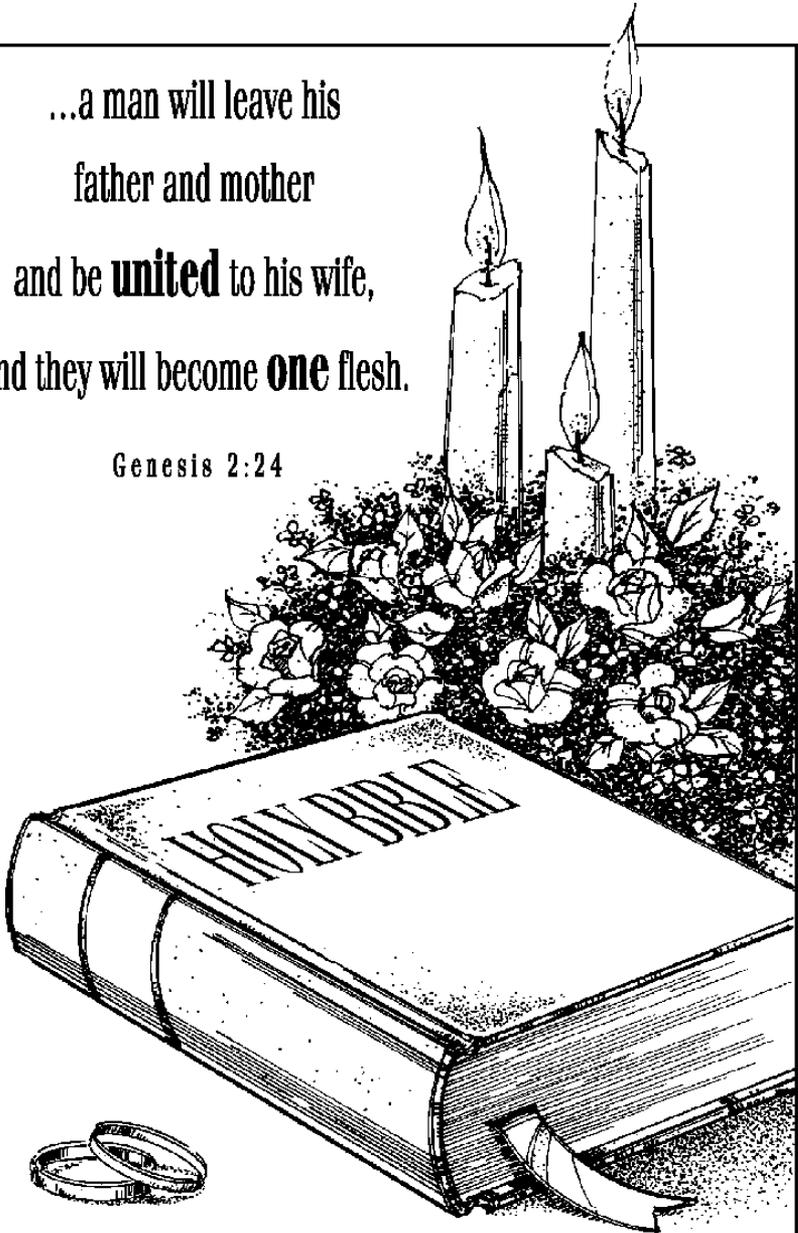


Wedding Booklet

Zion Lutheran Church, Morrison

...a man will leave his
father and mother
and be **united** to his wife,
and they will become **one** flesh.

Genesis 2:24



Your Christian Wedding at Zion, Morrison

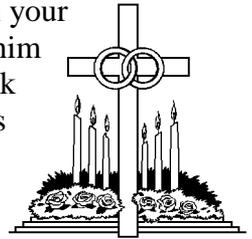
A. An Act of Worship

1. Your wedding is an act of worship.

A judge or some other state official could marry you. You would be just as married in the eyes of God. However, when you come to us at Zion and ask the pastor to be a part of your wedding, you are saying that you want God to be a part of your marriage. You want to make your vows in his house, you seek his blessings, you thank and praise him for bringing you to each other, and you seek guidance from his Word. We are thrilled to be a part of your wedding and consider it a privilege to lead you and your guests in worshipping the Lord.

2. Focus

The focus of worship is always our Triune God. You may be a wonderful couple and a pleasure to be with, but we do not come together to worship you on your wedding day. We worship God. We thank him for bringing the two of you together. We ask him to be with you and bless you. We focus on the unconditional, forgiving love he has shown to the world and urge you to model that in your married life.



The fact that we are worshipping God affects a number of decisions that you will make leading up to the wedding. All music will reflect that God is the object of our worship. Since it is a worship service of our congregation, certain biblical teachings must be followed. In many areas you will be free to make a number of choices. But where God has spoken we must listen.

3. Leaders in Worship

According to the Bible, all who join in acts of religious fellowship in our church are to be in doctrinal agreement with each other (Romans 16:17, John 8:31, 1 Corinthians 1:10). Accordingly, all those who take part in the leading

of the worship service must be in unity of faith and doctrine with this congregation.

Therefore, it is the scriptural practice of our church that the pastor(s), organists, soloists, and instrumentalists, be in doctrinal fellowship with us. It is not necessary, however, that members of the bridal party be members of our faith since they have no active part in the leading of the worship service.

4. Music



In considering the music for your wedding, keep in mind what we have already said about the nature of a Christian wedding. It is worship, which is focused on our Lord and Savior. All music will need to be approved by both the organist and the pastor.

Vocal

If you wish to have vocal music during your wedding service, there are several options available. The singing of hymns by the congregation can be an excellent way of helping those assembled with you to share in the thanks, praise, and asking of God's blessings upon your marriage.

A soloist or small group can provide music for the wedding service. Sacred songs sung can be a prayer for the couple, a song of thanks and praise to God, words from the Bible, or a hymn.

Many popular songs are not to be sung because they are not Christ-centered or an expression of worship. Since music at a wedding service is to glorify God and give spiritual strength and direction to the couple, all music should contribute to the reverent spirit of worship.

Instrumentals

Even if your wedding has no other music, it will probably have music accompanying the entrance and exit of the bridal party. Music for the processional and recessional should reflect the same concerns for Christian worship about which we have already spoken. The



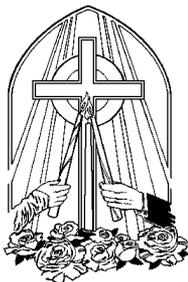
same is true for any music used before and after your wedding ceremony.

Most wedding music is played on the organ, but a piano is also available in our church. Other instruments may also be considered to add to the music of your wedding service. The organist can advise you as to what instrumental music is appropriate and also give you names of possible instrumentalists from our congregation.

B. Preparations Prior to your Wedding Day

1. Meet with the Pastor

Contact the pastor as soon as possible to set up your first meeting. At this meeting we will go over the basics of the service, wedding as worship, and practical things to think about as you plan your wedding. It is best to do this as soon as possible, before you make any decisions about the worship service.



After this initial meeting we will meet two more times. At the second meeting we will talk about what marriage is according to God. At the third and final meeting we will talk about ways to imitate God's love in your married life. Each meeting lasts about 45 minutes to an hour, depending on how many questions you might have.

2. Meet with the organist

Contact your organist soon after you have set your wedding date. About 4 months prior to your wedding date, set up a meeting with the organist. At that time, you will select music for the processional, recessional, vocal hymns or solos, any instrumental music and any other preservice or postservice music that you would like to choose.

It is helpful if your vocalists can come to this meeting, so you can hear them sing through some of the music. It is also helpful to the organist if you come with a style of music in mind for before and after your wedding service.

The 4-month time frame is very important so enough time is available to learn any new music and to set up rehearsals with vocalists and with instrumentalists.

3. Contact the janitor

The janitor needs to be aware of your wedding day so they can have the church cleaned before and can clean after in preparation for Sunday worship services. The janitor also rings the church bell at your ceremony.

C. Preparations for your Wedding Day

1. Rehearsal

In order that things be done “in a fitting and orderly way” (1 Corinthians 14:40), we have a wedding rehearsal, usually the night before the wedding service. If you are able to meet with the pastor 20 minutes before the rehearsal begins, you will be able to make many of the decisions ahead of time. All the members of the wedding party will need to be present, together with the ushers and the parents of the bride and groom. You may also wish to have all of your soloists and musicians present. At the rehearsal we will walk through the service so that everyone is aware of what will happen during worship. The rehearsal usually lasts about 30 to 45 minutes after everyone in the wedding party has arrived.

2. Decorations

- You may decorate the pews in the center aisle with bows and/or flowers. There are 17 pews on each side of our church.
- You may have floral arrangements placed on the altar. Please let the pastor know if these arrangements will be left on the altar for the Sunday morning worship service.
- Our church has a choice of two wedding banners that may be used.
- You may use the candelabras if you wish.



- You may use an aisle runner if you so desire. They are available for purchase from a florist. The length of our center aisle is approximately 60 feet.
- Wedding candle – Those who wish to have the lighting of the wedding candle as part of their wedding service may certainly do so. The bridal couple is asked to supply their own candles, candleholders and unity candle. There is a white tablecloth available to put on the unity candle table. Please tell the Pastor if you wish to use it.

3. Service folder

The pastor will type the service folder, unless you wish to do it yourself. You will receive a form to fill out at your first meeting with the pastor. This form will be the basis for the service folder. Please list all names as you wish them to appear in the folder (for example, Tim or Timothy). If you



wish the relationship to the bridal couple listed in the folder (for example, Sister of the Bride, Friend of the Couple) please include that on this form also. We

will run off the service folders on our copier if you desire. You will need to purchase a service folder from a Christian bookstore if you desire a color folder. If you would like to use a simple line art cover, we can provide one for you.

4. Video/photography

Anyone serving as a photographer or videographer should meet with the pastor prior to the service to learn what is permitted in our congregation.

5. Expenses

There are no established wedding fees for the use of the church or for the services of the pastor, organist, musicians, and janitor. If the bridal couple wishes to thank any of the participants with a gift, they may do so of their own accord.

Frequently we are asked, “How do we decide how much to give our musicians?” The best suggestion we can give is to consider how much time is needed to prepare for

your wedding service. An organist will need to meet to pick out music, and then prepare the chosen music for the ceremony. Any accompaniment for vocal or instrumental soloists means extra preparation for the organist as well as extra rehearsals with the soloists. The larger and more extravagant your wedding, the more work is involved for everyone.

This may serve as a guideline for you. Our organists receive \$25 for a regular Sunday worship service and \$40 for a funeral service.

Soloists and instrumentalists also may need to learn new music for your wedding and will have to practice on their own and with the organist. The number of songs they're providing should guide you in the amount with which you wish to thank them.

Pastor – If you wish to give the pastor a gift you may, however you are not required to do so. Give a gift in the same way that you would any other. Give in the way that your heart moves you.

Janitor – An expression of thanks for their service is appreciated.

D. Odds and Ends

1. Marriage license

Please bring your license to the church the evening of your wedding rehearsal. This is done so that the forms can be properly filled out before the wedding service. The pastor cannot legally perform any wedding without a marriage license. The witnesses who are to sign the legal document must be 18 years of age or older.

2. Alcohol

At no time are alcoholic beverages to be consumed in the church or on the church and school grounds either prior to the wedding rehearsal or wedding service or after the wedding service.

3. Dressing room

The wedding party may dress in the Bible classroom located in the basement of the church. The room does have a full-length mirror in it.

4. Use of Gymnasium, Pavilion, Basement

If you would like to use the gymnasium, pavilion, or church basement for a reception after your wedding, please contact the president of the congregation.

5. Bridal kiss

In keeping with the nature and focus of the wedding service, we ask that the bridal couple share the bridal kiss in the rear of the church rather than at the chancel.

6. Receiving line

You may greet your guests inside or outside of the church building depending on the weather. Please refrain from handing out materials to throw at the bridal couple that will leave a mess on the church property.

It is our hope that these practical suggestions will result in your wedding day being one of great joy and happiness!

