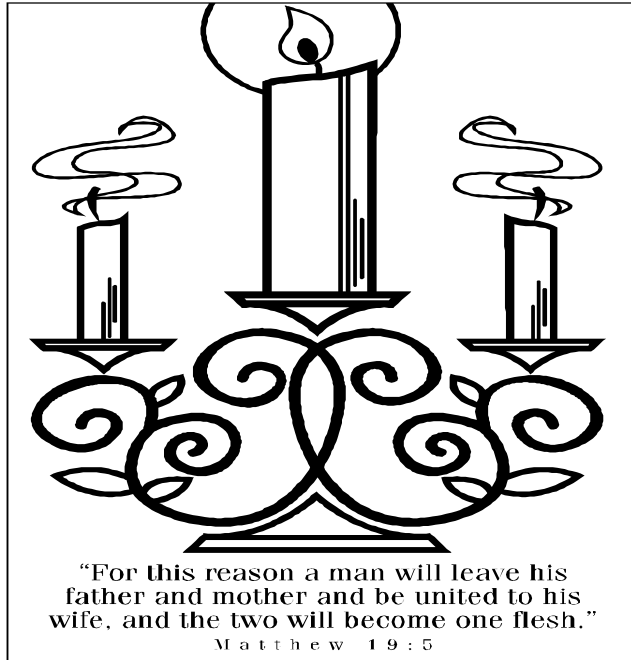


# ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## WEDDING MANUAL



*Prepared by*

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## FORWARD

Many wedding manuals are available. Many, however, do not deal with some of the pressing issues that have arisen in recent years. This manual is an attempt to affirm the words of the wedding ceremony in the *LUTHERAN WORSHIP AGENDA*: "Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into inadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God."

Much of the material in this manual was lifted directly from a wedding manual published by Rev. Arthur Graf, who was a respected professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois. It is also needed to acknowledge Rev. Robert W. Hill of Faith Lutheran Church in Plano, Texas, and Dr. Randall Schroeder of Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, Indiana, for their vast contributions as well. Without these people, this manual would not be possible.

Our desire is that parents will study this manual with their youth long before the wedding date. Young people will then see that the Church seriously seeks to affirm the sanctity of marriage and then during the years before marriage will conduct themselves in view of God's standard, "Then two shall be one flesh." As the goal of this wedding manual is to hold before us the Lord Jesus Christ, the heavenly Bridegroom, through Whom we have forgiveness and eternal life, so may that be the goal of every couple in their wedding plans and their marriage.

SOLI DEO GLORIA  
(To God alone be the glory)

Rev. Kelly D. Smith Sr., Pastor  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church of the Irish Hills  
Brooklyn, Michigan

**WEDDING POLICY**  
For  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
**MARRIAGE AND WEDDINGS**

God instituted marriage at Creation:

"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him ... The Lord God took one of his ribs, and from the rib the Lord God made a woman and brought her to the man ... Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh. (Genesis 2:21-24)

Our Lord Jesus added to these words, "What God has joined together, let no one separate."

Marriage is therefore a life long union between one man and one woman. Those entering marriage should do so with the highest reverence for this holy estate, which God instituted. The wedding service and the premarital relationship of young people are to reflect such esteem for the estate of matrimony.

As with other facets of God's wonderful Creation, disobedience to God wrought havoc to marriage and has robbed many of the intended blessings such a marriage can be. People, by reason of their sinful flesh inherited from our first parents, will experience much heartache within marriage along with the joy. Indeed, a heavy cross often is even laid upon many who live godly lives in Christ Jesus. For this reason the Church Wedding directs the worshippers to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God whom the Father sent to "redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people zealous of good works." (Titus 2:14) Jesus, who reconciled us to our heavenly Father, grants peace and joy in homes where He is honored. Jesus, by whom the Father richly grants us forgiveness, empowers the couple who trusts Him to "be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you."(Ephesians 4:32)

The Church in accord with God's Word will instruct all participants in a wedding to think upon Him who is called the heavenly Bridegroom, our Lord Jesus Christ. Husbands are directed:

Love your wives as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the Word, that He may present her to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:22ff)

In the same context the wife is directed: "Submit yourselves to your own husbands as unto the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, and He is the Savior of the Body." Each couple is hereby called to give a lifelong, living illustration of Jesus' redeeming grace and the Church's response of obedience and service.

The Wedding Service then should be one of many worship services in which the two standing before God's altar have their thoughts turned to their Creator and to their Savior, for in Him alone will they have the power to love and forgive. Who alone will sustain them when the burdens of life become difficult. It is therefore proper that wedding preparations begin with a prayer and determination that the wedding and subsequent marriage honor God in everything.

## COUPLES LIVING TOGETHER:

An increasing number of men and women are living together in a conjugal relationship without marriage license, without wedding, and without the consent of their parents.

The church and its Pastor desire God's richest blessings upon all who enter the marriage relationship. However, they know God cannot bless those who live in manifestly impenitent sins. They are faced with the difficult question of how to deal with couples living together in a conjugal relationship and then wanting a wedding in the church. The concern is not only for the couple, but also for the whole church.

Several sins are involved:

- 1) Entering the sexual relationship without the public commitment of marriage is fornication. And breaks the Sixth Commandment.
- 2) This practice is a sin against the fourth commandment.
  - a. It dishonors parents.
  - b. It disregards the order set forth by the State, which requires a marriage license, and therefore goes against the Christ's testimony and Romans 13.
- 3) This practice is a public offense to the church and to all other acquaintances. By offense the Bible means "stumbling block" or "death trap." Others will be led to stumble and fall into sexual sins and possible be led away from Christ by such behavior. In the first letter to the Corinthians the warning is given, "Know ye not that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?" (1 Cor. 5:6)

That this practice is wrong before God is affirmed by the fact that eighty percent (80%) of marriages so begun end in divorce.

Therefore, for the good of the couple involved and to avoid offense to the church and the world: No ceremony can be performed by the Pastor where there is *no indication of repentance*, either verbally stated or in practice. One cannot ask God's blessing on those who come under His judgment.

If the couple in repentance agrees to separate for the time up to the marriage, and if they make due apology to parents and others to whom offense has been given (those who know about the situation), then a wedding may be held in the church.

Should the couple choose to continue to live together, viewing their relationship as Common-Law marriage (recognizing that the State of Michigan DOES NOT recognize this situation), the church may provide a ceremony of "Marriage Affirmation." Such a ceremony will follow if the couple has repented of the sin against their parents and of the offense they have given to friends and acquaintances and fellow church members. The Pastor must be given the permission to announce in the ceremony that the couple recognizes that they did not enter into this marriage according to God's plan and on behalf of the couple make public apology to their parents and to all who have been offended and hereby seek their forgiveness. At that point the Pastor will pronounce the forgiveness of God through the redeeming merits and atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(With the above understanding the couple may prefer, in humble repentance, to have a small wedding. A large wedding is appropriate if it is thought of as a celebration of God's forgiveness and how He may bless us despite our sinfulness. A large wedding is inappropriate if it implies a celebration of coming together in marriage. Such a celebration is deceptive and therefore offers no joy to anyone. The Church always celebrates

the joy of forgiveness, for this is her greatest joy.)

## **COUPLES EXPECTING A CHILD:**

The church recognizes the weakness of the sinful flesh and for this reason encourages parents and other authorities to help young people restrain themselves from sexual relations outside of marriage. The Bible calls such sexual relations fornication. This practice is not only a sin against God, but is detrimental to marriage. This is true whether the couple succeeds in preventing conception or not. However, when a child is conceived as a result of fornication, the young parents are encouraged to turn to the church for guidance and council. They will be tempted to cover their sin by aborting their unborn baby. **KILLING THE UNBORN IS MURDER**; it is "shedding innocent blood" (Jeremiah 2:34). The Pastor can help the couple understand God's Word, which says, "Whosoever covers his sins shall not prosper, but whosoever confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13). The Pastor will present three options: The mother as a single parent, adoption, or marriage. Marriage is the better option when circumstances will allow, especially in view of the Old Testament Directive in Deuteronomy 22:28-9.

Should the couple in consultation with parents and Pastor desire to proceed with marriage, they must in the spirit of repentance seek the forgiveness of God and of their parents whom they dishonored, and remove offense by confessing their sin and seeking forgiveness from those who know and love them. Since unconfessed sin festers and arises as a barrier to intimate sharing in marriage, they must also openly confess their sin against each other and forgive each other. In this way the marriage can go on with God's blessing and the blessing of parents and loved ones.

**INTRODUCTION TO A MARRIAGE AFFIRMATION SERVICE  
FOR THOSE  
COUPLES ALREADY LIVING TOGETHER**

\*(1) We are gathered here in the sight of God and His church to affirm the marriage of this man and this woman who seek the blessings of both God and of His Church upon their home. 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.

As the Church is only blessed through the forgiveness of its Savior, this couple standing before God's altar \*(2) recognizes their need for that forgiveness. They confess that they did not enter into marriage with reverence to God, and in honor of their parents, \*(3) and in obedience to the law of the State. They now in humility seek God's forgiveness and the forgiveness of all whom they have offended. As they have expressed to me personally this desire to be forgiven, I as a called and ordained servant of Christ declare to them our Savior's richest blessing of forgiveness, and I in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, on the behalf of Christian friends and loved ones who have been offended also, forgive them.

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, not because anyone deserves this kindness, but for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**\* FOR THOSE COUPLES EXPECTING A CHILD:**

- (1) The first sentence may be as in the **Lutheran Worship Agenda**.
- (2) "Expecting a child"
- (3) Omit to end of sentence.

## THE WEDDING SERVICE FROM THE LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK

### INTRODUCTION:

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 inadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

### THE PARENTS BLESSING (A suggested order)

Pastor: Will the parents of this couple standing before God's altar arise. "Honor your father and mother that it may be well with you." This is the first meaningful command that children learn. Since God has provided parent to care for them and guide them, He expects children to honor them in the person that they marry. I therefore ask you, the parents of \_\_\_\_\_ (this couple), to publicly and joyfully give your consent to this marriage:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parents of the groom): You have loved, nurtured, sheltered, comforted, and led \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the groom) in the way of the Lord. Do you now willingly and joyfully give him to be the husband of \_\_\_\_\_ and will you love them and support them in their marriage from this day forward? Then declare so before God and this assembled congregation by saying: "We do promise!"

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parents of the bride): You have loved, nurtured, sheltered, comforted, and led \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of the bride) in the way of the Lord. Do you willingly and joyfully give her to be the wife of \_\_\_\_\_ and will you love them and support them in their marriage from this day forward? Then declare so before God and this assembled congregation by saying: "We do promise!"

Then may follow: **SCRIPTURE READINGS, HYMNS, PRAYERS, SERMON**

### THE VOWS

The Pastor asks the groom:

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wife, to live with her in holy marriage according to the Word of God? Will you love her, comfort her, honor her, and keep her in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be husband to her as long as you both shall live? **I will!**

The Pastor asks the bride:

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your husband, to live with him in holy marriage according to the Word of God? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him, obey him, and keep him in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be wife to him as long as you both shall live? **I will!**

The bridegroom, taking the right hand of the bride and facing her, says after the Pastor:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, 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 us do part, and I pledge you my faithfulness.

The bride, in the same way, says after the Pastor:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, 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 us do part, and I pledge you my faithfulness.

The Service concludes with:

**THE EXCHANGE OF RINGS,**

**BLESSINGS,**

**PRAYERS**

**BENEDICTION.**

## FOR THOSE WHO WANT A CHURCH WEDDING

- 1) Each couple desiring to be married must meet with the Pastor before he consents to perform the marriage.
- 2) These contingencies are placed on performing the wedding:
  - a) If neither the man nor the woman are members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church they must attend the Pastor's membership class as a prerequisite for a wedding conducted by the Pastor. They will also be expected to attend Sunday worship service during this time.
  - b) The wedding for members and non-member Lutherans shall be preceded by three months of faithful attendance at the Sunday morning worship services. The man and woman thereby manifest their need for spiritual guidance and nurture, which they will have throughout their life.
  - c) If in the first meeting it is learned that the couple is living together, no commitment will be made for a wedding date unless the couple recognizes their sin and repents. At this point three options shall be offered them in their indication of repentance:
    - 1) They separate until the time of the wedding, which must be a minimum of two weeks.
    - 2) They consent to referring to the ceremony as an "Affirmation of Common-Law Marriage"
    - 3) Allowing the ceremony to include confession of sins to parents, church, and others who have been offended by these sins.

If neither of the above are acceptable the wedding plans can go no further at St. Mark's.

- d) If in this first meeting the couple confesses that the bride is expecting a baby, the couple must 1) recognize the sin of dishonoring their parents by engaging in sexual relations and 2) recognize the offense that has been given to brothers and sisters and other people who know and love them (the offense being that others will be led to think lightly of the sin of fornication) and 3) consent to confessing this sin to those who have been offended and seek their forgiveness.
- e) There must be a willingness to participate in four one-hour sessions (more if needed) with the Pastor.
- f) One of these sessions shall include the parents, if this is possible, two months prior to the desired wedding date.

## REMEMBER THESE IMPORTANT POLICIES IN PLANNING THE WEDDING

Since the Church Wedding as described in the introduction must honor the Triune God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, plans for the wedding will observe the following policies:

- 1) Music must be chosen with the consent of the organist or otherwise be approved by the Pastor. The church organist has been given the right to approve or reject music deemed inappropriate in the Pastors stead. If any questions arise in this process, please see Pastor. His decision on the appropriateness of the music shall be final.
- 2) Flowers and other decorations must not be in front of the altar.
- 3) Receptions, if held on premises, must be arranged with the Kitchen Krew concerning use of plates, glasses, and etc.. All clean-up for receptions held at church is the responsibility of the wedding party, and must be completed by the end of the evening. No alcohol is to be served or brought on the premises.
- 4) No flash pictures are to be taken during the ceremony, nor is video equipment allowed in the chancel. Please inform your friends and relatives of this policy.
- 5) The professional photographer may take flash pictures from the back section of the church as the wedding party enters and leaves the nave. No flash pictures are to be taken during the ceremony. During the ceremony, pictures and videos may be taken from the rear.

The photographer may feel free to take any desired pictures prior to the ceremony. Please try to complete the taking of these pictures at least fifteen minutes before the wedding begins. All other pictures of the wedding ceremony are to be taken after the ceremony. If the Pastor is to be included in these pictures, please involve him at the beginning of the picture taking session.

- 6) No seed shall be thrown within the building. Birdseed is recommended due to problems associated with rice.
- 7) All wedding attire must be modest.
- 8) Should lewd slogans, signs, etc., be found on cars or in the church building the wedding will be delayed until such are removed. Please advise friends.
- 9) The Pastor is responsible for the wedding service. If the couple should wish to arrange the order of worship, they will do so under the advisement of the Pastor.
- 10) The Pastor is responsible for the rehearsal and will work closely with the desires of the bride. The rehearsal is usually scheduled the day before the wedding.
- 11) The tradition of the nuptial kiss shall be discreet lest it detract from the worship service.
- 12) If any other organist is preferred, he or she must be aware of the church's policy with regard to music and

meet with our organist before the rehearsal.

- 13) The color of the paraments shall not be changed for the wedding but the color shall be that which the church year dictates.
- 14) The entire marriage rite is designed to lead you to give all glory to God and seek His blessing. All preparations and actions must work toward that end.

### **CHECKLISTS FOR PLANNING THE WEDDING FLOWERS**

- 1) Neither the florist nor a wedding consultant, if one is engaged, plays any part in the directing of the rehearsal or wedding.
- 2) Corsages and boutonnieres may be placed in the secretary's office.
- 3) The church does not provide a center aisle runner. You may obtain one from your florist.
- 4) No arch or any other structure shall be placed in front of the altar.
- 5) Church decorating is to be done on the day of the wedding (this may be changed by consulting with the Pastor), but never during the hour preceding the wedding. Decorations are not to be attached with tacks, nails, etc.
- 6) Floral piece(s) may be placed on the altar.
- 7) Following the wedding there is to be no activity (removal of decorations, flowers, aisle runner, etc.) until the nave is empty.
- 8) See that flower stands, runner, etc., are removed from the church.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

- 1) Flash pictures, by the professional photographer only, are permitted as the wedding party enters and leaves the nave -- NEVER during the ceremony.
- 2) Time exposures only by the professional photographer are permitted during the ceremony.
- 3) Pictures after the ceremony are permitted. The Pastor is to be informed of any pictures, which involve him, and these are to be taken first.
- 4) Excessive informality is to be avoided, and the photographer is to see that individual members of the wedding party remain outside the chancel area except when they are involved in a picture.
- 5) A video may be taken from the rear if it can be done without distraction.

## MUSIC

Since the marriage ceremony is a service of worship, the music used throughout the wedding shall direct the congregation's thoughts to the Triune God. This quite naturally eliminates a great deal of "popular" music and such songs as "I Love You Truly," "Because," "O Promise Me." There is, however, an abundance of appropriate organ and vocal music available. The church organist will be happy to help you select acceptable religious music for your wedding. Please call her no later than three weeks before the wedding. If you do not do so, she will choose appropriate music.

Music must be chosen with the consent of the organist or otherwise be approved by the Pastor. The church organist has been given the right to approve or reject music deemed inappropriate in the Pastor's stead. If any questions arise in this process, please see Pastor. His decision on the appropriateness of the music shall be final.

### Congregational Singing from The Lutheran Service Book

These hymns are well fitted to Marriage Ceremony's:

#822	Hallelujah! Let Praises Ring!
#947	All Glory Be To God On High
#497	Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord
#902	Lord Jesus Christ Be Present Now
#913	O Holy Spirit Enter In
#733	O God, Our Help In Ages Past
#862	Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall
#918	Guide Me, O Great Redeemer
#687	Thine Forever, God of Love
#685	Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus
#649	Blest Be the Tie That Binds
#790	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

## EXPENSES

- 1) The church and parish hall rental is \$100.
- 2) The AGO (American Guild of Organists) recommends the fee for the organist is: \$125
- 3) The Audio-Visual Tech fee is \$50
- 4) The honorarium for the Pastor is the responsibility of the groom, \$125 for Members, \$225 for non-members is suggested.

All fees and Honorarium be given to the Pastor the night of the rehearsal

\* Please note: these fees may be waived in cases of need upon consultation with Pastor.

## **THE REHEARSAL**

- 1) The rehearsal is to begin promptly at the designated time.
- 2) Those present will naturally conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with the setting. Attendants and ushers should be chosen carefully.
- 3) Attire may be informal, but in good taste.
- 4) Plan the rehearsal dinner as a get acquainted time for the wedding party.
- 5) The "Usual" rehearsal time length is 1 hour AFTER the arrival of all those involved.

## **THE WEDDING**

### **I. PROCESSIONAL**

- A. The processional begins after the bride's mother is seated and the aisle runner (if one is used) is pulled.
- B. Walk naturally and slowly. The "hesitation step" is not natural.

### **II. RECESSIONAL**

- A. The bridal party proceeds to the narthex at a natural pace (not too slowly).
- B. Selected ushers return at once to escort only the immediate members of the bride and groom's families from the nave, beginning with the bride's parents.
- C. The bridal party returns to the front of the church as quickly as possible for pictures.

## **USHERS**

- 1) All ushers should be ready to seat guests thirty minutes prior to the wedding.
- 2) The ushers or a designated acolyte will be responsible for the lighting of the candles, if applicable.
- 3) It is good church custom for the usher to precede those being ushered rather than to have the lady take his arm.
- 4) It is not necessary to ask those entering if they are "friends of the bride" or "friends of the groom." Places are designated for the immediate members of the families involved. For the rest there is no special "side."
- 5) If the ushers know of those who might be inclined to use flash cameras during the ceremony, such individuals are to be asked to leave their equipment in the narthex. Opportunity will be given them later to take appropriate pictures.
- 6) Following the recessional, selected ushers are to return at once to escort the parents and grandparents from the nave beginning with the bride's family.
- 7) All ushers are to be available after the wedding for pictures.

## CHECKLIST FOR THE BRIDE AND GROOM

- 1) WEDDING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
REHEARSAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
TIME: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ORGANIST: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) SOLOIST(S): \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) HAS ALL MUSIC TO BE USED IN THE SERVICE, INCLUDING SOLO'S, BEEN APPROVED BY THE ORGANIST AND/OR PASTOR? \_\_\_ YES; \_\_\_ NO
- 5) FLORIST: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) PHOTOGRAPHER: \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) The marriage license must be presented to the Pastor BEFORE the ceremony, in the Pastor's office.  
**THE WEDDING CANNOT TAKE PLACE WITHOUT THIS BEING DONE!**
- 8) HOW MANY IN CHANCEL? \_\_\_\_\_  
WOMEN: \_\_\_\_\_  
MEN: \_\_\_\_\_  
FLOWER GIRL: \_\_\_\_\_  
RING BEARER: \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) How many rings? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Father and mother of the bride present? \_\_\_\_\_  
Same Name? \_\_\_\_\_ If not: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Father and mother of the groom present? \_\_\_\_\_  
Same Name? \_\_\_\_\_ If not: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11) Do you wish to have the parents involved in the ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) Receiving line in the narthex? \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) Aisle Runner? \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) Are the wedding flowers to remain in the church for Sunday? \_\_\_\_\_

- 15) When is the church to be open? \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) Will there be a Rehearsal Dinner? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where? \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) Do you wish the prayers on the Sunday prior to the wedding, Announcement, and/or invitation to be put in the bulletin? \_\_\_\_\_
- 20) The Pastor, if an invitation is received will attend the reception if time permits.
- 21) Reception in church basement? \_\_\_\_\_  
Have you contacted the Trustees if yes? \_\_\_\_\_
- 22) Bride's Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_
- 23) Groom's Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_
- 24) Your new address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 25) Do you wish a worship folder to be printed for the wedding? \_\_\_\_\_  
(These may be obtained through a local Christian Bookstore, ORDER in Advance! These are not always "in-stock" items.)

## **A SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR A WEDDING**

PRELUDE MUSIC (as long as 15 to 20 minutes before the wedding)

LIGHTING OF UNITY CANDLE (supplied by couple if desired)

PROCESSIONAL MUSIC

INVOCATION

PSALMODY (Psalm 67, 117, 127, 128 or some other Psalm read responsively)

HYMN OF PRAISE (from THE LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK, 901-916, etc.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING (Gen. 1:26-31: OR 2:18-24)

THE EPISTLE READING (Eph. 5:21-33 OR 1 Cor. 12:31b-13:13)

THE GOSPEL READING (Matt. 19:4-6 OR Mark 10:6-9:13-16)

THE PARENTS' BLESSING (*This is not common*)

MESSAGE

EXCHANGING OF VOWS

EXCHANGING OF RINGS

PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

PRAYERS

BLESSING