

Wedding Manual

August 2018

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Marriage Policy

Approved by Elders 8/12/15 & Council 9/22/15

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

THE WEDDING WORSHIP SERVICE of [names] [date] *****	WEDDING PARTY *****
Processional	Maid of Honor:
Invocation	Bridesmaids:
Hymn	
Scripture Readings	
Message	Best Man:
Hymn	Groomsmen:
Gift of Marriage	
Declaration of Intent	
Vows	Flower Girl:
Exchange of Rings	Ring Bearer:
Declaration	Candle Lighters:
Word of Witnesses	
Unity Candle	Parents of the Bride:
Hymn	Parents of the Groom:
Blessing for the Couple	
Prayer/Lord's Prayer	Officiant:
Benediction	Organist:
Recessional	Soloist:
	Greeters:

**NOTE: WE ASK THAT THERE BE NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY
DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.**

Marriage is the uniting of a man and a woman, two individual lives, into a oneness. God said, "The two shall become one!" Marriage is God's idea. Therefore, a wedding in our church is not just a ceremony, it is a worship service.

It is your decision to have your wedding in a church. We gather in a church to rejoice over God's gift of marriage and to ask His blessing upon you as a man and woman as you are united by His hand of blessing.

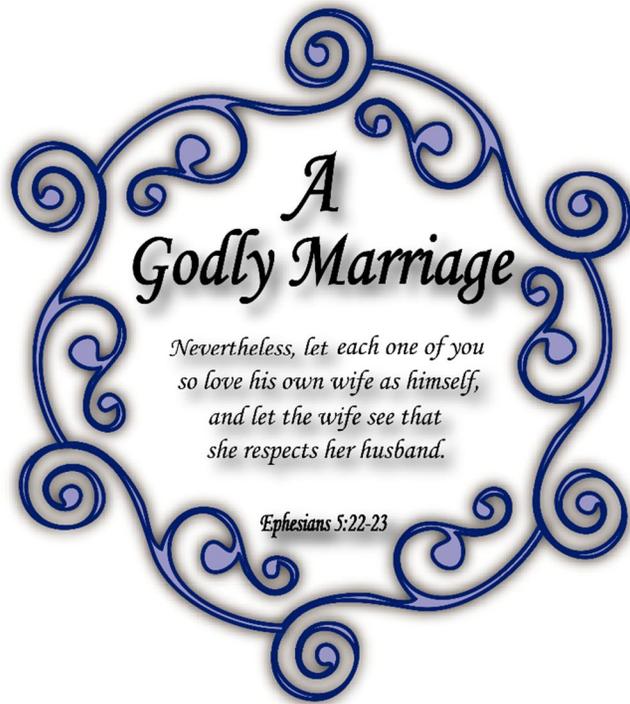
The day is very special to you as bride and groom. It is my desire to make your day one which will honor God, bring joy to your guests and provide a lasting impact upon your lives.

This booklet is designed to help you understand the policies and procedures of our congregation. The policies are set by the Elders. Wedding services at Good Shepherd are for members of the congregation.

A couple, who is living together before marriage (cohabitation), needs to talk with me before further arrangements can be made.

May God guide your thoughts and desires throughout the exciting time of preparation.

Pastor Ronald A. Youngdale
Approved 8/2018 as revised



- Select florist
- Select photographer
- Select caterer
- Select all attendants and inform Coordinator of names on the **Wedding Worship Folder Information** sheet.
- Order/reserve wedding attire.
- Register at local stores:
- Select invitations and order.
- Send invitations. (It is proper to formally invite those involved with the wedding, including the Wedding Coordinator and the Pastor.)
- Select gifts and/or thank you cards for attendants and others in the wedding.
- Select wedding ring(s).
- Obtain the marriage license at least one week prior to the wedding date and give to the Wedding Coordinator.
- Take care of any name/address changes on driver's license, bank accounts, charge accounts, etc.
- Pray daily about the wedding and your marriage.

- ◆ inform each person in the wedding party of his/her responsibilities during the worship service. This will be done at the rehearsal and on the day of the wedding.
- ◆ work through the enclosed wedding check list with the couple and assist as needed.

Wedding Check List

- Set dates for wedding and rehearsal with Wedding Coordinator and Pastor. Complete Wedding Form, which is in this manual. (For non-members, the **facility use deposit** must be received before facilities can be reserved.)
 - Wedding Date: _____
Time: _____
 - Rehearsal Date: _____
Time: _____
- Discuss and set premarital counseling dates with the Pastor. The six sessions should be completed at least two weeks before the wedding.
- Meet with the Wedding Coordinator.
- Contact organist. (Note: Music is to be reviewed with the Pastor.)
- Contact other musicians. (Soloists or instrumentalists)
- Plan for rehearsal dinner.
- Decide on size and formality of wedding.
- Select a reception site and reserve

Premarital Counseling

Pastor Youngdale will meet with every couple for six, one hour sessions. These sessions should begin as early as possible, at least two months, before the wedding day. Couples who have not decided about marriage may seek premarital counseling to help them make such a decision. **The last session should be completed no later than two weeks before the wedding date.**

1. You will be asked to complete two analysis instruments:
 - Prepare (\$35.00 will be paid online)
 - Myers-Briggs Type Indicator
- or -
Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis
2. **BEFORE** the first session each person is to write out 12 reasons why he/she wants to marry the other person and 12 indications why now is the time in life to marry. (Please do not share your responses with each other until the first session.)
3. You will be asked to complete **10 Great Dates Before You Say “I Do”** by David & Claudia Arp. (Cost \$11.00)
4. It is expected the couple will regularly attend worship services at Good Shepherd.

Wedding Details & Policies

Wedding Date and Time

The wedding date and time must be arranged with the Pastor and Wedding Coordinator. A Saturday evening wedding can **BEGIN** no later than 7:00 p.m. A Saturday evening wedding and reception, if held at the church, must be concluded by 10:00 p.m. A Sunday wedding cannot **BEGIN** before 3:00 p.m. Non-members, the date and time will be reserved only after the facility use deposit has been received by the wedding coordinator.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are conducted by the Wedding Coordinator. Every person involved in the wedding should attend the rehearsal. A rehearsal lasts approximately 45 minutes. The couple and the Wedding Coordinator will have worked out all details **BEFORE** the rehearsal.

Wedding License

The wedding license is obtained at 1021 I Street, Modesto, (525-5250). A marriage ceremony **CANNOT** be performed without this license. The license is valid for 90 days. It should be given to the Wedding Coordinator at least one week before the wedding.

Music

All music during the service is to be appropriate to Christian worship. Worship is joyful, directed to God, Christ-centered, and filled with God's Word. The music is to focus our attention upon God and upon His Word. A congregational hymn is appropriate.

All music desired for the worship service is to be discussed with the Pastor before final plans are made.

The Wedding Coordinator

The position of Wedding Coordinator has been established to oversee many of the responsibilities involved in preparation for a wedding worship service. She will work under the supervision of the Pastor and with the couple. She will help in as many ways as possible before and during the wedding in order that the worship service will be an enjoyable event. She is to be contacted by the couple before a date can be set. The following provides an overview of her role in planning and implementing a wedding.

The Wedding Coordinator will:

- ◆ reserve the Nave and Social Hall, as needed.
- ◆ advise about the availability of organists.
- ◆ handle completion of the marriage license.
- ◆ coordinate use of flowers, candles, and other items of decor in the Nave/Sanctuary. Fire codes limit use of candles.
- ◆ coordinate needs with florist, photographer, musicians, etc.
- ◆ inform the couple about the options for the procession, placement, and recession of all attendants.
- ◆ conduct the wedding rehearsal.
- ◆ discuss dressing room needs with the couple.
- ◆ see that all church policies are observed.
- ◆ prepare for the worship service. (Set air conditioning, heating, lights, candle lighters for acolytes, worship folders, amplifier and microphones, etc.)
- ◆ contract a custodian.

General Information About Church Facilities

- The seating capacity of the Nave is 311. Folding chairs are available, if needed.
- There are 11 pews on each side of the aisle.
- The seating capacity of the Overflow Room is about 20-30.
- The seating capacity of the Social Hall is 445 for standing purposes, 210 for sit down dining.
- A Bride's Room is available.
- A kneeler is available.
- Stands are available for other floral arrangements.
- Stands are available for the Guest Book.
- Aisle runners can be rented from a florist. The aisle is 45 feet long.
- Church furniture cannot be moved.
- Banners are available for use. If special banners are desired, the family is responsible to change them and to replace the banners after the service is over.
- The Social Hall is available for a reception. The church has some of the necessary equipment available.
- **ALL DECORATIONS/ITEMS PLACED IN THE NAVE OR THE SOCIAL HALL FOR DECORATION AT A WEDDING MUST BE REMOVED BY THE FAMILY BEFORE THE NEXT DAY.**
- A deposit for use of the facility will be refunded in full after the wedding service, as long as all rules and regulations have been observed.

Musicians

Organists from Good Shepherd may be able to play for the service. If they are not available, it is up to the couple to acquire an organist.

The use of a vocalist or an instrumentalist adds to worship. Discuss all such music with the Pastor.

If you decide to use recorded music in the service, you will need to secure one of our sound system technicians for the rehearsal and service. The wedding coordinator has the fee schedule.

Wedding Attire

Most wedding attire is appropriate. Whatever is worn should be proper for a worship setting in God's House.

Altar & Chancel Furnishings

The altar and/or chancel furnishings may not be moved. The altar paraments (colored altar cloths reflecting the day of the church year) may not be changed.

The two hanging banners in front may be changed. You are responsible for changing the banners for the service and for changing them back after the service.

Photography

Posed pictures can be taken before or after the service. Photography during the service is allowed in the Balcony, Overflow Room, or from the rear of the sanctuary. **NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS ALLOWED DURING THE SERVICE.**

A video recorder can be operated during the service in the Balcony or from the rear of the sanctuary. An unmanned video camera on a stand may be set up in the chancel area.

Only two people are allowed in the Balcony during the wedding for photography and/or video recording.

Candles

The altar candles will be lit during the service. Any additional candles in the chancel area must be discussed with the Wedding Coordinator. **ALL CANDELABRA MUST HAVE PLASTIC PLACED UNDERNEATH BY THE DECORATORS.** Lit candles are not permitted in the area where the people sit.

Unity Candle

The Unity Candle is a set of three candles. Before the service the two outside candles are lit to symbolize the two individual lives. During the service the bride and groom light the center candle from the two outside candles and extinguish the outside candles. The Unity Candle symbolizes that two individual lives become one in marriage (Genesis 2:24).

A Unity Candle is available for use on the altar. It will sit between the Epistle candle (on the right side) and the Missal stand. Flowers are not permitted on the altar. If you want a free standing unity candle, you can discuss that with a florist or rental place.

Flowers and Decorations

Flowers may be placed in the Chancel area on the two Credence shelves. Two different sets of vases are available for use. Flowers may not be placed on the Altar. Other floral arrangements and decorations may be placed according to the directions of the Wedding Coordinator. Bows placed on the pews are to be attached with masking tape. All decorations should be completed two hours before the service begins. If it is desired for the flower girl to drop petals, they must be silk petals.

Wedding Worship Folders

The church provides worship folders for all weddings. The total cost is \$10.00 per hundred. Other folders can be used, if desired. All folders need to include: "We ask that there be no flash photography during the service".

Honorariums/Fees

The Wedding Coordinator will discuss honorariums and fees with you. A schedule of fees will be given by the Wedding Coordinator. All fees **MUST** be paid at the last consultation with the Wedding Coordinator, which is usually one week before the wedding.

Rice Throwing

It is not permitted to throw anything (rice, birdseed, marshmallows, etc.) inside or outside the church. Blowing of soap bubbles is not permitted inside the church.

No Smoking Policy

Smoking is **not** permitted anywhere inside the church building. If you desire to smoke, please step outside.

No Alcoholic Beverages

Alcoholic beverages are **not** permitted anywhere on church property.

Reception

Many things which are not appropriate during a worship service may be appropriate for the reception. Remember, you do not have to spend a great deal of money to have an enjoyable reception.