

Wedding Manual



University Lutheran Chapel
Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Wedding Service

Weddings conducted at University Lutheran Chapel are, first and foremost, worship services of the Church. This fact will govern almost every detail of service planning. You will want your wedding to be beautiful and meaningful, of course; but to achieve a beautiful service you must not think only of bridal colors, formal wear, external decor, and such, but also of solemnity, ceremony, and reverence in the presence of God. In planning, you will always want to ask the question “would this be appropriate in another service at this church?” The answer to that question will help clarify the appropriateness of whatever thing is under consideration. If the answer is “yes”, then that thing can probably be considered for inclusion in your wedding. If the answer is “no”, then that thing should probably be set aside, perhaps for the reception or for another occasion.

Because the wedding service is a worship service being held at a particular congregation, the pastor of the congregation is the final authority on all matters touching the worship service, the worship space, music, and the rite of holy matrimony itself. The pastor reserves the right to refuse to marry any couple who will not agree to respect authority in these matters.

The Liturgy

Because the marriage service is a worship service, the wedding rite will normally take place within the setting of one of the historic liturgies of the Church. These liturgies have been handed down from the earliest Christian times and are the voice of the Church in proclamation and prayer through the ages. The combination of Scripture, poetry and chant present in these liturgies will greatly

beautify your wedding.

The choice of liturgy depends upon the time of day that the ceremony is to take place. If the marriage is in the morning the liturgy will be the Order of Matins, the Order of Terce (Prayer at Nine O'clock), or the Order of Morning Prayer. A wedding taking place around midday will use the Order of Sext (prayer at 12 Noon). If the ceremony is in the afternoon or evening, the liturgy will be either the Order of None 9 (Prayer at 3 O'clock), the Order of Vespers or the Order of Evening Prayer. You may choose to use settings of these liturgies found in either *Lutheran Service Book*, *Oremus: A Lutheran Breviary*, or *The Lutheran Hymnal*. The Order of Holy Communion will not ordinarily be used due to pastoral concerns over the proper administration of the Sacrament and closed communion.

The rite of marriage itself will be performed according to one of the following books:

- + *The 1928 edition of the Book of Common Prayer* (This is the preferred option, containing what most would recognize as the traditional wedding rite.)
- + *The Lutheran Agenda*
- + *Lutheran Service Book Agenda*.

Marriage is an institution established by God and defined by Holy Scripture. When getting married you are entering into this holy institution not creating an institution or agreement tailor made to you and your fiancé. For this reason you may not write your own wedding vows, but must use the vows as given in the rite. These vows lay out specifically what is promised by and expected of each party entering into matrimony according to Holy Scripture.

Using the traditional wedding vows will also be helpful to you in your life together as husband and wife, as each will more readily recall just what you have vowed to the other as time goes by.

Because the pastor is, according to the Scriptures, the steward of the mysteries of God (I Corinthians 4:1, I Timothy 4:13), he will lead all portions of the liturgy and marriage rite, including the public reading of the Scriptures. If there are other, ordained, LCMS clergymen you would like to have participate in the liturgy or rite of matrimony, that can be arranged at the discretion of ULC's pastor.

Music

Music is an integral part of the Church's worship. Music not only serves to accompany the message of the text of song, but also carries a message all its own. It is a powerful tool that can be used either to enhance the meaning and purpose of words, or detract from those words. Likewise, music can either enhance our reverence in worship, or it can detract from that reverence. Great care must therefore be taken when choosing the music of the wedding service.

With the help of your pastor, you will need to choose preludes and postludes, processional and recessional music, psalms, hymns, and (depending on the particular liturgy) a canticle. For your convenience, the following list is an example of pieces that fit nicely into the wedding service and have the pastor's pre-approval.

Preludes and Postludes:

Purcell, "Trumpet Tune and Air"

Bach, "*Kommst du nun, Jesu*"

Most sacred music by J.S. Bach, Dietrich Buxtehude, William Byrd, Marc Antoine Charpentier, George Frederic Handel,

Herbert Howells, Felix Mendelssohn, Johann Pachelbel, Giovanni Palestrina, Michael Praetorius, Henry Purcell, Johann Hermann Schein, Samuel Scheidt, Heinrich Schütz, Charles Villiers Stanford, Thomas Tallis, Johann Walter, or the like

Processionals:

Charpentier, Prelude from “*Te Deum*”

Bach, “*Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring*”, “*Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme*”, “*Sheep May Safely Graze*”

Clarke, “*Trumpet Voluntary*”

Frescobaldi, “*Canzona I*”

Pachelbel, “*Canon and Gigue in G minor*”

Handel, “*Minuet from Music for the Royal Fireworks*”

Hymns:

“*Alleluia! Let Praises Ring*” LSB #822, TLH #23

“*Praise the Almighty, My Soul Adore Him*” LSB # 797, TLH #26

“*Now Thank We All Our God*” LSB #895, TLH #36

“*Blest be the Tie that Binds*” LSB #649, TLH #464

“*The Church’s One Foundation*” LSB #644, TLH #473

“*Lord Jesus, Thou the Church’s Head*” LSB #647, TLH #477

“*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*” LSB #516, TLH #609

“*Lord, Who at Cana’s Wedding Feast*” LSB #859, TLH #620

“*O Father, All Creating*” LSB #858, TLH #621

“*The Voice that Breathed o’er Eden*” TLH #622

“*O Perfect Love*” TLH #623

“*O Blessed Home Where Man and Wife*” TLH #624

“Oh, Blest the House, Whate’er Befall” LSB #862, TLH #625

“For Many Years, O God of Grace” TLH #639

“Gracious Savior, Grant Your Blessing” LSB #860

Canticles:

At Matins or Morning Prayer:

“Te Deum Laudamus” LSB p.223-225, LSB #941, TLH p.35-37

“Benedictus” LSB p. 226-227 or 238-240, TLH p.38-39

“Benedicite, Omnia Opera” LSB #931

“Confitebor Tibi” LSB #927, TLH p.120

“Exultavit Cor Meum” LSB #928, TLH p.120-121

“Gaudens gaudebo” LSB #929

At Vespers or Evening Prayer

“Te Deum Laudamus” LSB p.223-225, LSB #941, TLH p.35-37

“Magnificat” LSB p.231-232 or p.248-249, TLH p.43

Please note that there is no canticle in the liturgies of Terce, Sext or None.

Recessional:

Bach, “Nun danket alle Gott”

Stanley, “Movement 4, Allegro, Suite from Ten Voluntaries”

Most sacred music by the same composers as listed under
Processionals

Please note that the Wedding Marches of Wagner and Mendelssohn may not be used due to their pagan associations. “Toccatina and Fugue in D minor” by Bach also may not be used due to its modern horror-genre associations.

You must find and hire your own musicians. You may use one of the chapel’s organists if they are available and willing, or may choose an organist or pianist of your own. Other musicians may be employed in the service as well, especially strings, trumpet, and other brass instrumentalists. Acoustic guitar may be used if played in the classical style.

Many couples desire to have a soloist perform at some point in the service. You may choose your own soloist and music. However, due again to the nature of the Church’s worship, certain styles of music are simply not appropriate and may not be used. These include, but are not necessarily limited to: Opera, Jazz, Blues, Show tunes, R & B, Hip Hop, Country Western, Folk, Pop, Rock & Roll, and Rap. All music and lyrics must be approved by the pastor. Please make sure that the music you choose is not beyond the abilities of your musicians.

Please consult with your musicians regarding appropriate pay or honoraria. For reference, University Lutheran Chapel pays \$175/service to our organist (as of 2023). Please remember that the music of most weddings takes considerably more work to prepare than the music of a typical Sunday church service, and pay your musicians appropriately.

Attire

Due to the solemn nature of this occasion, formal attire should be worn. The bride and her bridesmaids should wear dresses. Because these will be worn at a worship service in the sight of all, certain accommodations must be made for modesty's sake. Dresses should be tasteful and not overtly sexy: not too short and not plunging too deep in the front or in the back. The groom and his groomsmen should wear conservative suits or traditional formal wear. Tennis shoes may not be worn. Under no circumstances may costumes be worn by the wedding party (e.g. beachwear, cowboy outfits, medieval outfits, togas, etc.).

Flowers and Decorations

In the worship service one must always be concerned with sacred space. Care must, therefore, be taken when you decorate the chapel. As in all worship services, the focal point and center of worship is the altar. Therefore also for your wedding the chapel decorations should lead all eyes to the altar at which you will exchange your vows.

The paraments (altar, lectern, and pulpit hangings) will be the proper color of the season or day and are not to be changed for the wedding service. You may wish to take this into consideration when choosing "your colors".

Colors of the Church Year

GREEN All days apart from those below.

PURPLE Season of Advent and Lent (although traditionally weddings are not celebrated during Lent)

WHITE Season of Christmas, Season of Easter, Feasts of Our

Lord and certain Saint's Days

RED Week of Pentecost, Reformation Day, Martyrs' Days, Evangelists' Days, most Apostles' Days.

Flowers may be tastefully placed throughout the chapel. They must not, however be placed in such a way that they interfere with the liturgical space and the necessary movements of the pastor and wedding party. The following list of do's and don'ts should be followed.

- + Do place flowers behind the altar on the re-table.
Don't place flowers on the mensa (top) of the altar itself.
- + Do place flowers before the lectern and pulpit.
Don't block the congregation's view of the speaker or of the paraments.
- + Do place flowers on stands at the side in the chancel area or in the niches next to the chancel.
- + Don't place flowers on the communion rail, or anywhere where they may interfere with movement between pulpit, lectern, altar and center aisle.
- + Do place flowers at the ends of the seating rows.
- + Don't place flowers in the aisle itself.
- + Don't place flowers on or in the Baptismal Font or on the Paschal Candle Stand.
- + Don't place flowers on the piano or organ.

Other decorations may include a wedding banner, aisle candles, an aisle runner, and a marriage icon. You must provide any special candles, such as aisle candles. Candles in the candelabra and torches in the chancel will be provided by the congregation.

Decorating should be completed at least 45 minutes prior to the service. When a florist is engaged to furnish decorations, he or she should be asked beforehand to follow the above guidelines, to respect the sacredness of the house of God, and to do his or her work with all reverence. A key to the chapel can be provided for the purpose of such preparations.

Photography

Photographers, like decorators should be asked to respect the sacredness of God's house and of the worship service. No photographs are to be taken during the wedding ceremony or liturgy proper (with the exception of the processional and recessional) unless they are taken from the rear of the building, the side aisles of the nave, or from the balcony. If photos are desired during the ceremony, they must be taken without flash and may not under any circumstances be taken in the chancel proper. Formal photographs may be taken either before or after the wedding at your discretion. As with decorating, all photographic equipment (lights, tripods, etc.) should be removed at least 45 minutes before the service.

Videography and Live Streaming

Videographers are urged to follow the same instructions as photographers. All video during the service should be done from the rear of the chapel, from the balcony or from the side aisles. It is important for the videographer to work in such a way as to not distract congregants during the service. Under no circumstances may the videographer stand in the chancel during the service.

Live-streaming of the service may be done only if absolutely necessary. If done, the same rules apply as for videography, with the exception that a static, unmanned camera may be placed unobtrusively within the chancel area.

Chapel Capacity and Parking

Please note that the nave of University Lutheran Chapel has a maximum seating capacity of just over 200 people. Due to the small size of our lot, parking at University Lutheran Chapel is somewhat limited. On-street parking is available on side streets only on a first-come first-serve basis. A permit can usually be obtained from the City of Minneapolis for parking on University Avenue and/or 4th Street SE for special events. The University of Minnesota is often willing to let spaces in its lot at Sanford Hall on University Avenue SE. Obtaining rental parking or permit parking is your responsibility. Please inform your guests of the options you will provide for them.

When using the chapel building, whether for pictures, wedding ceremony, decorating, dressing, etc., one must always remember that the space is sacred and should be treated as such. There may be no use of profanity, and no alcoholic beverages on the premises without the explicit permission of the pastor. Children should not be allowed free reign within the nave and should not be allowed to play in the chancel proper. In short, please give the house of the Lord the reverent respect it deserves.

Luther House

The basement, first and second floors of Luther House (with the exception of the pastor's study and the chapel office) may be used for dressing and other preparations on your wedding day. Luther House may also be used for small receptions by members of ULC if available. If you make use of Luther House, you will be responsible

for ensuring that it is cleaned up after the wedding and that the various rooms are returned to their ordinary configuration before Sunday morning. The pastor can provide you with an electronic key to Luther House prior to your wedding day.

Printing

Ordinarily ULC will provide for the printing of your service bulletin. The pastor will work with you to produce them. If you want pre-printed bulletin covers, or desire to work with a professional print shop, the pastor will provide the service in PDF form for you to print or have printed.

Honoraria and Fees

Because weddings involve extra janitorial work, a fee of \$150 is required of all non-member couples using the chapel building for their wedding, and should be made payable to University Lutheran Chapel.

Our pastor does not require payment for officiating at weddings. It is, however, customary to thank the pastor by providing him an honorarium. When considering the type or amount of honorarium, please consider that the pastor will have put more time and effort into preparing you for marriage and more work into planning and performing your wedding service than your baker, photographer, florist, or nearly anyone else involved in your wedding other than you and your parents/family.

ULC Official Marriage Policy

The pastor(s) of University Lutheran Chapel will not under any circumstances conduct marriages that are not in accord with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures of the Christian Faith, particular unions, whether sanctioned by the state or not, consisting of anything other than one man and one woman [understood as chromosomally male and female respectively]. The facilities of University Lutheran Chapel will not be used for marriages other than those conducted by her pastor(s) or with the permission of her pastor(s) and in accord with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures of the Christian Faith.

Weddings for People Who Are Not Members of ULC

Ordinarily ULC does not conduct weddings for non-members. Moreover, ULC does not rent the chapel building or Luther House to non-members for weddings. If you are a member of sister congregation of the LCMS (or other church body in fellowship with the LCMS), we will consider hosting or performing your wedding ceremony with the permission of your pastor.

Other Matters

Questions concerning matters not addressed in this manual should be directed to the pastor, who has final authority when determining the details of the wedding service and chapel use.

May our Lord's blessing be upon you as you prepare for a life together as husband and wife.

*The Rev. David A. Kind, Campus Pastor
University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Updated Tuesday of Laetare, 2023*

Service Planning Worksheet

Rehearsal Time _____

Wedding Time _____

Photos Time _____

Liturgy _____

Preludes _____

Processional _____

Opening Hymn _____

Psalmody _____

Office Hymn _____

Readings _____

Sermon Hymn _____

Canticle _____

Closing Hymn _____

Recessional _____

Postludes _____
