

Weddings at Grace Lutheran Church

2006 60th St.
Kenosha, WI 53140
1-262-654-9143

What is A Wedding?

A church wedding is, first and foremost, a service of worship. The community gathers to join the couple in worshiping Christ and giving thanks for God's blessings. The couple share their vows in this worship setting, and present their marriage as an offering to God. The church is a house of prayer, a sacred space.

A church wedding is a congregational event. Church weddings grow out of a history of being a part of the life of a congregation. A wedding is most meaningful when the bride and/or groom have been involved in the life of the church and know the community. If you or your partner are not active members, the pastor will suggest that you take part in the worship life of the congregation so that you may be a part of the faith community.

What is the " Rite of Marriage"

The service is based on approved resources used in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Questions like "who gives this woman to this man?" and "do you promise to obey" are not used in ELCA marriage liturgies. The celebration of Holy Communion is offered if the couple wishes, remember that participation is open to all who are gathered. In the case that a friend or relative are ministers, other clergy are welcomed to help in the service upon consent of the pastor from Grace Lutheran Church.

Location

All weddings conducted by a pastor of Grace Lutheran Church are to be held in the Sanctuary of Grace Lutheran Church. In rare circumstances, a wedding may be held at another location.

Pre-marriage Workshop

Grace Lutheran Church requires that each couple preparing for marriage attend a one-day marriage preparation workshop conducted by Lutheran Social Services or other approved organization. You may view the workshop dates and times on line at: <http://www.lsswis.org/Programs/PremarriageBrochure.pdf>
<http://www.lsswis.org/Programs/programs.html>

Counseling is a way of addressing issues such as communication, conflict resolution, finances, religion, parenting, etc. which are a part of any relationship. Premarital counseling does not necessarily mean that your relationship is in trouble but is a great way to strengthen your relationship. Please make an appointment to meet with the Pastor after you have completed this one day workshop.

The Date

The date of your wedding should be set well in advance. To schedule a wedding, fill out and turn in a "MARRIAGE REGISTRATION" form which is available in the church office or on Grace's website. Once the form is turned into the church office, a \$250 deposit must be paid to the church in order to secure your date and time. **The fee will be returned to members* after the Pre-Marriage Workshop.** The deposit is refundable if plans for the wedding are moved to another location or canceled up to one month prior to the wedding.

We do not conduct weddings during Lent and Holy Week or the second weekend of December through New Year's Day.

Rehearsals

Everyone taking part in the ceremony should be present at the rehearsal, except for the organist. The rehearsal takes about one hour and should be scheduled between 5:00 and 7:00 pm on the evening prior to the wedding.

The Pastor

Scheduling a wedding will guarantee a service on the church calendar for that date, but it will not commit an individual pastor. Our pastor(s) will make every effort to commit to your date but the pastoral staff must reserve the right to substitute occasionally for one another in the event of scheduling conflicts or emergencies.

Organist / Musician

Unless other arrangements are approved by our organist or pastor, Grace's organist (Prof. Bill Roth) will play and coordinate the music for weddings. If Prof. Roth is unavailable for your wedding date, he will give you the names of other organists.

The Marriage License

State law requires that you have a marriage license. Your license may be obtained from the county where you are a resident. As a general rule of thumb, you can start the process of getting your license one month prior to your wedding date. Remember, there is a waiting period between the time you apply and the time you may pick up your license. Grace requires you to bring your license to the rehearsal. You will receive two copies of the signed license immediately after the wedding service. The Church will mail the license in for you.

Other Policies

Smoking is not allowed in the building.

Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the building or on the premises. Consumption of alcohol prior to the wedding will automatically exclude that person from the service.

The throwing of rice, bird-seed, etc. is prohibited. Bubbles may be used outside.

FEES

Lutheran Social Services Marriage Workshop \$100.00 (price determined by LSS not Grace Lutheran) and should be mailed with the workshop registration form.

IMPORTANT: Please bring appropriate fees (see below) and wedding license to the church office on the rehearsal date.

General Wedding Fees

Please make separate checks out to each individual (see below).

Member Fees*: \$100.00 for custodial costs and Altar-service costs

***To be considered a member, you or your parents must be members of Grace as set in our Constitution.**

-There is no set fee for the Pastor, however it is customary to give an honorarium in appreciation of the time the pastor devotes to meeting with the couple.

-Contact Bill Roth (1-262-554-7043) for organist fees. The organist is not required to attend rehearsal and may incur an additional cost.

Non-Member Fees: \$400.00 (includes the deposit of \$250)

\$200 honorarium to the Pastor who is conducting the ceremony.

Contact Bill Roth (1-262-554-7043) for organist fees. The organist is not required to attend rehearsal and may incur an additional cost.

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

Grace Lutheran Church, Kenosha, WI

Wedding Date: _____ Rehearsal Date: _____

Wedding Time: _____ Rehearsal Time: _____

Bride's Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____
_____ Cell Phone: _____

Marital Status: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parents Names: _____

Child(ren)'s Names if applicable: _____

Church: _____

Occupation: _____ Work Phone: _____

Groom's Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____
_____ Cell Phone: _____

Marital Status: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parents Names: _____

Child(ren)'s Names if applicable: _____

Church: _____

Occupation: _____ Work Phone: _____

COUPLE'S

FUTURE ADDRESS: _____

Wedding Party:

Best Man _____ Maid/Matron of Honor _____

Groomsmen _____ Bridesmaids _____

Ushers _____ Reader _____

_____ Other _____

Ring Bearer _____ Flower Girl _____

Church Reservations:

Organist _____ Soloist _____

Flowers to be left for Sunday Service? _____

Florist _____ Photographer _____

White runner _____ (provided by florist or yourself)

Unity Candle _____ (need to provide your own)

Special needs/requests _____

MARRIAGE REGISTRATION

Grace Lutheran Church
Kenosha, WI

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____

Groom

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Bride

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

SUGGESTIONS FOR READINGS & HYMNS
for the
SERVICE OF MARRIAGE

Grace Lutheran Church, Kenosha, WI

Old Testament:

Genesis	1:26—31	Male and female are created by God
Genesis	2:18—24	God created man and woman
Ruth	1:15—18	Devotion
Ecclesiastes	4:9—11	Love in Spring
Song of Solomon	2:10—13	Devotion
Song of Solomon	8:7	The strength of love
Isaiah	63:7—9	Steadfast love

New Testament:

Matthew	7:24—27	Building of relationships
Matthew	19:4—6	Faithfulness in marriage, two become one
Luke	6:31, 37—38	Do to others as they would to you
John	2:1—10	The wedding at Cana
John	15:9—17	Loving as Jesus loves
Romans	12:1—2	A living sacrifice
Romans	15:5—6	Oneness
I Corinthians	12:31—13:13	A hymn of love
I Corinthians	13:4—7	A hymn of love
I Corinthians	13:4—7, 13	A hymn of love
I Corinthians	13:1—7	A hymn of love
Galatians	3:26—29	A partnership of equals
Ephesians	3:14—21	Secured in love of God
Ephesians	5:20—28	Loving as Christ loves
Colossians	3:12—17	Love binds together
I John	4:12—13	The strength of love

Psalms:

33	117	136
95:1—7a	127	150
100	128	

Other Readings:

Other readings of your choice, as would be appropriate to a Christian Service of Marriage, and negotiated with the pastor.

Hymns from The Lutheran Book of Worship:

<u>Hymn Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
551	“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”
543	“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
534	“Now Thank We All Our God”
287	“O Perfect Love”
289	“Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer”
512	“Oh, Blest the House, Whatever Befall”
554	“This Is My Father’s World”
561	“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Other Hymns:

Other hymns of your choice, as would be appropriate to a Christian Service of Marriage, and negotiated with the pastor.