

Peace Lutheran Church

701 S. Century Avenue

Waunakee, WI 53597

(608) 849-7322

Fax: 849-7792

E-Mail: peace@plcemail.org

www.peaceinwaunakee.org

WEDDING INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

Adopted by Peace Lutheran Church Council, November 17, 2010

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment to love one another as I have loved you."

John 15:12

Marriage is a beautiful covenant that celebrates the love of two people. The incredible promises--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--are made with faith and hope for the future. A marriage is meant to endure the trials and celebrations of a lifetime, therefore it is our desire to help couples prepare for their wedding and plan for their marriage as they make the commitment to love each other forever.

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Karen Locken

Rev. Kirsten Fryer



This booklet contains marriage philosophy/theology, policies, practices and other important information related to weddings at Peace Lutheran Church.

Philosophy/Theology of Marriage

- Purpose/Expectations/Nature of Covenant

How to Begin:

- Scheduling a Date on the Church Calendar
- Costs
- Offsite Weddings

Planning the Wedding:

- Order of Worship
- Flowers
- Candles
- Music
- Wedding Party
- Parents
- Grandparents
- Music
- Wedding Party
- Parents
- Grandparents

Preparing for the Marriage

- Premarital Counseling Sessions
- Questions to Consider



Philosophy/Theology of Marriage

“But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. And the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together let no one separate.” **Mark 10:6-9**

In his book, *Whistling in the Dark*, Frederick Buechner, a contemporary theologian writes about marriage:

“They say they will love, comfort, honor each other to the end of their days. They say they will cherish each other and be faithful to each other always. They say they will do these things not just when they feel like it but even—for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health—when they don’t feel like it at all. In other words, the vows they make at a marriage could hardly be more extravagant. They give away their freedom. They take on themselves each other’s burdens. They bind their lives together in ways that are even more painful to unbind emotionally, humanly, than they are to unbind legally. The question is: what do they get in return?

They get each other in return. Assuming they have any success at all in keeping their rash, quixotic promises, they never have to face the world quite alone again. There will always be the other to talk to, to listen to. If they’re lucky, even after the first passion passes, they still have a kindness and a patience to depend on, a chance to be patient and kind. There is still someone to get through the night with, to wake into the new day beside. If they have children, they can give them, as well as each other, roots and wings. If they don’t have children, they each become the other’s child.

They both still have their lives apart as well as a life together. They both still have their separate ways to find. But a marriage made in Heaven is one where a man and a woman become more richly themselves together than the chances are either of them could ever have managed to become alone.” **(Whistling in the Dark, p.86)**

Marriage is a promise—a decision, a commitment, a pledge—to love another human being—for the duration of a lifetime. One cannot imagine all that will become of the promises and the people who make them on the day of the wedding. The promises are made on a foundation of faith that God’s love will guide the couple through the best and worst of all that is to come every moment of every day of every year of their lives. May you find wisdom, courage, and helpful ideas as you plan and prepare for your marriage.



Order of Worship

Prelude

The music that is played by the musician prior to the wedding as guests are gathering.

Processional

The music that is played as the parents, the wedding party, and the bride and groom enter.

Welcome

The words that are spoken as the wedding begins to welcome people to the celebration and invite them to be part of the event.

Prayer

An opening prayer related to the beginning of the wedding celebration.

Readings:

Scripture - usually a reading from the Old Testament, The New Testament (epistles), and a Gospel reading. Sometimes a poem is substituted for one of the first two readings but needs to be approved by the officiating pastor. Readings can be shared by friends/family of the bride/groom. Although the Gospel is often read by the pastor, that too could be read by another honored guest. We encourage people to make their own scripture selections. They can be from the following list or others that are meaningful to the bride and groom.

Scripture choices often used at weddings include:

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31
Genesis 2:18-24
Song of Sol 2:10-13
Song of Sol 8:7
Ruth 1:16
Psalms 33, 100, 117
127, 136, 150
Psalm 115:1
Psalm 103:1-5
Isaiah 63:7-9
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

New Testament

Romans 12:1-2
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
or 1 Corinth 13:4-8a, 13
1 John 4:7-12, 15-19
1 Peter 3:3-4
Colossians 3:12-17
Ephesians 4:1-6
Hebrews 13:1-6

Gospel

Matthew 7:24-29
Matthew 19:4-6
John 2:1-10
John 13:34-35
John 15:9-12



Wedding Message

Short sermon delivered by the presiding pastor.

Music

Not required but a nice transition into intention/vows/sharing of rings. (See information about music selection.)

Intention

The set of questions for which you answer “I do” or in this case, “I will” prior to the exchange of vows. See below:

_____, will you have this woman/man to be your wedded wife/husband, to live together after God’s ordinance in the holy estate of marriage? Will you love her/him, comfort her/him, honor and keep her/him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep you only unto her/him, so long as you both shall live? If so, please answer, “I will”.

Exchange of Vows

Couples usually choose one of the following sets of vows to make their promises. If you would prefer to write your own, please talk with the pastor about considerations for creating your own vows in one of your pre-marriage sessions.

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 I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.
2. 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 the worst of what is to come until death parts us.
3. 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 to strengthen you and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.



4. I _____ take thee _____ 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 us part, according to God's holy ordinance and thereto I promise you my faithfulness.
5. I _____ take thee _____ to be my wedded wife/husband until death parts us and thereto I promise you my faithfulness.
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 the worst of what is to come as long as we both shall live.
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 as long as we both shall live.

Exchange of Rings

The rings are a symbol of the marriage and are exchanged between the bride and the groom following the vows. As rings are exchanged, each says, "I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness."

Pronouncement of Marriage

Proclamation that the marriage has occurred.

Unity Candle/Sand Ceremony/Other

A time of having a candle lighting or pouring of sand to symbolize the new family that has been created in the sharing of vows.

Music

Optional—but important if there is a candle or sand experience.

Blessing



Prayers

Prayer petitions that are for the couple in particular, and others in general. This is a good place to share any prayer concerns related to friends and family.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Or

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Congregational: (have congregation repeat lines)

May God our Creator bless and keep you
May the sun of many years shine upon you
May the love you have for one another grow and hold you close;
May your dreams come true, and when they don't, may new dreams arise,
May you serve your neighbor in need
May joy and peace fill your lives
In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

OR

Traditional Benediction

Introduction of Couple

This is the official "introduction" and is about how you would like to be introduced. For example, Mr. and Mrs. John and Mary Smith.

Recessional

Music that is played while the bride and groom and wedding party process out.

Postlude

Music that is played while guests are ushered out.



Scheduling a Date for a Wedding and Preparing for the Wedding

We schedule dates for weddings up to 18 months in advance. Although weddings may be scheduled during almost any season of the church year, they need to be arranged for a time that does not conflict with regularly scheduled worship. Saturday weddings must begin no later than 3:00 p.m. or for evenings, no earlier than 7:00 p.m. Sunday weddings must begin no earlier than 1:00 p.m. The steps for scheduling and preparing for a wedding at Peace Lutheran Church include:

1. Contacting one of the pastors and discussing the nature of the wedding and possible dates available. At that time, a wedding booklet will be mailed/made available to you giving the particulars of wedding protocol, etc. at Peace. If you desire to schedule a date, you will need to complete the form for scheduling a wedding which accompanies the booklet.
2. Send the form along with a security deposit of \$100 to the church. When the church receives the form/security deposit, your date will go on the calendar and you will receive a letter of confirmation from the church office.
3. Following the scheduling of a date, the Wedding Coordinator will contact you to set up a meeting to go over the Peace wedding booklet/protocol and answer any questions you may have related to your wedding. You will meet with the Wedding Coordinator 2-3 times as you prepare for your wedding. The Wedding Coordinator serves as the hostess of our church—providing valuable insights, leading rehearsals, opens the church, receiving flowers, etc. that will come to the church on the day of the wedding.
4. Following your meeting with the Wedding Coordinator, you will schedule a meeting with the Officiating Pastor. You will meet with the Officiating Pastor approximately three times as you prepare for your marriage. The purpose of these meetings is to help you prepare for the wedding and even more importantly, your marriage. Marriage care is critical to successful life-long relationships. The pre-marriage inventory, Prepare-Enrich, is often used by the pastors to help you evaluate the strengths of your relationship and know where growth might be needed.



5. You will also need to schedule a meeting with the Director of Music. Although you may choose your own musicians, the Director of Music meets with all couples to provide guidelines for music appropriate to the wedding service and the use of musical instruments at Peace as well as to help couples explore music options.
6. You will need to bring your marriage license to the church office and pay your final fees seven days prior to your marriage.

Note: Obtaining a marriage license is essential to your wedding. You may contact the Dane County Register of Deeds at 608.266-4452 or www.co.dane.wi.us/regdeeds or information. Please be aware of the need to bring cash only and notarized birth certificates. Also, there is a five day waiting period and the license is only valid for 30 days, so planning for this is crucial.

Wedding Packets

Additional information for weddings—a sample bulletin with order of worship, information pertaining to pre-marriage counseling tools, etc. will be provided by the wedding coordinator at the first meeting.

Off-Site Weddings

The pastors of Peace are willing to officiate at off-site weddings. Please talk with a pastor related to their availability. Because off-site weddings require some travel to the site, and often require additional time and preparation from the pastor, there is a required fee for off-site weddings. All other wedding protocol related to weddings at Peace is part of the expectation for weddings off-site with the exception of the Wedding Coordinator and the Director of Music.



General Information for Weddings at Peace

Wedding Coordinator

The Wedding Coordinator provides Christian hospitality and is essential for all weddings at Peace. The wedding Coordinator provides an overview of wedding protocol, guidelines for using the space, information related to decorating the sanctuary, information regarding the creation of bulletins for the service, leads rehearsals, and serves as the hostess at the church on the day of the wedding (opens the church, receives deliveries, sets up, helps with contingencies, etc.)

Music Coordinator

Because music is important in the worship service and guest musicians need to know some important information about the instruments at Peace, the Music Director meets with couples to provide guidelines and assist in music selections.

Musicians:

Sherry Johnson, Music Director 849-5736

Ann Albert 849-7415

Elaine Mischler 242-8994

Officiating Pastor

You may choose either of the pastors serving Peace Lutheran Church to preside at your wedding. If you would like to include a guest pastor in addition, please talk with the Peace pastor that is officiating. In most cases, guest pastors are welcome to assist with weddings at Peace. Because dates are often determined many months in advance, we reserve the right to substitute another pastor serving at Peace should the original officiating pastor be unavailable on the day of the wedding.

Pre-Marital Counseling

Pre-marriage counseling is essential in preparing for your wedding and marriage. Pastors meet with couples approximately three times to help you learn more about marriage, what the joys and challenges might be in a life-long relationship and plan for the ongoing care of your marriage.



Photography

Although it is often desired that the bride and groom do not see each other prior to the wedding on the day of the marriage, it is much more convenient if pictures are taken in advance of the service. This allows you to greet your guests and celebrate your marriage immediately following the wedding. No flash pictures are allowed during the service.

Videography

If you choose to have a video recording made of your wedding, please talk with the Wedding Coordinator on where a videographer can be located during the procession and worship service.

Sanctuary

Peace Lutheran Church sanctuary seats approximately 300. The entire building is wheelchair accessible. If you are using an aisle runner, you need a 45 foot runner—cloth runners work best. Nothing can be added to the walls (i.e. no nails, tacks, etc.).

Parament Colors

We have a variety of liturgical seasons in a church year and different liturgical colors representing each season. The parament color will reflect the color of the season of the church year and is not changeable.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion may be an option. Everyone will be invited to participate. Please talk with the Officiating Pastor if you would like to include Holy Communion as part of the wedding worship.

Flowers/Decorating

Any flowers for the altar must be cut flowers. If you would like to leave them for worship, please tell the Wedding Coordinator.

Candles

We have two 5-candle candelabras with 12” candles available from the church. The couple provides the unity candle and two tapers for its lighting. Pew candles are discouraged because they are a fire hazard.



Banners

We have a wedding banner and several other banners that hang on the banner wall at the front of the church. The Wedding Coordinator will discuss the nature and symbolism of the banners. The couple may choose either the wedding banner, the seasonal banner, or no banner.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are scheduled with the Wedding Coordinator. Wedding party participants are expected to be on time for the rehearsal and courteous / cooperative to the process. Pastors are usually not at wedding rehearsals. The entire wedding party including parents, ushers, musicians, etc. should be in attendance for the rehearsal. Plan on a 30-minute rehearsal.

No Alcohol Policy

There is no alcohol permitted in the building or on the grounds of Peace Lutheran Church except for communion wine. Further, the bride, groom, and wedding party may not consume alcohol prior to the rehearsal or the wedding service. The wedding is not only a worship service, but a legal binding covenant being made between the bride and groom and therefore must be done with full awareness. The wedding party act as the wedding witnesses and, they, too, must be completely sober. If alcohol is consumed by the bride, groom, or any of the wedding party, it will be grounds for the pastor refusing to proceed with the service.

No Smoking

Peace Lutheran Church and its entire facility is smoke free.

Food and Drink

No food or drink is allowed in the sanctuary. Please consult the Wedding Coordinator related to having food available in other areas.

Dressing Rooms

There is a room available in the Education Wing of our church for the bridal party to dress and assemble. It includes a rack for hanging dresses, and full length mirrors. The groomsmen may be assigned a room for dressing—please consult with the Wedding Coordinator.



Other Information:

Although dresses, rings, etc. may be left at the church a day in advance, please make arrangements for the security of these things with the Wedding Coordinator. Also, purses should be secured during the wedding in a car or locked room.

Fees

Because weddings are an additional event for the church and staff, there are fees associated with weddings at Peace related to membership. The status is determined by your member status** on the day wedding booklet materials are provided.

	Members	Inactive	Non-Members
Use of Church (cleaning, utilities, etc.)	\$125	\$250	\$375
Wedding Coordinator (provides assistance for all weddings)	\$175	\$200	\$225
Music Director Consultation	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50
Musician for the Wedding (Fees for PLC organist/pianist)	\$150	\$175	\$200
Pre-marriage Meeting Materials	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35
Pastor	As Desired*	\$350	\$400

*Since people often ask the wedding coordinator, the average range for honorariums is \$250-\$350. In the case of off-site member weddings, an honorarium of \$350 plus expenses for travel outside of Waunakee is required. Please see information related to off-site weddings.

Note: The security deposit paid at the time when the wedding is scheduled will be reimbursed following the wedding if there is no damage to the facility. If the wedding is canceled, the security deposit will be retained to cover staff time already incurred in the pre-planning process.

**Member Status is prescribed by the Peace Lutheran Church Constitution and relates to the bride / groom and / or parents of bride / groom. Members worship and contribute to the mission and ministries of the church on at least an annual basis.

Inactive members are people who choose to be on the Peace Lutheran Church roster but do not have a record of communing or contributing within the past 18 months.





WEDDING INFORMATION SHEET

Peace Lutheran Church

Waunakee, Wisconsin

608/849-7322

Wedding Date _____ Time _____

Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Groom: _____ Age ____ Phone _____

Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Birth Date _____

Church Affiliation _____

Employer _____

Parents _____

Bride: _____ Age ____ Phone _____

Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Birth Date _____

Church Affiliation _____

Employer _____

Parents _____

Post Wedding Address: _____

(continue on back page)



Maid / Matron of Honor _____

Bridesmaids _____

Flower Girl _____

Ring Bearer _____

Best Man _____

Groomsmen _____

Ushers _____

Organist _____

Soloist _____

Photographer _____

Processional _____

Recessional _____

Scripture _____

Congregational Hymns _____

Return completed form (pg. 15/16) to Wedding Coordinator