

Messiah Lutheran Church, 305 W. Magnetic Street, Marquette, MI 49855
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Guidelines for Weddings for Non-Members

Please review all the guidelines and contact the pastor for further information regarding dates, pre-marriage counseling and other requirements.

1. We do not require couples to be members of Messiah to be married here. However, we assume that a couple wants to be married in the presence of Christ, God's most visible sign of love for humanity. The marriage is an act of worship in God's holy place.
2. We require several hours of marriage preparation using a variety of resources. Please arrange for this marriage preparation as soon as possible.
3. There is a \$200 fee for the use of Messiah Lutheran Church. We prefer that checks be written to the various parties, with the \$200 fee broken down as follows:

Messiah Lutheran Church	\$75
Kevin McGrath, custodian	\$50
Andrew Plocher or Allan Johnson	\$75
4. An additional offering for the mission of the Church would also be welcomed.
5. Fees for the organist/pianist (\$100) are to be paid directly to them. If there is a soloist an additional \$20 fee for the organist/pianist is required to compensate for rehearsals. Please consult the musicians as soon as possible. If the fees are a hardship you need to discuss this with the pastor.
6. Clergy who are not the called pastors of Messiah will only be able to participate in the marriage service at the sole discretion of Messiah's called pastors.
7. The couple is responsible for the space used by the wedding party. This simply means that all flower boxes and unused bulletins and clothes hangers/wrappings will be discarded or placed near available wastebaskets.
8. Messiah is designated as a non-smoking building; alcohol is allowed for sacramental purposes only.
9. Bulletins for Marriage Service: You may choose from the selection of bulletin covers on hand at Messiah. They are available at a nominal fee. When one of these bulletin covers is chosen, the church staff will be happy to print the bulletin for you. You may also choose to design your own bulletin covers: in this case, you are expected to print the bulletin yourself. The pastor will provide needed information concerning the order of worship.
10. We encourage you to think about and discuss with the pastor the following elements of the marriage service.

Scripture Passages:

Two or three passages from the Bible may be appropriate. A list of suggested readings is given on p. 4; however, other readings are also appropriate. You may choose the readings yourself or the pastor will choose them after meeting with you and getting to know you better.

Vows

You may use either of the vows in the hymnal, or you may write your own. If you choose to write your own vows, they need to include a promise of lifelong faithfulness.

How will you enter the church?

All come down the center aisle:

Spouse & Parents (Or spouse & pastor)

Attendants enter as couples

Then spouse and parents (or father as escort)

or

spouse & pastor enter worship area via side:

Attendants come down aisle and are greeted by spouse

Spouse enters w/escort (either parents or father, mother)

Spouse greets spouse at front of pew area.

Since parents occupy a special place in the lives of the couple, it is appropriate to have both mother and father participate in the processional (entering the church).

If Holy Communion is celebrated, it will be offered to all Christians in attendance.

Unity Candle

A candle-lighting ceremony is appropriate as a symbol of uniting in marriage. You need to purchase a large candle for the center and two regular 10" dinner candles, one for each side.

Two sets of candelabra are available. One set is freestanding and would be placed at the sides of the altar. One set is shorter and would be placed on the altar. You provide 14 candles, 12" tapers, for whichever set you choose. You will need to purchase the candles for the candelabra.

Photography and Videotaping

Photography usually is not permitted during the worship service. The professional photographer is asked to speak with the pastor about photography prior to the service.

Videotaping is permitted but with discretion. A tripod set at one side of the chancel is helpful. Consult pastor.

Music

Music occupies a significant place in the marriage service; it is important that the couple consult the church musicians.

A wedding is a worship service as well as a marriage. Consider including at least one congregational hymn. You may choose a favorite hymn or a hymn appropriate for praise and celebration. Examples are: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You," "Beautiful Savior," "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry."

Rehearsal

It is customary to have a rehearsal, especially if there are significant numbers of people involved in the service. Please consult the pastor for scheduling of rehearsal.

Marriage License

The pastor is legally responsible for the delivery of the license to the appropriate civil authority. Please bring the marriage license to the church office at least three days prior to the marriage. The license will be signed during/after the ceremony. You will be given

a copy. The "official" copy will be mailed to the county clerk on the first mailing day after the ceremony.

11. If you desire the pastor to attend the wedding dinner & reception, please include him/her on your invitation list. Misunderstandings can occur when the couple assumes that the pastor automatically is invited. Invitations can be addressed to:

Pastor Andrew Plocher
415 W. Michigan
Marquette, MI 49855

or

Pastor Allan Johnson
601 State Highway 553
Marquette, MI 49855

Wedding Music & Liturgy

A wedding at Messiah Lutheran Church is a celebration of Christian marriage. It affirms that God in Christ Jesus loves us and wants us to love others. Our family and community are involved in the liturgy.

In planning the liturgy, remember that we seek God's presence and blessing, as well as the presence and blessing of our guests.

There is a diversity of music available. Such music is not to entertain but to create a worship setting to the Glory of God.

Congregational singing is always appropriate. Perhaps the bride and groom have favorite hymns from which choices can be made.

The following guidelines are offered to assist in the planning of the marriage liturgy:

1. Select musician/organist as soon as possible---several months prior to the wedding is a minimum. Consult Kathy Strazzinski (869-7871) for organist or pianist.
2. If a vocalist is desired, consult the church office.
3. If soloist/vocalist will be utilizing instruments other than the organ or piano, please consult with the pastor.
4. Contacts between soloists/vocalists and organist/pianist are vital. Therefore, names and phone numbers should be exchanged as soon as possible.
5. When selecting a processional, consider the number of attendants in the wedding party---as well as parents and children who may be included in the processional.
6. Musical selections from sources other than the hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, need to be approved by the pastor.
7. Some questions to consider when choosing music:
---Does the music promote marriage in a Christian setting?
---Is the music appropriate for a wedding celebration?
---If the music speaks of love, does it promote God's love, the love of sharing, the love that builds up one another?
8. If you plan to use Messiah's sound system for vocal soloists/instrumentalists please consult with the pastor.

Scripture Readings for Marriage Services

It would be appropriate to have one reading from each of the testaments. The following are some passages commonly used during marriage services. You might have a favorite Bible story or verse that you would like to use for your service. You may substitute a secular poem or reading for one of the scripture readings, though it must be approved by the pastor.

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:26-28 *Woman and man created in the image of God*

Genesis 2:18-24 *Companionship rather than loneliness*

Proverbs 3:3-6 *Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart*
Song of Solomon 2:10-13 *The voice of the beloved*
Song of Solomon 8:6-7 *Many waters cannot quench love*
Isaiah 63:7-9 *God's steadfast love lifts up the people*
Jeremiah 31:31-34 *The new covenant of the people of God*

PSALM

67 *May God be merciful to us and bless us*
100 *We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture*
117 *The steadfast love of the Lord*
121 *The Lord keeps watch over you*
127 *Unless the Lord builds the house*
128 *Blessed are those who walk in the Lord's ways*
150 *Let everything that breathes praise the Lord*

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 *If God is for us, who is against us*
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 *A living sacrifice and genuine love*
1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13 *The greatest gift is love*
Ephesians 3:14-19 *The breadth, length, height and depth of Christ's love*
Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33 *Walk in love, as Christ loved us*
Philippians 4:4-9 *Rejoice in the Lord always*
Colossians 3:12-17 *Clothed in compassion, kindness, meekness and patience*
1 John 3:18-24 *Let us love in truth and action*
1 John 4:7-16 *Let us love one another for love is of God*

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-10 *The beatitudes*
Matthew 5:14-16 *You are the light, let your light shine*
Matthew 7:21, 24-29 *A wise person builds upon the rock*
Matthew 19:3-6 *What God has united must not be divided*
Matthew 22:35-40 *Love, the greatest commandment*
Mark 10:6-9 *They are no longer two but one*
John 2:1-11 *The wedding at Cana*
John 15:9-17 *Love one another as I have loved you*