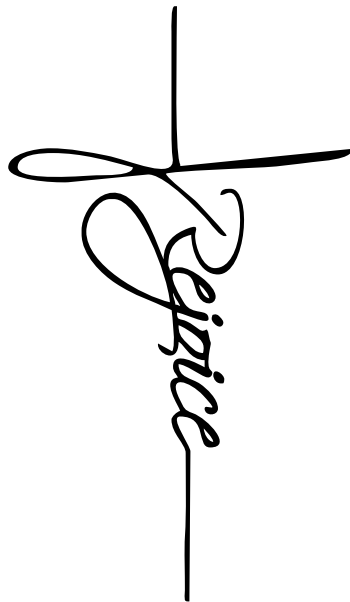


Wedding Handbook Rejoice Lutheran Church



Rejoice Lutheran Church
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<p>Christian Marriage</p>	<p>Marriage is a service of worship in which invited guests make a gathered worship service. Marriage is meant to be a glad occasion overflowing with joy, and those who celebrate rejoice in the gifts God has given us – life, health, strength, sexuality, family – all that the Creator declared to be good. Marriage is essentially a covenant of fidelity between two people grounded in the love of God. As God has given God’s own person in Jesus Christ, so spouses give themselves to each other in response to God’s love for them both. In marriage, two people are joined, and it is in God’s love that the covenant of fidelity, as well as the emotions of love, are rooted. God has come to us in the person of Jesus Christ in order that we might have life in all its fullness. Only when the marriage is rooted in the person of Jesus Christ can it reach its intended fulfillment.</p>
<p>A Church Wedding</p>	<p>A wedding is a worship service of God who calls two people together in marriage. It is important that your marriage begins in the church. This setting has real meaning because the church is the place where God’s people come together and ask God’s blessing on this union and thank God for that blessing. Recognizing that God ordains marriage gives a clearer vision of what the wedding service should be.</p>
<p>Marriage Service</p>	<p>The order of service for a Christian marriage within the context of the Lutheran church is found in the Lutheran hymnal. This marriage service is a worship service, a sacred rite. As in any worship service, the music is to be chosen with care and discrimination. Since in the marriage service the assembled people of God join with the bride and groom in asking for God’s blessing as a new home is established, the music should accentuate the reverence of the service. The selections should be of high quality. The texts should correspond to the sacred theme. The service is a reflection of the relationship of the bride and groom to the Lord Jesus Christ. As such it is not meant to become a display or production to impress the gathered people or to conform to social conventions. The wedding is a worship service of the church.</p>
<p>Who May Be Married?</p>	<p>The primary obligation of the church is to provide the service of marriage to active worshipping members of the congregation and their children. Requests to officiate at the weddings of those who are not active members will be at the discretion of the pastor.</p>

Pre-marital Counseling	<p>This church desires that couples receive marriage preparation that emphasizes lifelong commitment rather than simply wedding day planning. This church wants to foster loving, caring, mutual, and lasting marital unions under God. Strong marriages provide the foundation for healthy families, strong congregations, and vital communities. Time with the pastor will focus on the marriage relationship within the context of the Christian faith as well as wedding planning.</p> <p>Contact the pastor to set up premarital counseling six months before the wedding. This will include an online couple survey at the couple's expense. After both bride and groom have completed the survey, contact the pastor again to schedule one to two sessions to visit about the survey and wedding planning.</p>
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Biblical Reading Suggestions

Genesis 1:26-31	Creation of man in the image of God.
Genesis 2:18-24	Creation of woman. The two become one flesh.
Ruth 1:15-18	Entreat me not to leave you.
Ecclesiastes 4:9-11	Two are better than one.
Solomon 2:8-10, 14, 16	The lover comes to summon his bride.
Solomon 8:6-7	Many waters cannot quench love.
Isaiah 40:27-31	They who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.
Isaiah 63:7-9	A prayer remembering former blessings.
Jeremiah 31:31-34	The Lord will make a new covenant.
Proverbs 3:3-6	Never let go of loyalty and faithfulness.
Psalms 33	Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.
Psalms 67	A Song of Thanksgiving.
Psalms 85:10-13	Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet.
Psalms 100	Make a joyful noise to the Lord.
Psalms 117	A universal call to praise.
Psalms 121	The Lord our Protector.
Psalms 127	Unless the Lord builds the house.
Psalms 128	The blessedness of a God fearing home
Psalms 134	A liturgy of blessing.

Psalm 136	For his steadfast love endures forever.
Psalm 150	A universal hymn of praise.
Romans 7:1-7	An analogy from marriage.
Romans 8:31-39	Our confidence in God.
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18	The fruit of salvation in daily life.
Romans 15:5-6	Live in harmony with one another.
1 Corinthians 11:31-13:13	Love is the greatest gift.
Galatians 3:26-29	One in Christ Jesus.
Ephesians 3:14-19	Grounds for marriage and family.
Ephesians 5:21-33	The Christian household.
Philippians 2:1-4	Being of the same mind.
Philippians 4:4-7	Keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
Colossians 3:12-17	Characteristics of God's chosen ones.
1 John 3:18-24	Love one another.
1 John 4:7-12	Love is of God.
Matthew 5:1-12a	The beatitudes.
Matthew 5:13-16	Let your light so shine before others.
Matthew 7:21, 24-27	Contrast of wise and foolish.
Matthew 19:4-6	Jesus' teaching on marriage.
Matthew 22:35-40	The great commandment.
Mark 10:6-9	No longer two but one.
John 2:1-10	Wedding at Cana.
John 15:9-12	Love one another.
John 17:20-26	Jesus' prayer for the church.

Vow Options

1.	I take you, _____, to be my wife/husband/spouse 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/spouse 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 worst of what is to come until death parts us.
3.	I take you, _____, to be my wife/husband/spouse. 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 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 you to be my wife/husband/spouse 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 until death parts us.
5.	I take you, _____, to my wedded wife/husband/spouse, 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, according to God' holy ordinance, and therefore I promise you my devotion.
6.	I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wedded wife/husband/spouse, 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, according to God's holy will; and I promise to be faithful to you as long as we both shall live.

<p>Promise of Parental Faithfulness in a Blended Family (optional)</p>	<p>New parent: _____, _____ I promise to receive you into my life, my prayers, and my care. I will love you and strive to be an example of grace for you. I will support decisions made by your mother/father on your behalf and always encourage your growth and well-being. Your mother/father and I love you. A cross on a chain may then be placed around the neck of each child.</p>
<p>Special Music</p>	<p>The Christian wedding is a service of worship. Choose music that will point people to God and of your Christian commitment. There is room for personal taste and variety of musical styles, but all music should be appropriate for worship. The music and words should honor the God in whose name we gather.</p> <p>Popular, secular music is usually not appropriate for worship. It is suggested that such music be played at the reception. The pianist may acquaint the couple with various music selections. All music will be approved by the pastor.</p>
<p>Pianists / Soloists</p>	<p>The wedding couple is responsible for lining up their own pianist/soloist. Payment for pianist/ soloist is delt between the wedding couple and pianist/soloist.</p>

Congregational Hymns from Lutheran Book of Worship

O Perfect Love
 Hear Us Now, Our God and Father
 Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer
 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
 Jesus, the Very Thought of You
 O God, Our Help in Ages Past
 Eternal God, Before Your Throne
 Our Father, By Whose Name
 Glories of Your Name Are Spoken
 Blest Be the Tie that Binds
 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
 Lord of All Hopefulness

Children of the Heavenly Father
 Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways
 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
 Breath on Me, Breath of God
 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
 All Creatures Our God and King
 Now Thank We All Our God
 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
 Let All Things Now Living

Congregational Songs from the hymnal With One Voice

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
 Bind Us Together
 When Love Is Found
 As Man and Woman We Were Made
 We Are All One in Mission
 Lord, You Give the Great Commission

O Lord, Hear My Prayer
 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
 O Christ the Same
 Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works
 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

Rehearsals	Rehearsals are usually held the evening before the wedding and take 30-45 minutes. Schedule this time with the pastor. It is preferred that the rehearsal begin no later than 5 pm. All persons involved in the wedding should be present and on time. Latecomers can learn from others what is necessary to know. Ushers should be present to learn of their special responsibilities, and parents should also attend so they know escorting procedures and seating placement. All arrangements for the wedding must be made with the pastor before the rehearsal. Rehearsals are not the time for last minute changes in the service.
Participation of other Clergy	The called pastor at Rejoice Lutheran Church is the presiding pastor at this occasional service of the church. The invited clergy would assist. Talk with the called pastor before extending an invitation to an assisting clergy.
Readers	Readers are permitted for Biblical lessons other than the gospel. The pastor reads the gospel. Because it is important that everyone be able to hear God's word, readers should be able to project vocally and speak distinctly. They need to be present at the rehearsal to receive instructions and to become familiar with the speaker system.
Ring Bearers, Flower Girls, Junior Bridesmaids	It is recommended that special consideration be given to involving children who are old enough to carry out the designated role.
Bulletins	The pastor will provide an order of service that is to be followed. The church does not provide the service of printing bulletins. The pastor must approve the rough draft before a bulletin is printed.
Flowers	Flowers add beauty to a wedding. Flowers are to be placed on flower stands and not on the altar or other church furniture. Arrangements should be made with the florist to have them delivered at least two hours before the wedding.
Candles	Any candles except for the altar candles, including the unity candle, are the responsibility of the bridal party.
Decorations	Decorations must be approved by the pastor. The altar cloths are designed and used according to the church year. They are not to be changed for weddings. At times, other arrangements are used in front of the church to emphasize liturgical seasons. These, too, are not to be changed for weddings. No adhesive substances may be used to secure decorations. For safety reasons, the use of the aisle runner is not allowed. Musical equipment may not be moved. but every attempt will be made to condense and organize the equipment for the wedding ceremony.

<p>Marriage License</p>	<p>A marriage license must be obtained from a Minnesota county office. Rejoice Lutheran is located in Wright County. The license must be brought to the pastor on or before the rehearsal date.</p>
<p>Photography & Videography</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All photographers and videographers are required to follow church guidelines. • Please request that family members and friends not take pictures during the service except during the processional and recessional. • Photos must be concluded at least 30 minutes before the start time of the wedding. • Photographers and videographers are to be in their appointed place no later than 30 minutes before the service. They are to speak with the officiating pastor in advance of the starting time of the service. • As is befitting the dignity and beauty of a worship service and wedding, all photographers and videographers shall wear attire that is professional and formal. • At no time during the service is the photographer permitted any further forward than the fourth row of chairs of the worship area. This will allow ample room for taking pictures as guests and wedding party enter and leave the worship area. • Photos taken during the wedding service (excluding the processional and recessional) must be taken with available light. No flashes are allowed during the wedding service. No artificial light is permitted. • Moving about the worship area after the service begins should be minimal and inconspicuous.
<p>Prohibited</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For reasons of safety and cleanliness, throwing of rice or birdseed or flower petals is not permissible. • Due to the sensitivity to the environment, birds and animals, releasing balloons is not permissible. • Prescribed medications are allowed. Smoking is permitted outside door #2 next to receptacles only. Other use of illegal substances are prohibited. • No alcoholic beverages may be consumed in the church parking lots or in the church building. • No overnight parking in church lots is permitted.

Rates to be Paid at the Rehearsal

<p>Rejoice member fees</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Pastor</td> <td>\$300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Custodian</td> <td>\$75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Musician</td> <td>Bridal couple responsible for this</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sound board tech</td> <td>\$75 (day of wedding only)</td> </tr> </table> <p>*A deposit of \$100 and the “Wedding Building Use Application” sheet (page 12) must be completed and returned to the pastor before your wedding will be placed on the church calendar. Do not assume the date is reserved for your wedding until this is received at church and the pastor confirms the date. The deposit and application sheet may be turned in to the church office by either mail or dropping it off in the church office. Deposits may be refunded at the discretion of the church.</p>	Pastor	\$300	Custodian	\$75	Musician	Bridal couple responsible for this	Sound board tech	\$75 (day of wedding only)		
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Custodian	\$75										
Musician	Bridal couple responsible for this										
Sound board tech	\$75 (day of wedding only)										
<p>Non-member fees</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Pastor</td> <td>\$350</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use of church</td> <td>\$500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Custodian</td> <td>\$75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Musician</td> <td>Bridal couple responsible for this</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sound board tech</td> <td>\$75 (day of wedding only)</td> </tr> </table> <p>*A non-refundable deposit of \$250 and the “Wedding Building Use Application” (page 12) sheet must be completed and returned to the pastor before your wedding will be placed on the church calendar. Do not assume the date is reserved for your wedding until this is received at church and the pastor confirms the date. The deposit and application sheet may be turned in to the church office either by mail or dropping it off in the church office.</p>	Pastor	\$350	Use of church	\$500	Custodian	\$75	Musician	Bridal couple responsible for this	Sound board tech	\$75 (day of wedding only)
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<p>Off-site location wedding fee</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Pastor</td> <td>\$450</td> </tr> </table>	Pastor	\$450								
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Wedding Timeline & To-Do List

When it should be done ↓		What should be done ↓	Is it done? ↓
1.	Now	Fill out "Wedding Building Use Application" in this handbook and return it along with your deposit to the church office manager.	
2.	6 months before wedding	Contact the pastor to set up premarital counseling sessions and to complete the online survey.	
3.	6 months before wedding	Line up pianist and special music.	
4.	1 month before wedding	Communicate with the pastor (in person or a phone call) to go over any last minute details.	
5.	Rehearsal	Bring the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage license • Unity candle/ sand ceremony items if used • Final payment is due at this time • Camera • Readings • Everyone involved in the wedding needs to be here if possible including readers, parents, and ushers. 	

Wedding Building Use Application

Person requesting space	Name						
	Date						
	Phone						
	Email						
	Address						
Wedding information	Wedding date				# of attendees		
	Start time				End time		
	Setup time				Take-down time		
	Space requested		Sanctuary		Fellowship hall		
			Kitchen		Library		
			Classroom		Other		
	Equipment requested		Equipment location/s				
			Tables		Chairs		
			Podium		Microphone		
			Projector				
Caterer information	Caterer name						
	Caterer phone						
	Caterer email						
	Other food/ serving details						
Charges	Total facility charges		\$				
Acceptance	I have received and read the Wedding Handbook and agree to its terms.						
	Applicant signature						
Approval	Authorized Rejoice signature						
	Date						