



Revised 09/08



The Wedding
and the Reception

Christ the King Lutheran Church
207 McConnell Street
Mankato, MN 56001

(507) 345-5056

PURPOSE

This booklet is designed to be a guide to help you plan your wedding. It is intended to give you information about the policies and procedures at Christ the King Lutheran Church in the celebration of marriage. The pastoral and music staff and the wedding coordinator are available to answer your questions and to help you plan your wedding.

THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE RITE

A Christian marriage, ordained of God, is intended as a life-long and singular commitment. It is undertaken by two who share a faith in their Lord and a willingness to commit their lives to be together in service to God and humankind. Such a commitment demands not only love, but gentleness, self control, maturity and many of the other qualities described in Galatians 5:22 and I Corinthians 13.

SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

1. Early Arrangements

- A wedding date will be considered reserved as soon as the appropriate fee is received and the wedding arrangement sheet has been filled out.
- 3:30pm is the latest a Saturday wedding may be scheduled due to evening worship services (4:00pm Saturday weddings may be possible if there is no receiving line at the church and there are no elaborate decorations - talk this over with a pastor.)
- An unsupervised nursery is available at Christ The King. Couples that plan to use the nursery must provide adult supervision during the time of its use. A privacy room, separated from the worship space by glass, is always available. All rooms to be used on the day of the wedding (and rehearsal) must be specified ahead of time.

2. The Pastors

- It is important to first discuss your wedding plans with one of the pastors in order to reserve a date. This should be done as early as possible to avoid any conflicts on the church or pastoral schedule.
- We will attempt to respect your choice of any pastor on the staff of Christ the King for your ceremony. If a scheduling conflict arises with the pastor you have chosen, one of the other staff pastors will perform your wedding, depending on availability.
- Due to staff and facility commitments, weddings may not be possible on or around certain holiday weekends. Some holidays, such as Easter, may occur in varying months. Please check with the pastor.
- The possibility of participation by visiting clergy should be discussed well in advance.

MARRIAGE VOWS

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 with the help of God, I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.
2. I, _____ take you, _____ to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death do we part, according to God's holy ordinance; I pledge to you my faithfulness.
3. _____, I take you to be my wife/husband from this time onward, to join with you and 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.
4. I take you, _____ to be my wife/husband. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful husband/wife, to share with you in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, to forgive and strengthen you and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.
5. 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 better to understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and the worst of what is to come as long as we live.
6. _____, I want to live with you just as you are. I will be honest with you and forgive you, just as God has forgiven me. I love you for what you are to me and for what you are to others. With Christ as my guide, I will attempt to provide the unconditional love needed for your health and growth. I choose you above all others, and promise to be faithful to you as long as life endures.

REVIEW OF THINGS TO DO

3-6 MONTHS OR MORE PRIOR

- Reserve the church
- Begin pastoral appointments and Marriage Preparation Workshop with LSS
- Contact musicians, organist, photographer, florist
- Reserve reception facilities and servers

1-2 MONTHS PRIOR

- Re-confirm all dates and times
- Complete pre-marital sessions with pastor
- Complete music selection
- Apply for marriage license
- Invitations
- A map of the Mankato area with location of the church are available in the office

2 WEEKS PRIOR

- Church sends letter confirming details and costs
- Confirm all times/expectations

1 WEEK PRIOR

- Bring in license, all fees
- Proof bulletin
- Make arrangements for decorating the church
- Bring unity candle, bulletins, guest register, etc. to rehearsal

PHONE NUMBERS

Christ the King Lutheran Church – 507-345-5056

Christ The King Lutheran Church Facsimile (Fax) – 507-345-6115

e-mail – amy@ctkmankato.org

Wedding Coordinator – Betty Hodgkins – 507-388-3587 (Home)

Organist / Pianist – Charles Hoogland – 507-345-5302 (Home)

e-mail—chuckh@ctkmankato.org

Pastor John Petersen – 507-388-4463 (Home)

e-mail – johnp@ctkmankato.org

Pastor Patrick Patterson – 507-386-1930 (Home)

e-mail – patrickp@ctkmankato.org

Pastor Steve Kidder—507-625-3202 (Home)

e-mail – stevek@ctkmankato.org

Custodian—Mark Thompson—507-387-1504 (Home)

e-mail—markt@ctkmankato.org

3. The Wedding Coordinator

Our wedding coordinator is an excellent resource person who will be able to help you with decisions concerning the invitations, cake, flowers, photography, guest book, receptions either at the church or elsewhere, etc. She should be contacted along with the church office at the same time that you schedule your wedding with the pastor. The wedding coordinator will instruct the custodian concerning your special requests.

4. Organist / Pianist

Normally, the organist of Christ The King is available to participate in weddings that are scheduled well in advance. It is important to contact the church organist well in advance of your wedding. The organist is normally available for rehearsals and is also willing to assist in the selection of music for your wedding. The organist's fee (\$150) is separate from any church fee and should be discussed with the organist prior to your wedding. Music for the wedding should be chosen in consultation with the organist/pianist.

5. Vocalist(s)

There are several vocalists who are members of Christ The King that would be happy to be a part of your wedding. If you have not selected a vocalist for your wedding, the organist or the pastor will be willing to help you in selecting one.

6. Custodian

The custodian will set up for your wedding, be present to open the church, secure needed items, respond to any emergency and clean up afterward. It is a job of several hours, which would be greatly aided by your conscientious care of our church facility. Please be sure to inform the pastor when meeting with him/her, of the time you wish the building open for your wedding.

7. Photographer

- We recommend that pictures be taken before the service. Pictures **must** be completed 30 minutes prior to the ceremony.
- Videotaping is permissible using natural lighting and a fixed camera position. Final arrangements should be made prior to or at the rehearsal. The pastor has final authority to approve locations for video cameras.
- No flash pictures are permitted during the worship service. Please ask your friends and family to honor this policy. A statement of this policy in your wedding bulletin is especially helpful.

8. Florist

- Large floral bouquets should not be placed on the altar or in a position to obstruct the view of the chancel furnishings. Decorating of the sanctuary and the moving of church furniture in any manner should have the approval of pastor and custodian.
- The church does not have an aisle runner and does not allow the use of one.
- The florist should be instructed to deliver the bridal flowers and boutonnieres to the Fireside Room, making sure arrangements have been made for the church to be open.

PRE-MARRIAGE EXPECTATIONS

1. Pre-marital Sessions with the Pastor

The officiating pastor will normally meet with couples three times in preparation for the wedding. The first session should occur as soon as the wedding date is scheduled. The second session will primarily focus on the *PREPARE* inventory. Session three will cover the details of the ceremony.

2. *Prepare* Inventory

The *PREPARE* program was developed to help you improve communication with each other about your feelings and ideas on a variety of important topics in your relationship. This is a scientifically developed questionnaire, which you and your partner fill out individually on-line. Based on your responses, a personalized computerized report is developed which identifies your strengths as a couple as well as areas that need growth. This report is a summary of how each of you see your relationship. It is not a test and is not used to determine if you should marry. You will have a feedback session with a pastor who will discuss the summary of your feelings as presented in the *PREPARE* computer report.

3. Marriage Preparation Workshops

This one-day workshop is coordinated by Lutheran Social Services in conjunction with Christ the King and other congregations in the community. Through this workshop you and your partner will have the opportunity to gain new and helpful information about each other and become more aware of your strengths as a couple as well as identify areas that need growth. Topics covered include...

- Marriage expectations
- Sexuality and intimacy
- Financial decision-making
- Communication
- Conflict resolution
- Spirituality in marriage
- Children and family decisions

4. The Marriage License

This may be obtained from the Clerk of Court at any county courthouse in the state of Minnesota. In Mankato the Blue Earth County Courthouse is located at 410 S. 5th St., Mankato, MN. Both parties must be of legal age or have a parental consent. If either party has been previously married, they must know the date of dissolution. The license should be brought to the church office at least one week prior to the wedding so it may be properly and neatly completed. Some couples also include the signing of the license within the wedding ceremony. Contact the courthouse for current fees and legal requirements.

5. Christ The King Building Policies

- A **NO SMOKING** policy is in effect at all times throughout the entire church building. Please inform your guests.
- **Alcoholic beverages are NOT PERMITTED** on church property.
- The throwing of rice is not permitted.
- Seasonal church decorations will remain in place.
- Sound system will be operated by Christ the King staff only.

FEES

Wedding Fee

Member: \$250; Non-Member: \$450

This fee includes a reservation deposit, custodial fee, *PREPARE* fee, and other expenses the church incurs providing facility and staff for the wedding.

All music fees will be charged by and can be discussed with the church organist/pianist. The normal fee is \$150.

Off site wedding fee will be \$100. *PREPARE* counseling for couples married elsewhere is \$100.

Pastor

It is the policy of the pastors of Christ The King not to accept honoraria for weddings and other pastoral acts conducted in the church.

Wedding Coordinator

Our coordinator is a volunteer who provides a ministry to wedding couples without charge. You are welcome to offer an expression of appreciation.

8. Wedding Bulletin

The wedding bulletin is a guide for worship as well as a treasured memento for those attending the service. The order of service, congregational participation and names of participants are printed inside. If you wish to use bulletins, they can be printed at any commercial printer. The wedding coordinator can provide you with sample bulletin covers but it is your responsibility to order or pick up bulletins at a church supply store such as The Lighthouse. The information to be included in the bulletin should be proofed by the pastor a minimum of one week in advance of your wedding. Please remember to include the following wording in the bulletin **"Please do not use flash photography during the worship service."**

DETAILS

1. Church Hours

Church office hours are listed below. The church is opened one hour prior to the scheduled wedding rehearsal time, unless other arrangements are made. Please inform florists, caterers, and others about this policy so that they will come at the time the church is open.

September through May:

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Friday

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. – Saturday (The church will be open all afternoon the date of your wedding.)

June through August:

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Friday

Day of Wedding the church will be open all day.

2. Dressing for the Service

The women of the bridal party may dress at the church in a room designated by the wedding coordinator. Men of the bridal party usually come dressed in their formal wear. If they wish to dress at the church, they may use another room designated by the wedding coordinator. CTK is not responsible for bridal gowns left in the building.

3. Purses, Cameras, Gifts and other Valuables

Appoint a member of the family or a friend to be responsible for purses, valuables, etc., so that they are not left unattended in the dressing room or elsewhere. Christ the King is not responsible for any valuables.

Couples desiring to be married at Christ the King are expected to participate in this workshop prior to their wedding ceremony. The workshops are scheduled periodically during the year on Saturdays from 8:30am-5:00pm. Check with one of the pastors for further information.

THE MARRIAGE RITE

1. The Service

The normal order for the Rite of Marriage follows a format in ELW page 286. There are a number of options within that service including choices of vows, which the pastor will discuss with you. Considerations of other forms of service should be discussed with the pastor well in advance.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:18-24

Song of Solomon 8:6-7a

Ruth 1:16-17

Psalms 203:17-18

Psalms 127:1-2

Psalms 128:1-4

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Jeremiah 32:38-39

Matthew 5:1-12a

Matthew 7:24-27

Matthew 19:4-6

Matthew 22:35-40

Mark 10:6-9

John 2:1-11

John 15:9-17

John 17:26

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

I Corinthians 3:10-17

I Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

I Corinthians 13:1-13

Ephesians 4:29-32

Ephesians 5:1-2

Ephesians 5:22-25

Colossians 3:12-17

I Peter 3:1-9

I John 4:7-12

SUGGESTED ORDER OF SERVICE:

Prelude
*Song
Processional
Invocation
Scripture Reading(s)
Promises
*Parent's Blessing
*Song
Meditation
Vows
Exchange of rings
*Unity Candle Ceremony
*Song
Prayers of Blessing
Lord's Prayer
Benediction
Recessional
* - optional

2. Your Wedding Music

Appropriate wedding music will enhance and beautify your wedding celebration. You are encouraged to discuss your music ideas with the pastor well in advance of your wedding date before final decisions are made on selections and musicians. The lyrics (message) of the vocal music you select should be consistent with the Christian celebration of the marriage service.

If you are uncertain about what is appropriate music for the Christian wedding service, the pastor or music staff will be able to assist you with some suggestions, and also give you an opportunity to hear some of the selections on the organ. Music selection should be completed at least one month prior to the wedding.

Soloists should rehearse with the organist or instrumentalist at least once in the sanctuary to become familiar with our church. All rehearsals **must** be scheduled through the church office

Christ the King has a pipe organ and grand piano available for the ceremony. Christ the King strongly discourages the use of pre-recorded music.

Coordination of all instrumentalists should be done well in advance of the wedding date. Music for the wedding **must** be chosen in consultation with the organist/pianist.

3. Holy Communion

The bridal couple may wish to celebrate their marriage with Holy Communion. All in attendance may partake of this sacrament. It should be noted that the Altar Guild of CTK will need to be available to prepare for Holy Communion and care for the altar ware following the service.

4. Decorations

Decorations can enhance the beauty of your wedding celebration. Flowers, extra candles, etc. are arranged through a florist by the bridal couple. Placement of decorations prior to the wedding service and their removal after the wedding service are the responsibility of the wedding party. Decorations should NOT be attached with tacks, nails, super-stick tape, etc. All seasonal church decorations must be left in place. All decorating plans should be discussed with the pastor or wedding coordinator ahead of time, as there are certain ecclesiastical rubrics to be considered.

5. Candles

Christ the King must approve the placement and types of all candles and candle stands. If candelabra are to be used, the bridal couple must make arrangements to have them put in position prior to the service, and removed immediately following. When candelabra are used, some type of wax drip protection must be used such as glass chimneys or wide candleholders. Please discuss the use of aisle candles with the pastor or wedding coordinator. No burning candles are allowed outside the communion rail.

6. Unity Candle

The lighting of a unity candle can be a meaningful addition to the wedding service. Usually three candles are used in a way that accents the gift of family life, the commitment of the bride and groom to each other and ultimately God's commitment to the wedding couple.

7. Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal is usually scheduled the evening before the wedding. Occasionally the pastor's schedule requires an earlier rehearsal. In addition to the pastor, wedding coordinator and organist (optional but helpful) being present, the following are asked to attend: the bride, groom, all attendants, ushers and parents. We ask that we begin promptly as scheduled. The rehearsal will normally last 45 minutes.