



Zion Lutheran Church Wedding Procedures

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! We are very pleased you have chosen Zion Lutheran Church as the church for your ceremony. This booklet will describe the procedures and expectations of Zion for your special day.

SCHEDULING:

The process begins by making a phone call to the church office to determine availability of the Pastor and the church on the date and time desired. If it is available the wedding date will be penciled in the church schedule. A deposit fee of \$50.00 is required to secure the date. (The deposit is not refundable 6 months before the wedding date.) No weddings will be scheduled during (Holy Week, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day). Only one wedding can be held at Zion per day. The deposit will reserve your date.

COUNSELING:

Prior to your ceremony you will have 4 meetings with Pastor. These meetings will be approximately 1 hour and will be held in Pastor's office. In addition to these 4 meetings, the couple will complete an inventory by Prepare/Enrich. The inventory will be taken following the initial meeting with the Pastor and there is a fee of \$35.00 for the inventory. After the results of the inventory are received, the following meetings will be opportunities to discuss a wide variety of relationship issues including communication, conflict resolution, finances, and spirituality.

MUSIC:

Selection of music should reflect the worship and dignity of the sacred service. There are a variety of music selections, both secular and religious, that are appropriate for the Service of Marriage. All music you wish to have at your service must be approved by the Pastor.

Wedding "themes" that distract from the worshipful nature of the service are not permitted.

If you are not using one of the church organists, arrangements can be made for your organist to come to Zion to practice on our organ.

The option of playing recorded music is available at Zion. Please be aware that processing to recorded music is more of a challenge. Again, all song selections must be approved by the Pastor

Zion's sound system may not be used or adjusted by anyone other than Zion's personnel unless training is given. Additional sound equipment or lighting may not be used in the sanctuary unless approved by the Pastor.

Services Provided:

Zion will type and copy your wedding bulletins at a cost of \$20.00. You must provide the bulletin covers and have all the information to the church office no later than 2 weeks before the wedding day. The bulletins will be available at the rehearsal.

If desired, Zion is able to video record your wedding. The recording fee is \$50.00, which includes remuneration for the one doing the recording and 1 DVD. If more copies are desired, blank recordable DVDs must be provided.

For non-members, the cost to have your wedding at Zion will be a minimum of \$380.00. This price includes the use of the church (\$50), pastor fees (\$300), and janitor fees (\$30). The organist fee is \$75. If you choose to have soloists that will be

singing with our organist, there will be an additional charge of \$15 for each solo, paid to the organist.

Members of Zion are required to pay the custodial fees and the organist fees.

Rehearsal:

Rehearsal time will be set between you and pastor at a mutually agreed upon time, usually the day before the wedding. Rehearsal usually will last about 1 hour. During the rehearsal you will go through the ceremony 2 times. Please have the entire wedding party arrive at the rehearsal on time.

Wedding Day:

On your wedding day the church will be open 3 hours prior to the ceremony time. We understand the process of professional photos being taken following the ceremony, but would appreciate it if you could have them all complete by 1 hour after the ceremony.

There are a number of areas in the church that can be used for dressing – the cry room at the back of the sanctuary is the typical dressing room for the bridal party. If you would like to use a different room in the church for dressing, you must get clearance from Pastor. It is the responsibility of the wedding party to safeguard their personal property before, during and after the ceremony. Please be sure all personal property is removed following the ceremony.

You are welcome to decorate the church as you wish, but the decorations shall not be attached to the pews in a way that could potentially leave a mark or scratch. This includes the use of tape, staples, tacks, nails or adhesives of any kind. Please remember, what you bring in, you must also remove

after the ceremony. If you are leaving some flowers for Sunday worship, please notify the church office in advance.

Photographs are a cherished part of most weddings. Pictures may be taken before or after the ceremony. No flash photographs are to be taken while the ceremony is in progress, however, flash photos may be taken during the processional and recessional.

Video recording of your marriage ceremony is permitted. This recording must be done with natural light. The placement of the recorders must not interfere with the ceremony in any way and such placement must be approved by the Pastor. Please note that Zion is able to offer a video recording of your wedding. (See above: “Services Provided.”)

MISCELLANEOUS:

Please, **NO ALCOHOL ON THE PREMISES** (this includes the parking and lawn areas)! This is a place of worship and we appreciate your respect of that.

Seating capacity of the Sanctuary is 275-300. The central aisle is 75 feet long. There are 36 pews in the church (18 on each side).

Marriage license: Call any County Clerk’s office in Wisconsin for information on what is necessary to obtain a Wisconsin marriage license. A Wisconsin marriage license is valid for 30 days. Wisconsin residents can obtain a license from their local clerks office. Out of state residents must obtain a license from Marinette County. At the wedding, 2 witnesses at least 18 years of age will be needed. These witnesses need not be a part of the wedding party.

No plastic or vinyl aisle runners are permitted.

No petals of real flowers are to be dropped along the aisle. Artificial flower petals must be picked up by the wedding party before they depart the church.

No rice or bird seed is to be thrown (either outside or inside).

The Parish hall is available for the reception if you so desire. The cost to do this is \$100.00 for non-members and an additional \$20.00 custodial fee. (Total \$120.00)

Overnight parking is welcome, however, we ask that anyone leaving a vehicle please park on the North side of the building.

Unity candles and holders must be provided by the wedding party.

Pastor is open to performing weddings that are not held on Zion's property. Please share your plans when contacting Zion in order to reserve the date.

All fees and/or honoraria are to be paid to the Pastor or church office by the time of the rehearsal.

Exceptions to these policies can be made at the Pastor's discretion.

The reading of Holy Scripture is a vital part of the Christian wedding. The couple is invited and encouraged to select their own scriptures, something that has a meaning to you! In the event you are having difficulty with this selection, we have included a list of possible texts:

FIRST READING

The creation of man and woman

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

The creation of woman

Genesis 2:18-24

The purpose of our household

Joshua 24:15-18

There is a time for everything

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 14

Love is strong as death

Song of Solomon (Song of Songs) 2:10-13, & 8:6-7

The new covenant of the people of God

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The betrothal of God and Israel

Hosea 2:16-23

PSALMS

23; 34:2-9; 37:3-7; 67; 100; 112; 117; 121; 127; 128; 139:1-18; 148; 150

SECOND READING

No separation from the love of Christ
Romans 8:31b-39

The life of a Christian
Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

The greatest of these is love
1Corinthians 13:1-13 (or just: 4-8a)

The love of Christ
Ephesians 3:14-21

The mystery of marriage
Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33

Live in love and thanksgiving
Colossians 3:12-17

Love is real and active
1 John 3:18-24

God is love
1 John 4:7-12

GOSPEL

The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:1-10

Salt of the Earth and light of the world
Matthew 5:13-16

House built upon a rock
Matthew 7:21, 24-29

What God has united must not be divided
Matthew 19:3-6

Love, the greatest commandment
Matthew 22:35-40

Two become one body
Mark 10:6-9

Marriage feast of Cana
John 2:1-11

Remain in my love
John 15: 9-17

- If you are having one lesson, choose just from the Gospel list
- If two lessons, choose one from first or second reading lists and one from Gospel list
- If three lessons, choose one from each of the lists

Marriage is a total commitment of two people to each other and the vows they make are the heart of marriage and the marriage service. The following are a selection of different vows to choose from or the couple may write their own vows:

1. _____, I promise with God's help / to be your faithful (husband/wife), / to love you and serve you as Christ commands / as long as we both shall live.
2. _____, I promise before God, / our family and friends, / to be your loving and faithful (husband/wife), / to share my life with you / in wealth and in poverty, / in sickness and in health, / in good times and in bad times / for as long as we both shall live.
3. I, _____, take you _____ to be my (husband/wife) / and I promise before God and these friends / that I will share my life with you / in all love and honor, / in all faith and tenderness, / through joy and sorrow, / in sickness and health / as long as we both shall live.
4. I, _____, take you _____ to be my wedded (husband/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 till death parts us, / according to God's holy law, / and to you I pledge my faithfulness.
5. 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.

6. 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 share my life with you; /

I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; /

and I will try with you / to better understand ourselves, / the world, and God; / through the best and worst / of what is to come / until death parts us.

7. _____, I take you to be my (wife/husband) / from this time onward,

to join with you / and to share / all that is to come, /

to give and to receive, /

to speak and to listen, /

to inspire and to respond, /

and in all circumstances / of our life together / to be loyal to you / with my whole life / and with all my being / until death parts us.

8. 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.

May God bless you on your journey from planning your wedding day, to becoming husband and wife, and in the life you lead after your marriage until death do you part! Amen.