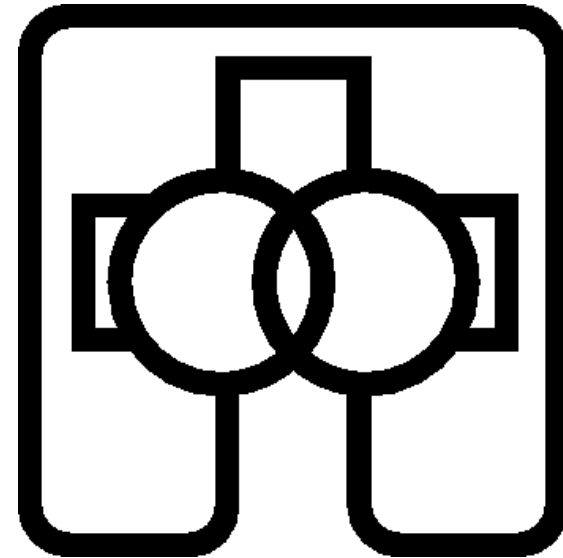


**WEDDING GUIDEBOOK  
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**“Marriage is a holy estate,  
ordained by God and to be held in honor by all.”**

This booklet is intended to furnish information and guidance for those considering having their wedding at CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH. The material herein has been compiled by the pastor, the church musician, and the church council. A careful reading of this booklet is important for proper understanding of mutual expectations and for proper planning.

**YOUR WEDDING - A WORSHIP SERVICE**

A church wedding is primarily a worship service. The word worship means **“worth-ship.”** In other words, someone or something is worthy of honor and praise. As Christians, we believe that this honor and praise belong first and foremost to God, our Maker, Redeemer and Sustainer. God is the Source of all creation, including authentic love. And, through His incarnation in Christ (see John 1:14), God has given us an example of how to live in loving relationships, just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her (Eph. 5:21 - 25). Thus, a wedding is more than a mere legal ceremony or a “spectator sport” in which the bride and groom



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are the well-dressed stars. As important as they truly are, the primary purpose of the wedding service is both to **thank God** for His gift of love that the bride and groom have found in each other and to **make a covenant or pledge** to nurture that gift as long as they live. The wedding party and other family and friends are there to support the bride and groom by prayer (and sometimes with hymns and/or other special music) during this time of transition and celebration.

### WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

Music can be an important part of your wedding service. Clearly, in order to fit the worshipful tone of the service, the music should be appropriate to the setting, thanking God for the goodness of His created order in which we experience the love between husband and wife. However, some non-religious music (solos, duets) might also be appropriate with proper consultation with the pastor.

You may wish to take part in choosing music that will be played at the wedding (e.g., prelude music and processional and recessional music). This should be done in consultation with the church musician at Calvary Lutheran Church. **Our church musician will play at all weddings held here** unless he has a conflicting commitment. At such times, he will make arrangements for a suitable substitute.

If you would like special music (solo, duet, string quartet, etc.) but do not know how to make such arrangements, please consult with our church musician. He can refer you to the right person or persons.

Couples may choose to have a hymn or two sung by the congregation during the service. Appropriate hymns might include “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,” “O Perfect Love,” “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,” “Hear Us Now, Our God and Father,” and many more.

Plan to spend some time with the church musician so you will be able to choose music both appropriate for worship and in accord with your tastes.

If the bride and groom wish to celebrate Holy Communion during the wedding ceremony, it should be open to all believers present who wish to receive. If the couple wishes to receive it alone, that can be arranged for some time earlier in the day.

### PICTURE TAKING

Formal wedding pictures may be taken in the church either before or after the wedding. The custom is becoming more and more prevalent to have pictures taken before the service so everyone can be off to the reception as quickly as possible. (Remember, a Christian wedding service is no place for superstition, so the old practice of the



*If you have any questions regarding any material in this booklet, please don't hesitate to call.*

### CHECKLIST

1. Contact the church regarding availability of the church and pastor.

2. If available, set date and time of wedding.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Date) (Time)

3. Pay deposit and contact church musician.

4. Name and phone number of wedding coordinator (must use Calvary Coordinator).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Name) (Phone)

5. Name and phone number of photographer/videotaper

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Name) (Phone)

6. Name and phone number of florist

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Name) (Phone)

7. Apply for license (at least a week in advance). Bring to rehearsal.

groom not seeing the bride on the day of the wedding until the processional need not be observed. You may choose to observe that old practice if you want, but do so for the right reasons, not superstition.) Plan with the photographer to allow sufficient time for picture taking, which should be completed a half hour before the service is to start.

Most professional photographers are aware that NO FLASH PICTURES should be taken during the wedding service itself. Good photographers usually have equipment that can compensate for this and can take pictures without flash and without being a distraction. Obviously, common courtesy would dictate that there be no camera “clicking” during prayer. Guests might also be informed as follows: “The bride and groom request that there please be no flash pictures taken during the wedding ceremony.” This might be printed on the invitations and/or the bulletin, if you have one.

Videotaping of the wedding is allowed but only as designated by the pastor. The person operating the camera should be ready at least half an hour before the wedding is to start.

### FLOWERS AND PLANTS

Calvary normally does not recommend a particular florist, but if you need suggestions, we may be able to help. Remember, in ordering flowers and plants the church is already beautiful in and of itself. Thus, flowers should complement the church architecture, symbolism and decor, not obscure or dominate it.

### ARRANGEMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

We want your wedding to be a joyous and memorable experience. It is important that our respective obligations and responsibilities be understood. These are outlined below:

- A. Contact the church office and fill out the wedding request form. You will be contacted within ten days regarding your request.
- B. There will be at least two-three sessions with the pastor to plan the wedding service and to discuss the Christian marriage. **These sessions are required.**
- C. The order of service will be according to the Lutheran tradition and at the direction of the pastor. The pastor will give you written materials and explain the options you have in planning your wedding service. There is plenty of flexibility in the order of service to allow for the unique preferences of most Christian couples.

- D. All outside persons (photographers, etc.) are answerable to the pastor and are to work cooperatively with all church personnel. They must conform to church policies and practices.
- E. The pastor(s) of Calvary Lutheran Church will preside at all weddings held within, and Calvary's church musician will play at all weddings.
- F. The Calvary Wedding Coordinator is required.
- G. The church building is our congregational home. We expect all who enter here to treat our home with the dignity and respect it deserves and which ought to be present whenever you visit someone else's home. Therefore,
- Church furniture and symbols are not to be removed nor obscured.
  - Please, no smoking in the church building. Ashtrays are available outside.
  - Please, no intoxicants (including beer, wine, drugs). Failure to observe this rule will result in forfeiture of damage deposit and may jeopardize the completion of the wedding. You are responsible for the behavior of your wedding party and guests.
  - Because of the danger of accidents, no rice or confetti may be thrown inside or outside the church. (Stepping on rice, etc., can be like stepping on a banana peel.)
  - If decorations are to be attached to pews or the altar rail, you may do so with non-marring tape, not tacks. Any damage to furniture will be deducted from the damage deposit.

### **THE REHEARSAL**

Most weddings are sizable occasions in terms of number of guests, etc., and you who are to be principle participants will want to be prepared to do your parts in a coordinated way. A rehearsal is usually necessary and is usually held the evening before the wedding, often around 6 or 7 p.m.

Plan on about an hour for the rehearsal and schedule it when everyone who should be there can be present. Everyone in the wedding party should be on hand: the bride and groom, the bridesmaids and groomsmen, the ushers, flower girl, ring bearer, candlelighters and parents (all as appropriate to your wedding).

It is also important that all arrangements and plans be made with the pastor before the day of the rehearsal, so he/she can plan the rehearsal to run as smoothly and quickly as possible.

Fees are due a week in advance of rehearsal.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

A "Member" of Calvary Lutheran Church is defined by its constitution as one who is confirmed, who is presently active in the life of the congregation as demonstrated by participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and by recorded financial support of the congregation.

Persons who are not presently on the active membership roster, due to either inactivity or transfer, are not considered members of Calvary.

The member may be one of the following: the bride, the groom, the mother of the bride or groom, or the father of the bride or groom.

### **DEPOSIT**

A deposit of \$75 is to be paid when the wedding is scheduled. This amount is considered a damage deposit to cover such things as minor damage. If there is no damage or extra clean-up involved, the entire deposit amount of \$75 will be refunded within one week after the wedding.

### **MISCELLANEOUS POINTS TO CONSIDER**

- A. If you are going to have a guest book, do you want someone to tend it to make sure that guests sign it? That person should be arranged by the bride.
- B. If gifts are brought to the church, someone should have the responsibility to receive these gifts for the bride and groom and make sure they are taken home after the wedding.
- C. The bride and her attendants may change at the church in a room we have designated "the bride's room." Men may change at home or at the church, whichever seems more convenient.
- D. In order to avoid last minute anxiety, secure the marriage license well in advance (at least one week) from the county clerk's office. Witnesses must be of legal age. Bring the license to the church the night of the rehearsal.
- E. Will the groomsmen serve as ushers or will you designate others for that role?