

*Eden Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

*Wedding  
Handbook*

*Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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## *Introduction*

We rejoice that you have decided to join together in marriage at Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church. We hope that your wedding will be filled with the blessings of God and pray that you will know the love of the Christian community who stands with you in this joyful time in your lives.

When a couple chooses to locate their wedding in a Christian church, they are witnessing to the importance of God in their lives and their relationship. A Christian marriage service rejoices in the gifts of God in life, health, strength, relationships, and family. In thanksgiving for the gift of their relationship and with the realization of the brokenness of human relationships, the couple makes vows to one another before the Christian assembly, thereby securing the support and love of the Christian community in all the highs and lows of a married relationship. A church wedding is more than a social event; it is a service of worship seeking the blessing of God and the community.

A wedding that takes place in the church seeks the support and blessing of your relationship by the whole Christian community. After your wedding, it is the call of the church to welcome you into the ministry of Christ. By your presence in Sunday worship and at other events, we can get to know you as a family and offer care and Christian support.

Because of the foundation of marriage within the Christian community, Eden generally celebrates weddings of church members. Therefore, the pastor normally officiates at all weddings held in the church, although other members of the clergy are invited to participate or assist as arranged with the pastor prior to the ceremony. Under special circumstances, another pastor may officiate at a wedding held here, but only with specific permission from the pastor and council. The celebration of the weddings other than members of the congregation is at the discretion of the pastors.

Occasionally weddings take place outside the church building. If they are conducted by the pastor of Eden, they will conform to the same expectations of marriage preparation and the same pattern of a Christian wedding celebration as a wedding held in the building.

## *Timeline*

<b>Time</b>	<b>Task</b>
As soon as possible	Confirm your wedding date and rehearsal date with the church calendar, the pastor, and the organist/pianist, and vocalist
Six months before the wedding	Schedule pre-marital sessions with the pastor
Three months before the wedding	Contact organist to begin planning the music for your wedding
One week before the wedding	Proof read your wedding bulletin and have pastor approve it. Make arrangements for the building to be opened at the time you need it. Communicate any set-up needs with the custodian.
At the rehearsal	Marriage license and all fees and honoraria are due to the pastor.
The day of the wedding	
Flowers delivered	No later than three hours before the wedding
Ushers available to seat guests	Thirty minutes before the wedding
Bridal Party is lined up	Ten minutes before the wedding
Decorations to be removed	Immediately after the wedding

## *Scheduling*

### Scheduling Your Wedding

Please contact the pastor of the church for conversation about your upcoming wedding as soon as you have decided on a date. Only the pastor may schedule a wedding and wedding rehearsal on the church calendar. Please do not enter into any contracts for your wedding celebration until you have confirmed the time and date of the wedding and wedding rehearsal with the pastor.

### Meeting with the Pastor

The congregation requires that the prospective bride and groom meet with the pastor for a period of preparation. This preparation is a time for those to be married to be in conversation with the pastor about the gifts and responsibilities of marriage and to plan the wedding service. Normally, these meetings begin approximately three to six months before the wedding.

## *The Marriage Service*

The marriage service is a service of worship in the Christian church that primarily proclaims God's promises, and, secondarily, seeks the blessing of a married relationship that grounded in the steadfast love of God. Therefore, the marriage service follows the order of all Christian assembly: the people of God are gathered, the Word of God is proclaimed, the people of God respond to that Word of God in prayer, and the assembly is sent out in mission to the world. The wedding vows are a response to the good news of God's Word and therefore occur after the proclamation of God's Word through biblical readings and a short sermon by the pastor. Holy Communion may be part of the marriage service.

Although the general shape of the marriage service is unchangeable, the bride and groom have choices about many things: the particular readings of scripture, the use of a unity candle, music, wording of vows, etc. Sometimes couples also choose a non-scriptural poem or reading in addition to the scriptural ones. During your planning meetings, the pastor will guide you through your options and work with you to find ways to make the worship service that includes your wedding vows meaningful to you and your guests.

## Music

During Christian church weddings, music adds significance to the service. Because the music is sung or played in a church, (or as an expression of church-community), only music that the church considers appropriate for a wedding should be used. Music should in some way be Christ or God centered and express our understanding of loving faithfulness. Music in a wedding service should always enhance the meaning of the liturgy and the wedding vows. In general, music of the stage and screen is probably not appropriate to the worship atmosphere. All music to be played must meet the approval the pastor. In order to be helpful, the Organist can also suggest selections.

Eden's organist will ordinarily provide music for all weddings held at the church. If, for special reasons, the bride and groom wish to have a guest organist play for the wedding, prior approval must be obtained from our Pastor. Any guest organist playing at Eden is requested to adhere to the policy above.

The use of soloists and instrumentalists is to be discussed with our pastor and the selection of their music is to be consistent with Eden's wedding music policy.

### Hymn Suggestions:

308 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!  
312 Jesus, Come! For We Invite You  
436 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying  
460 Now the Silence  
488, 489 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness  
585 Hear Us Now, Our God and Father  
586 This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited  
631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
642 Ubi caritas et amor  
644 Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue  
648 Beloved, God's Chosen  
816 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life  
836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee  
839, 840 Now Thank We All Our God  
879 For the Beauty of the Earth  
881 Let All Things Now Living

### Suggested Readings:

Genesis 1:26-28 *Woman and man created in God's image*  
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.*  
Psalm 100 *We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.*  
Psalm 117 *The faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.*  
Psalm 121 *The LORD watches over you and will keep your life.*  
Psalm 127 *May the LORD build the house and watch over the city.*  
Psalm 128 *Happy are they who follow in the ways of God.*  
Psalm 150 *Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.*

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 12:31-12:13 *The greatest gift is love*  
Ephesians 3:14-19 *The greatness of Christ's love*  
Ephesians 5:1-2 *Living in love, as Christ loved us*  
Philippians 4:4-9 *Rejoice in the Lord always*  
Colossians 3:12-17 *Clothed in gifts of God*  
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*

Matthew 5:1-10 *The Beatitudes*  
Matthew 5:14-16 *You are the light, let your light shine*  
Matthew 7:24-27 *Build on 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*

### Length of Service

For your planning, a marriage service without Holy Communion and no additional music is approximately 30 to 35 minutes long. A marriage service with Holy Communion and no additional music is approximately 40 to 50 minutes long.

## *Fees and Honoraria*

These fees and honoraria are minimums as approved by the Church Council. Supplementary fees may be assessed for additional meetings, planning sessions, musical rehearsals, supplies, etc. The pastor has the discretion to negotiate these fees in special circumstances. Fees are normally paid at the wedding rehearsal. All fees and honoraria should be paid directly to the person, with the exception of the building fee.

### Marriage Counseling:

Prepare-Enrich Assessment: \$35 payment is made through the online program.

### Personnel:

Pastor: a suggested honorarium of \$100 (\$75 for active members).

Organist: \$75 (\$50 for active members) including one rehearsal.

Soloists: Individual soloists or instrumentalists may set their own fees in consultation with the bride and groom. Fees are payable directly to soloist.

### Use of Building:

Building services: \$200 for wedding service (includes cleaning before and after, building access & assistance for wedding rehearsal and day of wedding).

**Note:** \*\* Active members of Eden Lutheran Church are confirmed, contributing, communing members – who have communed and contributed at least once in the previous year.

### Seating Capacity

The church normally accommodates 150 people. Additional green chairs may be brought in, and the side panels may be opened to seat an additional 85 people. For larger weddings, the narthex may be set up to accommodate another 15 people. Making our absolute max. 250.

### Outdoor Weddings

Weddings can take place outdoors on the church's lawn. The church has enough green chairs for approximately 200 people.

Sound System - A sound system should be rented for outdoor weddings. Range Communications has a rental system for \$150. Indoor weddings may use the church sound system.

### Supplies

Bulletins: \$25 payable to Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church (Catalogues for ordering are available in the church office.)

# *Guidelines*

## Calendar

Weddings will not be scheduled during Holy Week (Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday.)

## Alcohol

The use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in the church or on the church grounds with the exception of sacramental wine for Holy Communion. No member of the wedding party may be visibly inebriated directly before or during the ceremony. Pastor will terminate the ceremony if this rule is broken.

## Photography

Please remember that the marriage service is a full worship service of the church. When selecting a photographer, choose one who will take the pictures you would like without calling attention to him/herself. If pictures are taken beforehand, they must be finished one hour before the wedding begins.

FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS NOT ALLOWED DURING THE SERVICE. If necessary, the pastor is normally willing to reenact portions of the service immediately after the worship service for pictures.

Video may be taken provided that the camera can be placed inconspicuously in the back or side of the church and not moved during the service.

At the end of this packet is a letter to be given to your photographer that explains the policies of Eden regarding photography during wedding services.

## Flowers and Decorations

The church has pedestals for flowers. They are not to be placed on the altar.

Please contact the church office to make arrangements for flower delivery. The Munising Flower Shop has full access to the church. Flowers must be delivered to the church no later than three hours before the service.

Decorations on the chairs must not be affixed with wire, tacks, tape, or anything else that can mar the finish on the wood.

If an aisle runner is to be used, please be sure to measure out the length you would prefer.

Arrangements are to be made for the removal of flower stands, runner, etc. from the church immediately following the service.

Rice or confetti may not be thrown (flower petals are okay but must be cleaned up immediately). You are welcome to use bubbles or bells when the bride and groom leave the building.

### Flower Girl/Ring Bearer/Sign Holders

We encourage the participation of family and young people in the wedding service. However, please keep developmental age in mind when you choose their roles. Children below school-age usually have a difficult time getting down the aisle in a crowded church without physical guidance such as holding someone's hand. Furthermore, they may have a difficult time standing still for the length of the service. If you wish to include children below school age in your wedding party, please make arrangements to have a trusted adult known to the child/ children guide and see to the needs of the child during the service.

### Rehearsal

Before the wedding rehearsal, please decide the order of the processional and recessional, how you would like to manage the bridal veil, where you would like your attendants to stand in the chancel and how you would like to be introduced at the end of the service.

Although the pastor can make suggestions about the processional and recessional, the bridal veil, and the location of attendants, these things are secondary to the pastor's function.

**All participants** in the wedding (attendants, flower girl, readers, etc.) should be present at the rehearsal. Please be respectful of the time of the church staff and be on time for the rehearsal.

### Marriage License

The bride and groom must obtain a marriage license from the County for weddings at the church. The license is valid 4 days after obtaining it and void after 60 days. Please give the marriage license to the pastor at the rehearsal.

### The Day of the Wedding

Normally wedding photos are taken in advance. They need to be completed at least one hour before the wedding service.

Ushers should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the wedding. Their function is to assist the guests in the church.

The bridal party is expected to be on time for the ceremony out of respect for the guests and the worship leaders. In your estimations of driving times and scheduling of transportation, please consider the increase in local traffic on weekends. In order to insure that you will be on time, overestimate traveling time.

## *Bulletin Information*

Day, Date and Time of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Parents  
(and Spouses) \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Parents  
(and Spouses) \_\_\_\_\_

Presiding Minister \_\_\_\_\_

Organist \_\_\_\_\_

Soloist \_\_\_\_\_

Instrumentalist \_\_\_\_\_

Maid/Matron of Honor \_\_\_\_\_

Best Man \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaids  
(in order) \_\_\_\_\_

Flower Girl \_\_\_\_\_

Groomsmen/Ushers  
(in order) \_\_\_\_\_

Ring Bearer \_\_\_\_\_

Readers \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Photographer,

We are pleased to welcome you to Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church for the

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ wedding on

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Time

Please remember that the marriage service is a full worship service of the church. Please make every effort to not call attention to yourself.

FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS NOT ALLOWED DURING THE SERVICE. If necessary, the pastor is normally willing to reenact portions of the service immediately after the worship service for pictures.

Video may be taken provided that the camera can be placed inconspicuously and not moved during the service. Pictures taken before the wedding need to be finished one hour prior to the wedding service.

Please find and speak to the pastor who is officiating the wedding when you arrive at the church. She can answer any last minute questions.

Please do not hesitate to contact the pastor or the church office before the wedding if you have any questions.

Blessings,

The Rev. Ann Gonyea  
Pastor

## *Postlude*

Marriage is the commitment which a couple makes to share their lives together. Christian people usually choose to exchange vows of fidelity within the context of a wedding service in the church.

The service is intended to give all who participate an opportunity to worship joyfully and pray for God's blessing upon the newly married couple.

A well-planned marriage service is a positive beginning for a truly happy and satisfying life together. We encourage you to discuss and plan carefully and seriously. Your special worship service may be a real blessing to many.