



*But now these three remain:
Faith, Hope and Love.
But the greatest of these is Love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13

St. John Lutheran Church
Cedar Falls, Iowa

St. John Lutheran Church
www.stjohncf.org (319) 268-0165
First Steps in Planning Your Wedding

At St. John we believe that it is important for the church to be a part of people's lives as we prepare together for your wedding. The entire congregation rejoices with you as you prepare to enter into a lifelong commitment with each other and with God.

As you **read this booklet**, it is important that you make plans to complete the following steps.

Jot down questions raised in your mind as you read the booklet.

Confirm the Date of Your Wedding

The date and time of your wedding will be reserved for you by the Executive Assistant.

For members, a wedding is not officially on the calendar until the deposit is paid and you have met face-to-face with the St. John pastor performing your wedding.

For nonmembers, the total amount is due in order to place your wedding on the calendar. Inform the Executive Assistant of the name and contact info of the pastor you are planning on doing your wedding. A pastor of St. John will then issue an invitation to come to perform your ceremony. (See the Partner Ministry section of this booklet for additional details.) This must occur prior to your wedding being considered "confirmed" on the church calendar.

Arrange for an Initial Planning Session with the Pastor

The pastor will consult with you to help you prepare for your marriage together and plan your wedding. This is to begin as early as possible after scheduling your wedding.

For members: The pastor of St. John will officiate at your wedding. If it is your intention to include a clergy-person from outside the congregation in your wedding, you should first consult directly with a Pastor of St. John about such arrangements.

Contact your Wedding Consultant to arrange an initial meeting

All weddings celebrated at St. John require the service of one of our wedding consultants. A letter from the church office will provide contact information for your consultant and it is your responsibility to contact the consultant to set up the initial meeting. Please do so as early as possible and at least 3 months prior to your wedding.

At the rehearsal, SJLC Staff will:

- Organize the procession and arrangement of the wedding party
- Coordinate the seating of honored guests and parents
- Inform the ushers of their specific duties
- Lead a tour of the facility if the wedding party or family is not familiar with the church
- Walk through the entire service with the entire wedding party, musicians, and speakers

On the Wedding Day, SJLC Staff will assist with the following:

- Greet and direct the wedding party
- Direct the processional
- Preside over the service at all member weddings

Please note: Any outside wedding consultants employed for the wedding will have no responsibilities at the church during the rehearsal or wedding ceremony.

Begin Pre-Marital Counseling

All couples being married by a St. John Pastor are required to participate in pre-marital counseling sessions. These are designed to help you learn about yourself, your partner, and your relationship as you prepare for married life together. The church secretary will provide you with the name and number of the person who will do your premarital counseling after you take the Prepare Inventory. *Please complete your premarital counseling as soon as possible.*

Arrange for an Initial Planning Session with your Musician

You are responsible for finding, contacting and selecting musicians for your wedding. The musician for your wedding can be a musician of the congregation or someone who has been approved by the St. John Director of Worship & Music (can be contacted through the church office). It is your responsibility to consult with the Director of Worship & Music at least two months prior to the wedding to have your music selections approved.

Please note that any fees charged by your musicians is not included in your charge from the church and should be paid directly to the musicians. It is very important to reserve the services of all musicians as early as possible because of their busy schedules.

Before you make arrangements with singers or instrumentalists who will participate in your wedding, please read the section **Selecting Music**, and discuss your plans with the Director of Worship & Music.

Secure a Wedding License

Iowa law requires couples to secure a license to marry. You may apply for a license at the office of any County Clerk of Court in the state. You must apply a minimum of three (3) working days before the wedding, though we recommend you apply earlier. Normally the two of you must be present to apply, along with your driver's license and a witness (who must be 18) to verify your ages (legal age for marriage being 18).

If there are extenuating circumstances and applicants are unable to come into a County Clerk of Court office in person, the application can be printed off the website and completed and signed before a notary public. It can then be mailed to a County Clerk of Court office along with a copy of everyone's ID and the fee. The license can then be picked up after the 3 day waiting period. They will not mail the license -- it must be picked up by one of the marrying parties.

A fee will be charged.

If at all possible, the marriage license should be brought to the church office no later than the Monday two weeks prior to the wedding.

The officiating pastor is responsible for proper completion of the license and returning it to the issuing officer.

FEES

FEES FOR MEMBER WEDDING

A member of St. John is someone who is currently a member of the congregation or whose parents are active members. A \$200 deposit is required for *Member Weddings*. Full payment is due two months prior to your wedding.

This fee does not include an honorarium for the pastor or any fees charged by your musicians/soloist. *Your honorarium for the pastor may be brought to the church office two weeks prior to your wedding when you bring your wedding license to the office.* \$150 is considered a reasonable honorarium for the pastor. Please pay your musicians, soloist and pastor directly.

For 2013: The fee for a member wedding in 2013 is \$700. This includes the custodial fee, wedding consultant fee, multi-media technician fee, premarital counseling fees, building usage and use of the candelabra.

A Multi-media Technician will be present for your wedding rehearsal and wedding to run the soundboard for your musicians/solist.

Fireside Chapel Weddings

For a very small, intimate wedding setting, our Fireside Chapel is available and will hold 25-30 people. Weddings in the Fireside Chapel are done without the services of one of our wedding consultants so are best suited for very small weddings.

Cost: \$250* (includes premarital counseling, custodial clean-up and building usage). Does not include the honorarium for the Pastor or any fees charged by a musician/soloist.

FEES FOR PARTNER MINISTRY WEDDINGS

A **Partner Ministry Wedding** is available to those who are not a member of St. John but wish to have their wedding at St. John Lutheran Church. Pastors and officiants who are pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) or Church bodies in “full communion” with the ELCA may perform weddings at St. John. Churches in “full communion” with the ELCA are the Moravian Church, Episcopal Church, Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church and United Methodist Church.

Members who are in good standing of a church in “full communion” and pastors in good standing in these “full communion” church bodies are able to have their wedding at St. John.

We ask and expect that those who are not members of St. John will honor the faith and traditions of this congregation in the wedding ceremony itself and in their personal conduct while using St. John’s facilities. Partner Ministry Weddings will be performed when the calendar of the congregation has openings.

For 2013: The fee for a partner ministry wedding in 2013 is \$750. This includes the custodial fee, wedding consultant fee, multi-media technician fee, building usage and use of the candelabra.

A Multi-media Technician will be present for your wedding rehearsal and wedding to run the soundboard for your musicians/solist.

Full payment is required to place a *Partner Ministry wedding* on the church calendar. Inform the Executive Assistant of the name and contact info of the pastor you are planning on doing your wedding. A pastor of St. John will then issue an invitation to your pastor to come to perform your ceremony. This must occur prior to your wedding being considered “confirmed” on the church calendar.

This fee does not include the honorarium for the pastor or any fees charged by your musicians/soloist. You are responsible to make those arrangements.

OTHER DETAILS

Conduct of Guests

As the wedding is set within the context of worship, participants and guests are expected to conduct themselves accordingly before, during and after the service. **The use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco are not permitted on the church property (building or parking lot). Persons under the influence of alcohol or other controlled substances will not be permitted to participate in the wedding.** The pastor reserves the right to halt the ceremony if a member of the wedding party or a guest is behaving in an inappropriate manner. Please share this information with your wedding party.

Out of consideration for our Sunday morning worshipers, cars may not be left in the parking lot overnight. If you anticipate that someone will not be driving from the church to the reception, please make arrangements for their vehicle to be moved out of the church parking lot.

Children must be supervised at all times while on church premises. If children will be attending the wedding rehearsal and/or ceremony, they must sit with an adult. There is to be no running around the Sanctuary, Atrium or other church spaces.

Rehearsal

Rehearsals are usually held the evening before the ceremony, and must be scheduled with the pastor and wedding consultant. All members of the wedding party (bride, groom, bridesmaids, groomsmen, flower girls, ring-bearers, ushers, and parents of the bride and groom) as well as your scripture readers, musicians and singers should be present at the time scheduled for the rehearsal. Soloists or other musicians may rehearse before or after the wedding rehearsal or may arrange some other time with the Wedding Consultant. If everyone arrives on time, the rehearsal should not take longer than sixty minutes.

Ushers

A minimum of two ushers is necessary to seat guests and family members. More ushers may be needed if you expect more than 150 guests. Groomsmen or bridesmaids may serve as ushers.

Flower Girls/Ring Bearers

The inclusion of flower girls and ring bearers is often requested. If a child is too young, they can be disruptive to the worship service and cause a great deal of anxiety for the rest of the bridal party. We request that participants in the service be no younger than five years old.

Service Folders

It is helpful, but not necessary, to have a service folder to inform guests of the order of service and the names of participants in the wedding party. The church does not provide or print service folders. Please contact a commercial printer. You should discuss the layout and content of the service folder with the wedding consultant and pastor well in advance of the printing.

Multi-Media

Weddings at St. John utilize the services of a St. John-trained multi-media technician. A Multi-Media Technician will be present for your wedding rehearsal and wedding to run the soundboard for your musicians/solist.

Please purchase or use legal copies of the music you have selected or secure appropriate permission to reprint or photocopy the music or words of any copyrighted music (copying without permission is illegal and can result in significant fines).

Decorations

An oak table is available for the guest book. The table will be placed in the atrium.

Floral decorations are not necessary, but if desired, are to be provided by you. Flowers will be placed in the appropriate vases. Wedding decorations are restricted to the sanctuary and atrium areas. If you would like to leave the flowers to be used for Sunday worship, please let the wedding coordinator know.

We do not allow the use of aisle runners (either plastic or cloth) to be used during the wedding ceremony.

The color of the paraments on the altar, pulpit and lectern are determined by the season of the church year. They are not changed for weddings. Likewise, please be aware that the baptismal fount is an important sacramental feature of our sanctuary and cannot be moved.

The eight candles on the pillars may be lit for the wedding ceremony and may be decorated. Aisle candles are discouraged because of the fire hazard and potential damage to the pews. A unity candle may be used, and must be supplied by you. A unity candle holder is available for your use. If you wish, St. John has a pair of candelabra for your use. White candles are provided and no substitutions are allowed. If you wish to use other candles than those provided, you will also need to provide your own candelabra. If using your own candelabra, a plastic underlayment to catch candle drippings is required.

Absolutely no rice, confetti, or bird seed are allowed in the church buildings or outside. We respectfully request if you desire to have these thrown at your wedding celebration, we ask that be done elsewhere. If you desire to utilize rose petals, real rose petals are preferred.

Photographs and Videos

It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to make arrangements with their photographer and/or videographer and to inform them of SJLC's guidelines and requirements. The signed Letters of Agreement for your photographer and/or videographer are due when you meet with your Wedding Consultant (or may be turned in to the church office prior to the meeting). The Letters of Agreement are included in your wedding packet.

When the photographer and/or videographer arrive at the church on the day of the wedding, the SJLC Wedding Consultant will be available to answer any questions and to review special requests. Since the wedding ceremony is a sacred event, photographers and/or videographers are asked to hold in reverence the ceremony and its location. This means that there are specific areas and places during the service that photographers / videographers are allowed and not allowed. The SJLC Wedding Consultant has the final say in that.

All policies and restrictions that apply to the photographer/videographer also apply to any friend or family member who may be planning to take wedding pictures. Guests are not allowed to walk around during the ceremony to take pictures. In order to ensure the professional pictures and video's quality, we ask that only the "official" photographer/videographer take pictures during the ceremony.

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

Sanctuary Information

The Sanctuary can comfortably seat 8 people per pew. There are 17 pews on each side. Additional seating is available in the balcony or overflow seating may be set up in the Atrium if needed. If you are having a large wedding with over 350 guests expected, please let your wedding consultant know so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Outdoor Weddings

Some couples prefer to have their wedding outdoors in our courtyard space. Please let the Executive Assistant know of your intention to have your wedding outdoors when you schedule your wedding. If a wedding is held outdoors, a sound technician is required to assist with sound needs and a separate fee is charged for this service. The Executive Assistant will supply you with contact information for the sound technician. You will pay this individual directly.

The wedding party is responsible for rental, set-up, take-down and returning of chairs used outdoors. Chairs cannot be set up until the day of the wedding and must be removed immediately following the ceremony.

The Reception

Fellowship Hall is usually available for wedding receptions. If you desire to use this space, please reserve it through the Executive Assistant at the time you reserve the sanctuary for your wedding. As you make your plans, remember that alcoholic beverages may not be served on church premises, and that smoking is prohibited within the church building.

Planning the Ceremony

When you meet with the pastor to plan your ceremony, you are expected to bring ideas about ways to personalize your wedding. What is done in the service should be appropriate to a service of worship and consistent with the Christian understanding of marriage as expressed in the Order for Marriage, pages 286-291 of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

The Order of Marriage in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* allows a variety of options, which may be discussed with the pastor conducting your wedding.

The order for marriage in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, pages 286-291, is as follows:

- Procession
- Greeting
- Declaration of Intent
- Prayer
- Hymn/Solo
- Scripture
- Sermon
- Hymn/Solo
- Vows
- Giving of Rings
- Declaration of Marriage
- Marriage Blessing
- Hymn/Solo
- Prayers/Lord's Prayer
- Benediction
- Recession

Any or all of the musical pieces are optional. Congregational singing as a portion of the ceremony and Holy Communion are options to be considered. Please discuss these items with the pastor conducting your wedding and notify your wedding consultant of your plans.

Selecting Wedding Vows

The pastor conducting your wedding will discuss the selection of wedding vows with you. There are a number of options appropriate for Christian marriage.

WEDDING VOW POSSIBILITIES

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 part us.

I take you, _____,
to be my wife/husband,
and these things I promise you:
I will be faithful to you
and honest with you
I will respect, trust,
help and care for you;
I will forgive you
as we have been forgiven; and
I will share my life with you;
through the best and worst
of all that is to come
until death parts us.

I, _____, give myself to you, _____,
By the grace of God,
I promise to support and care for you.
In the love of Christ,
I promise to love and cherish you.
With the Spirit's help,
I promise to be faithful to you,
as long as we both shall live.

In the presence of God
and this community,
I, _____, take you, _____,
to be my wife/husband;
to have and to hold from this day forward,
in joy and in sorrow,
in plenty and in want,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow.

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 health,
until death do us part.

Traditional Vow

Selecting Music

Since weddings at St. John are set in Christian worship, music selected for the wedding ceremony must also be appropriate for public worship. Music appropriate for worship expresses praise of God, thanksgiving for the steadfast love of Jesus Christ, and prayer for God's presence and blessing on marriage and family life.

We ask that you select music that has been composed for Christian worship. A listing of appropriate music is provided for you. If you have questions, please consult with your pastor.

In addition, once music has been selected, please observe the following "best practices" in selecting musicians and arranging for performance. No CDs or pre-recorded music is allowed. Please select music that can be performed in this space and musicians capable of performing it. Please purchase or use legal copies of the music you have selected or secure appropriate permission to reprint or photocopy the music or words of any copyrighted music (copying without permission is illegal and can result in significant fines).

If you can answer "yes" to all of the following questions, your selections are probably appropriate:

- Does this music and its text reflect praise to God?
- Is it based on or does it reflect a Biblical theme?
- Is it appropriate for use in public Christian worship?
- Is the music within the ability of the musicians to play or sing with assurance?
- Is the range appropriate for the vocalist and in the proper key for the accompanist?

For these reasons many "popular" songs are not suitable for weddings at St. John. Even some traditional selections for wedding music (such as the "Bridal Chorus" from the opera *Lohengrin* and the "Wedding March") have irreverent or unChristian associations, and are not suitable or allowed to be played at St. John weddings. Popular songs that have special meaning or sentimental significance for you, your family or your guests can be used at your wedding reception or another occasion.

Selecting Congregational Hymns

A wedding is a service of worship in which the guests are invited to be participants, not mere spectators. You may choose to incorporate hymn singing in your wedding, and you may use certain hymns as a processional or a recessional. The following hymns are among the many which are appropriate for weddings:

"Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"	#527
"Hear Us Now, Our God and Father"	#585
"This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited"	#586
"We Praise You, O God"	#870
"Praise and Thanksgiving"	#689
"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"	#858
"Holy God We Praise Your Name"	#414
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"	#631
"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"	#656
"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"	#502
"Be Thou My Vision"	#793
"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"	#807
"All Creatures, Worship God Most High!"	#835
"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"	#836
"Beautiful Savior"	#838
"Now Thank We All Our God"	#839
"Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven"	#865
"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"	#836
"Let All Things Now Living"	#881

Selecting Organ Music

The following suggested compositions are appropriate selections:

Bridesmaids' Processional

Air from Water Music Suite - Handel
Canon in D - Pachelbel
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach
Sacred Romance - Michael W. Smith
Air on a G String - Bach
Be Thou With Me - Bach
Hymne - Vangelis

Bridal Processional

Trumpet Tune - Clarke
Trumpet Voluntary - Purcell
Processional from Royal Fireworks Music - Handel
Processional from Water Music Suite - Handel
Canon in D - Pachelbel
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach
Sacred Romance - Michael W. Smith
Hymne - Vangelis

During Ceremony

Household of Faith - John Rosasco
And On This Day - Tina English
I Will Be Here - Steven Curtis Chapman
Father, We Commit To You - Lyn Walker
The Prayer - Bayer-Sager/Foster
Parent's Prayer - Greg Davis
When You Say You Love Me (performed by Josh Groban)
Doubly Good to You - Rich Mullins
The Lord's Prayer
The Wedding Song
He Has Chosen You For Me - Pat Terry
When Two Become One
Walk With Them, Lord - Besig/Price

Recessional

Toccata - Widor
Hornpipe from Water Music Suite - Handel
Trumpet Tune - Clarke
Trumpet Voluntary - Purcell
Nun danket alle Gott - Hovland
Wedding March from a Midsummer Night's Dream - Mendelssohn

Selecting Scripture Readings

You are encouraged to select scripture readings which will be consonant with themes you want to emphasize during your wedding. One or more readings is appropriate. You may wish to choose a psalm to be sung, either by a soloist or the congregation.

Members of your family or wedding party may serve as readers of the scripture you select.

SCRIPTURE READING POSSIBILITIES

(from the *New Revised Standard Version* and *New Living Translation*)

John 15:12-17 (NRSV)

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

John 15:12-17 (NLT)

I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you. ¹³ And here is how to measure it—the greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for their friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you obey me. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a master doesn't confide in his servants. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. ¹⁶ You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. ¹⁷ I command you to love each other.

Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 (NRSV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect. . . . Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 (NLT)

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is. . . . ⁹ Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically.

¹² Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and always be prayerful. ¹³ When God's children are in need, be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night.

Matthew 7:24-27 (NRSV)

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell--and great was its fall!"

Matthew 7:24-27 (NLT)

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and obeys me is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse, because it is built on rock. ²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will fall with a mighty crash."

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NRSV)

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind--yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. ³³ Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NLT)

And further, you will submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² You wives will submit to your husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of his body, the church; he gave his life to be her Savior. ²⁴ As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must submit to your husbands in everything.

²⁵ And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's word. ²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife. ²⁹ No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body, which is the church. ³⁰ And we are his body.

³¹ As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." ³² This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. ³³ So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Song of Songs 8:5-7 (NRSV)

Who is that coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? Under the apple tree I awakened you. There your mother was in labor with you; there she who bore you was in labor. ⁶ Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. ⁷ Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

Song of Songs 8:5-7 (NLT)

Young Women of Jerusalem: "Who is this coming up from the desert, leaning on her lover?" Young Woman: "I aroused you under the apple tree, where your mother gave you birth, where in great pain she delivered you. ⁶ Place me like a seal over your heart, or like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, and its jealousy is as enduring as the grave. Love flashes like fire, the brightest kind of flame. ⁷ Many waters cannot quench love; neither can rivers drown it. If a man tried to buy love with everything he owned, his offer would be utterly despised."

Song of Songs 2:10-13 (NRSV)

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; ¹¹ for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. ¹² The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. ¹³ The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Song of Songs 2:10-13 (NLT)

"My lover said to me, 'Rise up, my beloved, my fair one, and come away. ¹¹ For the winter is past, and the rain is over and gone. ¹² The flowers are springing up, and the time of singing birds has come, even the cooing of turtledoves. ¹³ The fig trees are budding, and the grapevines are in blossom. How delicious they smell! Yes, spring is here! Arise, my beloved, my fair one, and come away.'"

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NRSV)

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? ¹² And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)

Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor. ¹⁰ If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble. ¹¹ And on a cold night, two under the same blanket can gain warmth from each other. But how can one be warm alone? ¹² A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Psalm 150 (NRSV)

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! ² Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! ³ Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! ⁴ Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! ⁵ Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! ⁶ Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Psalm 150 (NLT)

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his heavenly dwelling; praise him in his mighty heaven! ² Praise him for his mighty works; praise his unequalled greatness! ³ Praise him with a blast of the trumpet; praise him with the lyre and harp! ⁴ Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with stringed instruments and flutes! ⁵ Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals. ⁶ Let everything that lives sing praises to the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Genesis 1:26-31 (NRSV)

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." ²⁷ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹ God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 1:26-31 (NLT)

Then God said, "Let us make people in our image, to be like ourselves. They will be masters over all life—the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the livestock, wild animals, and small animals." ²⁷ So God created people in his own image; God patterned them after himself; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and told them, "Multiply and fill the earth and subdue it. Be masters over the fish and birds and all the animals." ²⁹ And God said, "Look! I have given you the seed-bearing plants throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. ³⁰ And I have given all the grasses and other green plants to the animals and birds for their food." And so it was. ³¹ Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was excellent in every way. This all happened on the sixth day.

Genesis 2:18-24 (NRSV)

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹ So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." ²⁴ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Genesis 2:18-24 (NLT)

And the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion who will help him." ¹⁹ So the Lord God formed from the soil every kind of animal and bird. He brought them to Adam to see what he would call them, and Adam chose a name for each one. ²⁰ He gave names to all the livestock, birds, and wild animals. But still there was no companion suitable for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He took one of Adam's ribs and closed up the place from which he had taken it. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib and brought her to Adam.

²³ "At last!" Adam exclaimed. "She is part of my own flesh and bone! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken out of a man." ²⁴ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

Colossians 3:12-17 (NRSV)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:12-17 (NLT)

Since God chose you to be the holy people whom he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.¹³ You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.¹⁴ And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony.¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are all called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the words of Christ, in all their richness, live in your hearts and make you wise. Use his words to teach and counsel each other. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, all the while giving thanks through him to God the Father.

1 Corinthians 13:4-13 (NRSV)

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-13 (NLT)

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud⁵ or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged.⁶ It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.⁸ Love will last forever, but prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will all disappear.⁹ Now we know only a little, and even the gift of prophecy reveals little!¹⁰ But when the end comes, these special gifts will all disappear.¹¹ It's like this: When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.¹² Now we see things imperfectly as in a poor mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God knows me now.¹³ There are three things that will endure—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

1 John 4:7-12 (NRSV)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:7-12 (NLT)

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God.⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love.

⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.¹⁰ This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us.



Wedding Service Planning

*Example of Marriage Service
(Not all the text will be in the bulletin you prepare)*

SEATING OF GUESTS

SEATING OF PARENTS

PROCESSION

GREETING

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

DECLARATION OF INTENT

PRAYER

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

SOLO/SONG OR HYMN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

WEDDING MESSAGE

SOLO/SONG OR HYMN

(Groom) and (Bride), since it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

MARRIAGE VOWS (see options in booklet)

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

*(Bride) and (Groom), by their promises before God and in the presence of this congregation, have joined themselves to one another as husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder. **Amen.***

LIGHTING OF UNITY CANDLE

SOLO/SONG OR HYMN

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (select one)

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever. Amen. or

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF COUPLE (Couple may kiss)

RECESSIONAL MUSIC