



THE CHRISTIAN WEDDING GUIDE

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact our main office for more information

Congratulations on your engagement!

The union of man and woman is a wonderful event most pleasing in the sight of God. Through this divine institution God reveals something of Himself.

As man and woman are created in the image of God, so the love that is in marriage is an image-like reflection of the loving inter-relationship of the Persons of the Trinity – **Father, Son and Holy Spirit**.

As you bring your own children into being, you will mysteriously realize the joy that God felt at the creation of Adam and Eve.

As you learn selfless love for each other, you will learn more and more about the selfless love of Christ for His bride, the Christian Church.

There is energy and life that comes to us through marriage.

We look forward to sharing more with you about God's blessings that rest upon the estate of marriage. We look forward to knowing more about the two of you. We look forward to bringing you before God, asking Him to make the two of you, by His almighty power, into one flesh.

Please use the following 30-day Devotional

"Christ and the Church"

Second Edition by Rev. Andrew Richard

To download a free PDF of the devotional
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WELCOME TO ADVENT

Marriage is a divine institution (*Genesis 2:18, 21-24; Matthew 19:2-6; Hebrews 13:4*) uniting a man and a woman for life (*Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:39; Matthew 5:31; 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:28, 31, 33*), established and maintained by their mutual consent (*Genesis 24:58; 1 Corinthians 7:12, 13, 39*).

Marriage is intended for the mutual support of husband and wife

(*Genesis 2:18, 24*); for the safeguarding of the family; supporting and developing the moral and spiritual well-being of all its members (*1 Corinthians 7:3-5, 9, 36; Colossians 3:18, 19*); for the procreation of children and their rearing in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (*Genesis 1:27, 28; Deuteronomy 6:3-9; Malachi 2:15; Mark 10:13-16; Eph. 6:1-4*).

The distinctive contribution of the Church in performing the marriage ceremony is to affirm the divine institution of marriage; to invoke God's blessing upon those who enter into this marital relationship in accordance with God's Word; to hear the vows of those who desire to be married; and to assure the married partners of God's grace within their new relationship (*Ephesians 5:22-33*).

Though the ecclesiastical ceremony is of divine origin (*Genesis 1:28, 24:60; Ruth 4:11; 1 Corinthians 7:39*), the institution of marriage also has a civil dimension and importance (*Proverbs 18:22; Matthew 10:6; Mark 10:9, 11, 12; Ephesians 5:29-32*). Marriage begins not only with vows before God but also with a signed marriage license approved by the government. Couples are not to cohabit prior to their spiritual or civil ceremony not only for reasons of civil propriety, but especially because the sacred and holy character of marriage is destroyed by the appearance of adultery.

It is God's will that marriage may not be dissolved for any reason except death. A lifelong union of man and wife is the ideal towards which all Christians must strive (*Matthew 5:31, 32; Romans 7:2, 3; 1 Corinthians 7:2, 10, 11, 39; 1 Corinthians 13:4-13*). However, Christians should always be vigilant in their Christian faith to ensure that marriage does not die in their hearts. We must always be mindful that a Christian marriage is intended by God to be an indissoluble and lifelong union (*Matthew 19:7-9; Mark 10:4-9; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:12, 13, 15*).



MARRIAGE POLICIES

The rite of marriage is part of a worship service. All policies and spiritual practices that govern the regular worship of the congregation will be followed in the wedding service.

COUPLES WHO MAY BE MARRIED AT ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH:

- The engaged couple must be members of Advent Lutheran Church.
- Children of parents who are members of Advent may be married at Advent *if they are participating members of another LCMS parish*
- Couples who are members of sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod are **required to pay a \$400 application fee**. In addition, a request from the couple's home pastor for a wedding to be conducted at Advent must be received.
- Couples who are not presently members of Advent must attend an Adult Information Class. Dates will be announced in advance.
- Weddings may be scheduled on Friday evening (6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.), Saturdays between 1:00–7:00 p.m. or Sundays between 1:30 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
- Weddings will last approximately 40-50 minutes, depending on the type of service.

*WEDDING DATE EXCEPTIONS:

- Weddings may be held during Lent but not Holy Week.
- Weddings may be held during December except the Saturday before Christmas.

If two couples request the same wedding date, *we may be able to accommodate as long as there is a MINIMUM of 4 hours between services.*

CEREMONY POLICIES

- The congregation's pastors and organist (unless other arrangements are approved) will preside at all weddings. Outside clergy may be permitted to participate if they are rostered and called clergy of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, but solely at the discretion of Advent's pastors.
- All music is to be sacred and worshipful. *Secular music will not be considered acceptable for a worship service.* (See suggested list in this guide.)



PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

- Call and make an appointment with the Pastor and request your wedding date and time.
- Provide your e-mail address to the Office Manager so an Application for Marriage can be sent to you and the date can be tentatively scheduled.
- **To finalize your date***, send completed *Application for Marriage* to the Office Manager with Cash, Check or other payment arrangements as stated below, to hold your date.

DUE UPON BOOKING

Description:	Amount:	Payment To:	Memo:
Cleaning & Facility Fees	\$125	Advent Lutheran Church	Cleaning & Facility Fees
<i>All other payments below may be finalized on the day of the wedding with appropriate arrangements.</i>			

CEREMONY ONLY

Description:	Amount:	Payment To:	Memo:
Pastor Suggested Honorarium	\$200+	Marcus Mackay	Wedding Services
Organist Payment	\$200+	Phil Lehman	Wedding Organist
Wedding Coordinator Payment	\$200	Barb Novak	Wedding Coordinator

CEREMONY & RECEPTION

Description:	Amount:	Payment To:	Memo:
Pastor Suggested Honorarium	\$200+	Marcus Mackay	Wedding Services
Organist Payment	\$200+	Phil Lehman	Wedding Organist
Wedding Coordinator Payment	\$300	Barb Novak	Wedding Coordinator

ADDITIONAL FEES & OPTIONALS

Description:	Amount:	Payment To:	Memo:
Tall Pew Candles (10) Use	\$50	Barb Novak	Pew Candles
Video Recording/Streaming	\$75	<i>Check with Church Office</i>	Wedding Audio/Visual
Extensive Clean-up	\$ TBD	Ervin Garcia	Additional Clean-up
Vocalists/Instrumentalists	\$100+	<i>The vocalist/instrumentalist</i>	Wedding Music

- After your *Application for Marriage* is received, **the Wedding Coordinator will contact you and assist with church arrangements.**
- **Wedding music** will be handled by the Organist. Please contact the Music Director and/or organist at least 1 month prior to discuss music plans.
- The Pastor will handle all matters specifically related to the ceremony.
- Consult with Pastor regarding upcoming **Adult/Engaged Couples Information Class.**



YOUR MARRIAGE VOWS

_____, will you have this woman to be your wife, to live with her in the holy marriage according to the Word of God? Will you love her, comfort her, honor her and keep her in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be husband to her as long as you shall live?

Answer: ***I will***

_____, will you have this man to be your husband, to live with him in holy marriage according to the word of God? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him and keep him in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be wife to him as long as you shall live?

Answer: ***I will***

I, _____, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, _____, to be my wife, 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, until death parts us, and I pledge you my faithfulness.

Optional:

The bride may have these words placed into the ceremony:

“Who gives this woman to be married to this man?” Responses are:

“I do”; “We do”; “My wife and I do”; “Her mother and I do”.

Other Options:

“You may kiss the bride.”

“I now present Mr. and Mrs. _____.”



SCRIPTURE PASSAGES CONCERNING MARRIAGE

The marriage couple will find a place in the service for the Scripture readings. You may want to look over the following passages and choose one or two that you would like to include within your ceremony. The Pastor prefers to do the readings for the ceremony.

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:18-24

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

Psalms 65; 127; 100; 67; 117; 128; 150

Matthew 7:24-27

Matthew 19:4-6 & Mark 10:6-9, 13-16

John 15:4-9

1 Corinthians 7:1-4,

1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

Ephesians 5:21-33

Philippians 4:8-9

Colossians 3:12-17

1 Peter 3:1-7

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE

- Pre-service Music
- The Processional
- The Sentences (after which the congregation may be seated)
- The Scripture Readings
- The Hymn or Solo (Optional)
- The Sermon
- Procession to the Altar
- The Exchange of Vows
- The Exchange of Rings and Blessing
- The Lighting of the Unity Candle (Optional)
- The Declaration of Marriage
- The Blessing
- The Prayers
- The Lord's Prayer
- Solo (optional)
- The Benediction
- The Recessional

OTHER OPTIONS FOR WORSHIP SERVICE

The Rite of Marriage may take place within other Services in the Hymnal, such as Vespers.



SUGGESTED WEDDING MUSIC*

PROCESSIONALS & RECESSIONALS

J. S. Bach	<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i> <i>Sheep May Safely Graze</i>
Henry Purcell	<i>Trumpet Tune</i>
Jeremiah Clark	<i>Trumpet Voluntary ("Prince of Denmark's March")</i>
G. F. Handel	<i>Air (from Water Music Suite)</i> <i>Allegro Maestoso (from Water Music Suite)</i> <i>Allegro Rejoicing</i> <i>Allegro Vivace (from Water Music Suite)</i>
Beethoven	<i>Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (Ode to Joy)</i>
Benedetto Marcello	<i>Psalm 19</i>
Johann Pachelbel	<i>Canon in D</i>
Mozart	<i>Alleluia (from Exultate, Jubilate)</i>
J. J. Mouret	<i>Rondeau</i>
M. A. Charpentier	<i>Te Deum</i>

Vocal Music Selections

Haan	<i>The Unity Candle Song</i>
A. H. Malotte	<i>The Lord's Prayer</i>
Hapson	<i>The Gift of Love</i>
Mozart	<i>Dona Nobis Pacem</i>
J. S. Bach	<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>
Dunlap	<i>Wedding Prayer</i>
Hymn #766	<i>Our Father, Who from Heaven Above</i>
Hymn #738	<i>Lord of All Hopefulness</i>
Hymn #922	<i>Go, My Children, with My Blessing</i>

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

#902	<i>Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now</i>
#790	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>
#822	<i>Alleluia! Let Praises Ring</i>
#816	<i>From All That Dwell Below the Skies</i>
#895	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>
#858	<i>O Father, All Creating</i>
#859	<i>Lord, When You Came as Welcome Guest</i>
#649	<i>Blest Be the Tie That Binds</i>

*Music, and/or any soloists or special instrumentation must be selected and approved by the Director of Music, Deb Trewartha, at least 30 days prior to the wedding, preferably sooner.



REHEARSALS

The Pastor may attend the rehearsal dinner or reception if a written invitation is received and time permits.

- Persons who need to be at the rehearsals are:
 - bride and groom,
 - best man, maid/matron of honor
 - groomsmen, ushers, bridesmaids
 - parents of the bride and groom
 - ring bearer and flower girl
- All persons will be prompt for scheduled rehearsals and ceremony events.
- Rehearsals will be scheduled on an individual basis, but usually are held one day before wedding. Rehearsals may last approximately one hour and thirty minutes. Rehearsals will begin on time.

REHEARSALS & RECEPTIONS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Advent's Fellowship Hall and kitchen are available for your reception and/or rehearsal dinner however, catering, setup and cleanup are the responsibility of the wedding couple. All decorations must be approved before setup.

WEDDING PARTY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Reception setup and cleanup of Fellowship Hall and Kitchen

- Fellowship Hall must be cleared of all food and decorations
- Trash should be placed in bagged containers provided
- Kitchen equipment and all surfaces and sinks should be cleaned
- All tables and chairs must be set up for Sunday morning Bible Study
- All décor, and items brought in must be set aside out of the way and arrangements must be made for pick up or items must be taken with the night of to not hinder church and school services.

An additional fee of \$100 to compensate the Wedding Coordinator for supervision and lock up is required, as noted in fees.

A crew may be available for hire to set-up for Sunday Bible study for a fee of \$125.

Please note: *This does not include kitchen clean-up.*



WEDDING COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Review the *Application for Marriage* Form for completeness.
- Set up a meeting with the bridal party to review Advent marriage policies.
- Go through a checklist of items: (license, flowers, candles, bulletin, video, etc.)
- Open the church for the rehearsal and wedding (up to 3 hours prior to event).
- Set up unity candle table (if necessary) with drip protection on the table.
- Turn on lights in sanctuary, bridal party rooms, hallways and bathrooms and check the conditions of the rooms.
- Turn on / monitor the sound system or microphones as necessary.
- Put out kneeling cushions (if needed).
- Clear oval table and window ledge in the narthex. Place guest book and bulletins on table.
- Welcome the bridal party members and make necessary introductions.
- Check with photographer and videographer and make sure all restraints are understood. Assist them in gathering photo groups.
- Guide and direct the placement of any video cameras.
- Distribute flowers, corsages, boutonnieres to their proper locations/people.
- Ensure that the aisle runner is ready and secure (if one is being used).
- Answer mother/ mother-in-law questions; check with bridal party for any special needs.
- Ensure emergency kit is available and adequately stocked with supplies (smelling salts, bandages, tape, etc.)
- Direct the ushers on how to seat guests and family members, handle aisle runner, and how to in direct seating when center doors are shut.
- Ensure altar candles are filled/sized, and lighted by pre-appointed person 15-25 minutes before the ceremony.

***Please note: Complete the marriage license and give to wedding coordinator.**

Wedding coordinator will bring it to the ceremony and couple and pastor sign it after the ceremony.



USHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Arrive at least 1 hour before the wedding service begins.
- Seating family and friends of the bride on the *left side* of the church and family and friends of the groom on the *right*. More details will be given at the rehearsal.
- Once the wedding party is lined up and the mother of the bride is escorted into the sanctuary, all guests will be ushered in through the *side doors* of the sanctuary.
- If there is an aisle runner to be pulled, two ushers will walk forward together and jointly pull the runner immediately *after* the mothers of the bride and the groom are seated.
- Once the ceremony begins, they will place bulletins and sit in the back pews to assist latecomers.
- At the conclusion of the recessional, the parents will follow the bridal party out of the sanctuary. Whether the ushers or the bride & groom usher the guests out will need to be determined in advance.
- Check with the bride and inform the organist if the ceremony is not on schedule.
- Five minutes prior to the start, ask grandparents of the bride and groom to be seated.
- Five minutes prior to the start of the service, close the guest book and line up the wedding party.
- The parents of the groom are seated (mother takes the usher's arm – father walks behind) and then the mother of the bride is ushered in.
- Late guests will be seated from the side aisles after the bride has entered.
- Oversee the lighting system of the church. (Lighting options determined between the Pastor and wedding party at the rehearsal.) *Note: It is possible for lighting systems to be operated by remote.*
- Remain available in the narthex area so that any special needs may be handled.
- If children are removed from the service assist by directing caregivers to the nursery where the service can be heard.
- After ceremony, help the receiving line arrange themselves (if necessary).
Proper order: bride's mother, groom's father, bride, groom, groom's mother, bride's father (and then, if requested, the Maid of Honor and Best Man).
- Sound the carillon bells following the ceremony if bride and groom desire.
- **Ensure that marriage documents are signed before wedding party departs.***
- See to it that the wedding party receives their flowers, guest book, and unity candle.
- Perform post-service cleaning, especially the chancel area. Vacuum or sweep where needed, clean pew areas, put away the unity table.
- Give marriage license to Wedding Coordinator for Advent Office to mail to county clerk's office.



MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- The center aisle of our church is 60' long, 6' wide with two 16'4" communion rails.
- Seating capacity in the sanctuary is 450.
- There are 26 pews in the center (13 on either side of center aisle) and 8 rows of pews in each side section (transepts).
- Another 60 people may be seated in the choir loft, but only with special permission.
- We can produce a black and white 1-page, (folded 8.5 x 11) bulletin at no charge. Color copies are .065 per bulletin. Two weeks' notice required. All layouts must be pre-approved by the Pastor.
- Private wedding coordinators are welcome; however, any input will be subordinate to the directives of our staff and church policies.
- A wheelchair and walker are available for use. Bathrooms for disabled are available in the north wing. Audio receivers for the hearing impaired and a stair lift is available to access the choir loft.
- Banner colors correspond with the church liturgical year and may not be adjusted. Advent and Lent are purple, Christmas and Easter seasons are white, and green is used in ordinary time.
- Only silk petals may be used on the aisle unless a rental runner is used.
- No birdseed may be thrown. Only bubbles may be used outdoors.
- A Unity Candle stand is available for your use, but dripless candles must be purchased.
- The two single candles on the altar will be lit. Additional candelabra for the altar area may be rented from most florists. The church has aisle candles for the pews. Rental is \$50. The candles will be in the center aisle on pews 1, 4, 7, 10 and 13 on both sides of center aisle.
- Flowers and decorations may be placed 3 hours before the wedding and completed 30 minutes before the start of the wedding.
- **No smoking** is permitted inside the church building.
- Food and beverages may not be taken into the sanctuary but are allowed in the dressing areas.
- No flash photos *during the ceremony* but are allowed during the procession and recession. Photographers must use *available light* and take photos from back of the sanctuary or choir loft.
- Photographs taken in the sanctuary *prior to a wedding* will conclude 30 minutes before the wedding. Photographers may not move from their locations during the reading of the Scriptures or during the sermon.



- A video camera may be set up on the lectern side of the sanctuary in front of the transepts section of pews. All photographs and videotapes of the ceremony must be inconspicuous. Photographs taken after the ceremony must be finished within 1-1/2 hours of the end of the ceremony.
- The wedding party assumes total and complete responsibility for damage to the building or property. Advent Lutheran Church is not responsible for rental property brought into the church.
- Bridal party attire (including tuxes, bridal gown, bridesmaids' dresses, shoes may *NOT be stored* in the church any time before the day of the wedding.

Concluding Postscript

Unity in faith and a common church is essential for a strong marriage. Your church and pastor will always be ready to help if difficulties threaten marriage.

It is important that problems, should they arise, be dealt with early, especially if there is evidence of irresolvable conflict or marriage failure.

Since marriage involves physical, economic, social, psychological, and spiritual factors, the pastor may help by referring you to specialists in other fields. With God's help and through prayerful counsel, the pastors will help you to smooth over the rough spots through the healing and unifying power of the Gospel. They will be sensitive to the fact that problems can be very complex, requiring listening and patience, but they will also help you work through questions of right and wrong and will always be ministers of grace, "applying restoring and healing words of forgiveness to the penitent." (John 3:16, 17; John 8:3-11).



Premarital Counseling

Below is a brief outline of the homework and sessions required by our Pastors to prepare a couple for their wedding. Most sessions are 45-60 minutes. The 30-day Marriage Devotional provided at the beginning of this Guide can be started at anytime but should be done within a 30 consecutive days by the couple together.

1. Initial Meeting with Pastor
2. Scriptural Study of Marriage.
3. CPH Book “United in Christ: Preparing for Christian Marriage”
4. Marriage Assessment (zoescor.org)
5. Review of Marriage Assessment & Concluding Study
6. Planning of Marriage Service (Rite of Holy Matrimony).



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