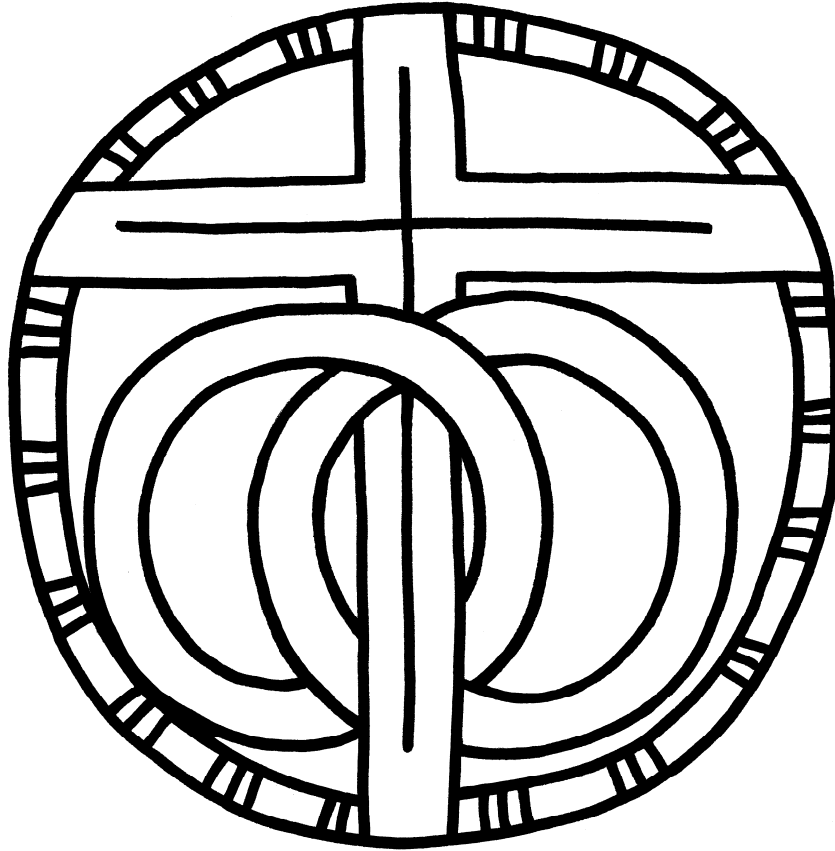


Marriage in the Christian Church



A Workbook for Couples Preparing for Marriage in the Christian Church

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Introduction: Marriage and Weddings

Christian marriage is a wonderful and holy gift of God. In marriage we are reminded of, and begin to live out, what is one of the greatest truths we confess: we are made to live in communion with God, with each other, and with all of creation.

Often couples spend a lot of time planning the details of the wedding service. This is a good thing because it is appropriate we give much time and thought to the worship of God. It is important to remember that a wedding service is first and foremost an act of worship.

However, during this time of preparation it is also important that you as a couple devote a considerable amount of time for planning your *marriage*. It is my hope that this workbook will assist you in planning for both your wedding *and* your marriage.

It is my expectation that both of you will read through this entire booklet and complete the necessary sections before our time together. I also expect you to commit to reading at least one book on Christian marriage together during your engagement/courtship time. (A list of suggestions is toward the back of this workbook.) By the end of our time together you will also have a chance to identify marriage mentors and marriage counselors who can assist you on the journey of marriage.

In most cases, we will meet together two or three times before your wedding date. The topics of conversation are included in this workbook. **For each session it is my expectation that you will completed the enclosed Bible studies and discussions together as a couple prior to meeting with me**, since much of our discussion will presume you have done this work. The biblical texts that will form the basis of your preparation and our time together are ones the church has traditionally treasured as giving special insight into the covenant of marriage.

Before the first session, you will complete Bible Study #1 and the worksheet in this booklet on planning the wedding service.

Session 1: During our first time together, we will look at marriage through the lens of the book of Genesis and discover God's intentions for marriage. Plan on 1 ½ hours for our time together. In addition to discussion the goals of marriage, I will ask you specifically about your wedding plans, why you want to marry your fiancé/e and about your present relationship. We will also walk through the wedding service in detail.

Between the first and second session, you will take a pre-marriage inventory online at a cost of \$30. You will also be asked to prepare for the second session (Bible Study #2), listen to some sermons on forgiveness and write out some stories from your families of origin.

Session 2: During our second session (about 1 ½ hours) our focus will be on the Letter to the Ephesians and the posture of marriage: mutual submission to one another in love. As part of this, we will also spend some time discussing confession and practices of forgiveness. We will

spent some time going over the results of your pre-marriage inventory and discussing the ways in which we are shaped by our families of origin.

Between our second and third sessions, you will complete Bible Study #3 and will be prepared to discuss how you will celebrate your marriage: honeymoon, anniversaries, and daily/weekly.

Session 3: During our last session (45 minutes - 1 hour), we will discuss the wedding service in more detail and your continuing plans for faithfulness and vitality and marriage, including your plans for selecting marriage mentors and your plans for celebrating your marriage (honeymoon and anniversaries, etc.).

May the prayers of the Church sustain you as you prepare for a lifetime of faithfulness together and may the Peace of Jesus Christ be with You!

Pastor Matthew D. Musteric

Revised 2/26/10

PRE-MARRIAGE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PASTOR

First Session The Goals of Christian Marriage Genesis 2:18-24

Before the first session, you will complete Bible Study #1 and the worksheet pages in this booklet on planning the wedding service.

Session 1: During our first time together, we will look at marriage through the lens of the book of Genesis and discover God's intentions for marriage. Plan on 1 ½ hours for our time together. In addition to discussion the goals of marriage, I will ask you specifically about your wedding plans, why you want to marry your fiancé/e and about your present relationship. We will also walk through the wedding service in detail.

Before We Meet

- Complete "Planning the Wedding Worship Service Worksheet" in this booklet.
- Pray for each other and for your marriage.
- In your Bible, read Genesis 2:18-24 and complete the Bible Study questions below.
- Select one book that you will read during your engagement/courtship.
- Begin thinking about a couple or couples you might identify as "marriage mentors."
- Be prepared to discuss: Why are you marrying your fiancé/fiancée? What are your wedding plans?

Bible Study: Genesis 2:18-24

In many ways, these verses form the foundation of Christian marriage. We learn right away that we are created for communion with God and with each other. In the New Testament, when pressed on the question of divorce, Jesus directs his hearers back to these verses, to God's original intentions from the start: marriage as a gift of God to be lived out in lifelong faithfulness.

Read Genesis 2:18-24. What comforted you? Surprised you? Challenges you?

What does it mean to become "one flesh"? Why do you think God designed sexual intimacy to be enjoyed in the context of marriage?

This story appears very early in the Bible. What does that say about the importance God places on marriage within the larger picture of creation?

The theme of marriage is an important one throughout the Bible. Find three other stories of marriages/weddings in Scripture and record them here.

During the First Session

- Discuss the Bible study you completed.
- Pastor's discussion of the three goals of marriage.
- Discuss the basic shape of the wedding service.
- Discuss why you are marrying each other.
- Discuss the wedding worship services worksheet.

The Three "Ends" (Goals) of Christian Marriage



1. The Procreative Goal (Children): How will you live this out in your marriage? What are your plans for children?

Symbol: *Wheat and Wine*

What does it mean to be open to children? What does it mean to raise up children for God's kingdom?

2. The Unitive End/Goal (Fidelity): How will you "build hedges" and practice proactive fidelity in your marriage? How will you "fireproof" your marriage?

Symbol: *Rings*

*What does it mean to make promises of fidelity? To wear a symbol of **each other's** promises on our finger? What are ways to practice "Lead us not into temptation"?*

3. The Sacramental End/Goal (Holiness and Witness): How will you cultivate your marriage as a witness to others? What does it mean that your marriage is "public" and not just about you?

Symbol: *Cross*

What does it mean to say, "When you marry someone, you marry his/her family?" How will you cultivate friendships that are supportive of your marriage? Who do you know that has an exemplary marriage?

Second Session
Marriage Posture: Mutual Submission
Marriage Practice: Confession and Forgiveness
Families of Origin
Ephesians 5:20-33

Between the first and second session, you will take a pre-marriage inventory online at a cost of \$30. You will also be asked to prepare for the second session (Bible Study #2), listen to some sermons on forgiveness and write out some stories from your families of origin.

Session 2: During our second session (about 1 ½ hours) our focus will be on the Letter to the Ephesians and the posture of marriage: mutual submission to one another in love. As part of this, we will also spend some time discussing confession and practices of forgiveness. We will spent some time going over the results of your pre-marriage inventory and discussing the ways in which we are shaped by our families of origin.

Before We Meet

- Complete the Pre-Marriage inventory well in advance of this second session.
- Write out two “families of origin” stories each: one story of a positive experience and one of a negative experience. What do these stories tell you about the families in which you were raised?
- Begin reading a book together (or listen to an audio book).
- Complete the Bible study on Ephesians.
- Listen to the three sermons on forgiveness (MP3 CD).

Bible Study: Ephesians 5:20-33

Marriage is difficult work. In this Letter to the Ephesians we are invited to consider the proper marriage posture: mutual submission to one another in love. Many people find some of the language on this text offensive. It is important to pay attention to the whole theme as we discover the richness of this invitation.

Read Ephesians 5:20-33. What comforted you? Surprised you? Challenges you?

Women: What is your reaction to verses 22-24? How does this verse read differently in light of verse 21?

Men: What is your reaction to verses 25-30? How will you sacrificially love your wife?

What does it mean to be subject to one another in love? What does this look like in your relationship now? What will it look like in your marriage?

Have you discussed the roles you will play in your marriage? What roles did your parents play in their marriage? How would you like your marriage to be the same? Different?

During the Second Session

- Discuss Pre-Marriage inventory.
- Discuss families of origin stories (homework).
- Discuss forgiveness sermons and how you do and will practice forgiveness in your marriage.

Prayer , Forgiveness and Mutual Submission

Regular Prayer

Begin a time of regular prayer together and for one another (ideally: daily). You may need to set aside a regular time for prayer. What does regular prayer look like for you? How will you pray together?

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Forgiveness takes one. Reconciliation takes two. What does this mean? What are you doing to “bring honor to conflict” (see Anderson’s *Seven Spiritual Practices of Marriage* book) and to truly practice forgiveness and reconciliation in your relationship together? What did you learn from the sermon series (MP3 CDs) on forgiveness?

Mutual Submission

What does “mutually submitting to one another in love” look like for you? How will you practice this in your life together?

Families of Origin: Powerful Indicators—*But Not the Last Word!*

Families of Origin

Discuss: “When you marry someone, you marry his/her family.” Share a positive and negative story from your family of origin.

Touchy Subjects

Sex: Did your family talk about it? How? Is there a family history of abuse?

Money:* Did your family talk about it? How was money regarded? What did you learn about money? Are you a spender or a saver?

**I strongly recommend taking Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University class during your time of courtship. Check online for a class near you: <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/home/>*

Parenting: How were children regarded in your family? What did you parents do well with regard to discipline? What would you do differently?

Third Session
Marriage as Sabbath Keeping
Marriage as a Foretaste of the Feast to Come
John 2:1-11

Between our second and third sessions, you will complete Bible Study #3 and will be prepared to discuss how you will celebrate your marriage: honeymoon, anniversaries, and daily/weekly.

Session 3: During our last session (45 minutes - 1 hour), we will discuss the wedding service in more detail and your continuing plans for faithfulness and vitality and marriage, including your plans for selecting marriage mentors and your plans for celebrating your marriage (honeymoon and anniversaries, etc.).

Before We Meet

- If it is not a secret to one of you, discuss your honeymoon plans. Even if the specifics are being planned as a surprise, discuss your hopes for your honeymoon.
- Discuss your anniversary plans. How will you celebrate your first anniversary? Where? With whom? How about your 50th?
- Discuss how you will regularly celebrate your marriage: weekly, daily, etc. What about when you have children—how will you make times for “time apart” (dates, etc.)?

Bible Study: John 2:1-11

Marriage is God’s gifts and is to be celebrated. In John’s Gospel, the Wedding at Cana is the first place where Jesus performs a “sign.” This wedding banquet gives us a hint of God’s kingdom which is coming among us.

Wedding feasts were a big deal in the first century. How will you celebrate your marriage beyond your wedding day?

Jesus saves the best wine for last. Discuss what you are looking forward to about growing old together.

How will you make room for Jesus in your marriage? What are your specific plans for participation in the regular worship of the Church? In prayer? In Scripture reading? In loving service to others?

During the Third Session

- Discuss plans for celebrating your marriage: honeymoon, anniversaries, weekly/daily.
- Who are your marriage mentors? (names and phone numbers)
- What counselors have you found? (names and phone numbers)
- Confirm rehearsal and wedding service details with the pastor.

Miscellaneous Details Between the Third Session and the Wedding

- Prepare wedding bulletin, including Scripture readings, etc.
- Check with pastor for hymn / music selection.
- Think about how you want the wedding party to process and stand during the service.

Beyond the Wedding Day: Building a Marriage, the First Year

What follows is by no means an exhaustive list, but here are some things you may want to consider giving some attention to during your first year of marriage.

Honeymoon: How can your celebration of marriage during your honeymoon be an example for a regular (at least monthly) celebration of your marriage and each other? How will you “honeymoon” or “take Sabbath time” during your many years together? How will you “cherish each other” in the celebration of your honeymoon? How will you make your honeymoon last forever?

Marriage Mentors: It is important to find a couple (before you are married) to serve as mentors and role models as you begin your married life together. Who do you know that has a faithful marriage? How might they help you as a couple as you grow in your own marriage covenant? It is best not to choose someone too close in your family of origin.

Counseling or Enrichment: You have probably spent hundreds if not thousands on the wedding. How much money will you spend on your marriage? There are many retreats, resources—even continued counseling—to help you grow in your marriage together. Make time to at least keep a list of marriage counselors’ names and phone numbers handy so that when you hit rocky spots, you have a guide to help you through them.

Below is a list of resources that you may find helpful:

Ambassadors of Reconciliation: <http://www.hisaor.org/>

Chapman, Gary. *The Five Love Languages*. Moody, 1996. 208 pp. ISBN 1881273156. \$14

Cloud, Henry. *Boundaries in Marriage*. Zondervan, 2002. 256 pp. ISBN 0310243149. \$13

Dawn, Marva. *Sexual Character*. Eerdmans, 1993. 186 pp. ISBN 0802807003. \$14

Luther, Donald J. *Preparing for Marriage: A Guide for Christian Couples*. Augsburg Fortress, 1992. 72 pp. (workbook) ISBN 0806625694. \$9

Lutheran Engaged Encounter: <http://www.lutheranengagedencounter.org/index.html>

Lutheran Marriage Encounter: <http://www.ilme.org/>
<http://www.godlovesmarriage.org/index.php>

Pfatteicher, Philip H. *In Love and Faithfulness: Planning for Marriage According the Rite of the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Parish Life Press, 1982. 32 pp. ISBN 0806609974. \$6

Smalley, Gary. *The Two Sides of Love*. Focus on the Family Publishing, 1999. 208 pp. ISBN 1561790710. \$13

Thomas, Gary. *Sacred Marriage*. Zondervan, 2002. 288 pp. ISBN 0310242827. \$13

Wangerin, Walter. *As for Me and My House: Crafting Your Marriage to Last*. Nelson, 2001. 288 pp. ISBN 0785266712. \$14

Wangerin, Walter and Ruthanne. *A Prayerbook for Husbands and Wives: Partners in Prayer*. Augsburg Fortress, 2000. 107 pp. ISBN 0806640626. \$12

Celebrating Your First Anniversary

Plan a time, near your first anniversary, to have an honest discussion of how your marriage is going and where you might need some help. Read *The Seven Spiritual Practices of Marriage* by Kevin Anderson (Our women's group gives these to couples as a first anniversary gift.) and make plans to build an extraordinary marriage.

Make some time right now to jot down some of your hopes for your first year of marriage *and* some of your fears. Look at this list on your first anniversary and pray about these hopes and fears together.

Bride		Groom	
Hopes	Fears	Hopes	Fears

How will you celebrate your first anniversary? Add specific details.

Near your one-year wedding anniversary, plan some time to discuss these questions together:

Good. What is the "good news" of your marriage so far? What is the best part about being married to your husband/wife?

How do you celebrate your joys together?

How do you laugh together? At/with each other?

Difficult. What has been hard? What is the toughest or most unexpected challenge of being married to your husband/wife?

How do you talk about things that you disagree on?

How do you forgive each other?

Surprises. How have you been surprised by your new spouse?

What are the biggest good surprises?

What have been the most difficult surprises?

Resources. What resources (people, friends, counselors, books) do you have to draw on when things are not going so well (not necessarily in trouble yet)?

Family of Origin. Is there any "family of origin" stuff you would like to discuss? Funny stories? Increasing or decreasing difficulties?

Prayer. Pray for your marriage and that God's will may be done in your life together.

Planning the Wedding Worship Service: Worksheet

Below are some of the options for the wedding worship service. Please take some time to discuss your answers before meeting with the pastor the first time. Feel free to write in this workbook. Also, please bring any questions you have. I have found that this much easier to discuss questions about the service itself well in advance of the wedding.

1. Will your wedding include a celebration of Holy Communion? Yes / No

It is very appropriate to celebrate Holy Communion at a wedding. If you choose to celebrate Holy Communion, the pastor will preside, but you as the bride and groom may distribute the gifts of bread and wine to all who are gathered.

If Holy Communion is celebrated, all Baptized Christians will be invited to take part. The following instructions will be given to all present, either in the bulletin or verbally by the pastor:

Welcome to the Meal of the Baptized! Lutherans believe that Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. With this understanding, baptized Christians who usually commune in other Christian congregations are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table. Those who are not yet communing may come forward for a blessing from the pastor.

2. Would you like your processional to include a Processional Cross? Yes / No

In recent times, it is popular to begin a wedding with a procession that includes the bridal party. Another alternative is to it is possible to begin this procession with the Cross.

The Cross is a central symbol of the Christian faith. At the heart of our faith is the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is very appropriate to begin the procession into the sanctuary with a cross.

If a cross is used, the cross comes first in the processional at the beginning of the service and also comes first in the processional out of the sanctuary at the end of the service. The pastor will explain this in more detail and discuss options for how the bridesmaids, groomsmen, etc. can be arranged.

3. Will a Blessing by the Parents be part of the worship service? Yes / No

There is an option for a blessing to be given by the parents as part of the wedding worship service. This blessing follows the exchange of vows and rings, the declaration of marriage and the blessing by the pastor. Your parents may come forward and offer these (or similar) words of blessing: *May you dwell in God's presence forever; may true and constant love preserve you.*

4. Will the "Giving the Bride" be a part of the worship service? Yes / No

The “giving of the bride” is not a necessary part of the wedding worship service. However, it has survived as a tradition in some families. There are many options for this part of the service, which you may discuss with the pastor. In many cases, the bride is simply escorted down the aisle by her father or another attendant and the father places her hand into the groom’s hand at the head of the aisle.

5. Readings

Please select two or three Scripture readings. Some suggestions are given in this booklet. We use the *New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible for the reading of Scripture in worship. *Readings from sources other than Holy Scripture (poems, etc.) are generally not appropriate during the wedding worship service, but may be included as part of your reception, etc.* When in doubt, check with the pastor.

Some suggested readings are included in **boldface type** below.

Old Testament
Genesis 2:18-24

New Testament
Ephesians 5:20-33

Gospel
John 2:1-11

Who will read the lessons? Pastor / Others: _____

*All Scripture texts, vows, music (lyrics and music) must be reviewed by the Pastor **at least one month** prior to the wedding. The following are some suggestions for Scripture readings for the service. Other passages from the Bible may be appropriate. Choose two or three total.*

Suggestions for Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31: Creation of man and woman

Genesis 2:18-24: They become one flesh

Psalm 23: *The LORD is my shepherd*

Psalm 67: *May God be gracious to us and bless us*

Psalm 112: *Happy are those who fear the LORD*

Psalm 148: *Praise the LORD!*

Psalm 149: *Sing to the LORD a new song*

Psalm 150: *Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!*

Song of Songs 2:10-13: *My beloved speaks*

Song of Songs 8:6-7: *Love is strong as death*

Jeremiah 31:31-34: *I will be their God, and they shall be my people*

Isaiah 54:5-8: *For your Maker is your husband*

Hosea 2:16-23: *you will call me, “My husband”/I will take you for my wife*

New Testament

Romans 8:31-39: *If God is for us, who is against us?*

Romans 12:1-2: *Present your bodies as a living sacrifice*

1 Corinthians 6:12-20: *“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial*

1 Corinthians 13:1-13: *Love is patient, love is kind*

Ephesians 3:14-21: *That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*

Ephesians 5:20-33: *Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ*

Colossians 3:12-17: *Bear with one another*

1 Peter 3:1-9: *Wives/Husbands*

1 John 4:7-12: *Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God...*

Revelation 19:5-9: *Blessed are those invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb...*

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-10: *The Beatitudes*

Matthew 5:13-16: *You are the salt of the earth*

Matthew 7:24-29: *House on rock/sand*

Matthew 19:3-6: *What God has joined together, let no one separate*

Matthew 22:35-40: *The greatest commandment*

Mark 10:6-9: *The two shall become one flesh*

Mark 10:13-16: *Let the little children come to me*

John 2:1-11: *The wedding in Cana (water into wine)*

John 15:1-17: *I am the vine, you are the branches*

6. Vows

Choose the wedding vows you will use. Some suggestions for the form of your vows may be found below.

Vow Chosen? _____

[1] *I take you _____, 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.*

[2] *In the presence of God and this community, I _____, take you, _____, to be my wife/husband; to have 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.*

[3] *I, _____, take you, _____, for my lawful wife/husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death us do part.*

If you would like, you may write your own vows. These must be reviewed with the pastor well in advance of your wedding date.

Text for Alternate Vow:

7a. Will a Unity Candle be part of the worship service? Yes / No

7b. Will the Mothers light the individual candles before they are seated at the beginning of the service? Yes / No

The lighting of the unity candle is an *optional* portion of the service with only a very recent history in the tradition and practice of the Church. During the lighting of the candle, special music may be played or a hymn may be sung by the congregation. When the unity candle is lit, the individual candles are not extinguished afterward. (*This shows that though the "two become one," we as individuals do not "disappear" into one another.*) The congregation has a unity candle holder that you are welcome to use. Candles are provided by the couple.

8. Will an Aisle Runner be used? Yes / No

Aisle runners may be ordered through most florists and are the responsibility of the couple.

9. Aisle Candles? Yes / No # needed? (up to 12)_____

Aisle candles are available to attach to the pews during the service. Please let the pastor know in advance so arrangements may be made with the congregation's custodian. Often aisle candles are in the way for a photographer; you may want to check with your photographer before deciding to use the aisle candles.

10. How would you like to be introduced as a couple following the Benediction?

Examples:

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Smith

Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Josephine Smith

Introduction of Couple as_____

11. How many people will be in the Wedding Party? (including the bride and groom)

Number of Adults_____ Number of Children and Ages_____

12. What plans do you have for music and musicians? Have you contacted an organist?

Organist:_____ Contacted? Yes / No

Musician #1:_____ Contacted? Yes / No

Musician #2:_____ Contacted? Yes / No

All music used during the wedding worship service must have *clear Christian content*. If you are unsure if a piece is acceptable, please check with the pastor well in advance of your wedding date. *A list of all music to be played during the wedding service (including pre-service music) must be submitted to the pastor at least one month in advance of the wedding—no exceptions.* Couples must have written copyright permission to use any pre-recorded music.

It is your responsibility to make arrangements with all musicians, including the organist. Please be sure to give them a copy of the wedding music guidelines.

13. Hymns and Other Music

If someone were to ask me, “How can we make our wedding celebration the best it can be?” my first answer would be “Celebrate Holy Communion” and my second answer would be “Have the congregation sing lots of hymns!”

Hymns are an appropriate way for the whole congregation to join in the blessing and celebration of your marriage. Singing familiar hymns (or not-so-familiar hymns to familiar tunes) is a great way for the whole congregation to bless your marriage.

Hymn numbers listed below refer to the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (red) hymnal. You may borrow a copy of the hymnal to look more closely at the hymns. Simply check with the pastor during one of your pre-marriage meetings.

One place where a hymn is especially appropriate is after the sermon and before the exchange of vows. One suggestion is *The King of Love my Shepherd Is* (502).

Some suggestions for additional hymns appropriate for weddings are:

We Praise You, O God 870

Let the Whole Creation Cry 876

All People That on Earth Do Dwell 883

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty 533

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now 527

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine 398

Hear Us Now, Our God and Father 585

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling 631

If You But Trust in God to Guide You 769

O Master, Let Me Walk with You 818

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee 836

Jesus, Come! For We Invite You 312

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry 732

You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord 787

This is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited 586

Beloved, God's Chosen 648

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life 816

Now Thank We All Our God 839

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright 308

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness 488/489

Hymns or songs from other sources may be copied and used *if copyright permission is obtained in writing*. When hymns are to be sung by the congregation or guests, it is wise to choose selections that will be familiar to many.

14. Who will put together the bulletin? You / The Church

Be sure to provide a copy of the bulletin to the pastor before the final printing.

15. Do you have any other special worship plans or ideas?

This is an appropriate place to record any special plans or questions you may have.

The Wedding Liturgy

Below you will find a brief outline of the wedding service (red Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, pp. 286-291). This outline will serve as a basis of your discussion with the pastor about the meaning and purpose of marriage and the wedding worship service.

+GATHERING+

Prelude
Entrance
Greeting
[Option: Hymn]
Declaration of Intention
Prayer of the Day

+WORD+

Scripture Readings
Sermon
[Option: Hymn of the Day]

+MARRIAGE+

Exchange of Vows
Giving of Rings
Acclamation (Pronouncement of Marriage)
[Option: Crowns]
[Option: Lighting of Unity Candle]
Marriage Blessing
Prayers of Intercession

+MEAL+

[Option: Holy Communion]
[If no celebration of Holy Communion then...]
Lord's Prayer

+SENDING+

Peace
Blessing
[Option: Introduction of the Couple]
[Option: Hymn]
Dismissal
Processional
Postlude

Wedding Bulletin Contents Sample

Wedding Bulletin (inside cover: left)

Order for Worship Celebrating the Wedding of
<BRIDE> and <GROOM>
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pemberville, Ohio
<DATE>, <TIME>

Prelude Music

“Here We Are”

Processionals

“Household of Faith”

“Canon in D”

“Trumpet Voluntary”

Greeting

Declaration of Intention

Prayer of the Day

Scripture Readings

Genesis 2:18-24

Ephesians 5:21-33

John 2:1-11

Homily

Hymn of the Day

Wedding Vows

Giving of Rings

Pronouncement of Marriage

Lighting of Unity Candle

Special Music

“Wedding Song”

Blessings and Prayers

Benediction and Dismissal

Processional

“Canon in D”

Postlude

Wedding Bulletin (inside cover: right)

The Bridal Party

This listing can be as simple or as detailed as you would like.

Thank You

A thank you to family and friends is often included in the bulletin.

Reception Information and/or Directions

Bride and Groom’s New Address

Contact Log
A Record of Pastoral Contacts with the Couple

Date	Begin	End	Notes

