



*Preparing Your Wedding
Messiah Lutheran Church
Mounds View, MN*

The following book was prepared to help you in the planning of a most special day. It is Messiah's hope and prayer that the Lord Jesus Christ will be with you not just as you plan for the day, but as you live together, lifelong in His grace.

CONGRATULATIONS, BRIDE AND GROOM

The following pages contain information that you will need to plan your Christian wedding at Messiah. Whether that service is large or small; whether you are young or old; whether it is expensive or not so, the key word for you should be: **CHRISTIAN**.

- If Christ is unimportant to you....
- If you just want to walk down a long aisle with admiring guests, then we encourage you to rent a large hall.
- If you just want to have a pastor say "something nice" for your nuptials, then hire a member of the Toastmasters...He will do a more than adequate job.
- If you wish to have a "cheap place" for your reception and the church hall fits the bill, then contact a Justice of the Peace.....Have your wedding in the park.....it will suffice.

But

- If you want to make God a part of your relationship and married life from the beginning;
- If you are asking for His witness upon the vows you will speak;
- If you wish to walk with Him and His Son
- and you wish your married life to have meaning, the members of our church welcome you.

If you have successfully read the above paragraphs and agree with their contents, then a church wedding..... and all the wonderful benefits connected with such a service is for you.

You should understand that this means Jesus Christ and His glory will be a part of everything you do on that day. God is not an add on. This is only right since He is the One Who first gave you life; He is the One Who was with you when your love began and flourished, and He will be with you when your earthly love ends. Although you may receive many gifts from a multitude of friends, no one at your wedding will love you more than He, or will have given a more costly gift than He. Uncle Charley may give you a \$10,000 check, but only Jesus has given you His life.

As a result, from the selection of the music, to the choice of the texts, to the conduct of your wedding party, the glory of your Most-Honored-Guest should be foremost in your plans.

Your wedding day is one of the most important dates in your lives. In order that you might remember this day with joy, we will do all we can to make it a memorable experience.

We trust that you, like the Lutheran Church, will want to avoid the many wedding customs which have their source among ancient non-Christian cultures. You will be pleased to discover in your visit(s) with the pastors a real concern that your wedding has been planned as a service of worship.

SELECTION OF THE WEDDING DATE

After you have selected a date and time for your wedding (you may want to have a number of options in mind), it is important that you *verify the date's availability* in the church office and with the pastor. If you have not done this already, please do so immediately.

To avoid disappointment, please *do not plan any part of your wedding until after you have made this contact.*

MUSIC AND ORGANISTS

The music used in all of our services - including the wedding service - is to glorify God and promote a spirit of reverence in worship. Appropriate music which has such a purpose is available. In selecting music for a church wedding, there is only one criterion: let the music be as dignified as the spoken word.

In regard to solos, duets, etc., the guideline for choosing should not be "does it have a pretty melody"; or "does it have 'touching' words, or does it evoke "memorable moments?" *Make your choice on the basis of whether it points to Christ and His blessing on your love.* If it does not, it would be better to reserve that special piece for the reception and find something more suitable for the church service. On rare occasions, if copyrights allow, we can make changes to secular music.

It is desirable that *the bride and groom meet with their selected church musician for consultation as soon as possible.* At that time they will have an opportunity to express their ideas and ask questions about the choice of music. At the same time, the musician will be able to call upon his/her knowledge and make suggestions concerning the vast repertoire of church music which is suitable for your day.

It is generally expected that one of Messiah's musicians will be playing at your service. If our Director of Parish Music is not available, she will be glad to suggest another individual who will be able to beautify your service with song.

THE WEDDING MARCH

Usage has made Wagner's **Bridal Chorus** from the opera Lohengrin and Mendelssohn's **Wedding March** from the opera **A Midsummer Night's Dream** popular in the secular world, but not in the church. Increasingly churches are disallowing this music for good reason. *WHY?*

The **Bridal Chorus** introduces a scene which shows a man and his wife whose affections are cooling. During the course of the scene a murder is committed. Hardly the right mood for your wedding .

The **Wedding March** has its origin during a dream sequence where the bridegroom is turned into an ass. Knowing the background behind these pieces of music, we know that you will avoid them.

WEDDING COORDINATOR/SOUND PERSON

Messiah requires the use of a wedding coordinator and sound person for every wedding ceremony. You will be informed of the names of your wedding coordinator and sound person and how to contact them with any questions.

THE REHEARSAL

It is expected that **the wedding rehearsal will start on time**. Because it is more relaxed, attire can be informal or casual, but nevertheless should be in good taste.

The rehearsal will be complete and should leave you with a sense of confidence and direction in regard to the ceremony and the setting of your wedding. It is expected that the rehearsal will take no more than one hour after we begin our practice.

THE SERVICE

Contrary to the opinion of many, your wedding is a worship service of the church. A long and respected heritage of the Christian Church supports the liturgy of the Marriage Rite. By honoring this heritage you will avoid much of the tawdry and trivial intrusions often witnessed in weddings today. Additions to the wedding service, such as the lighting of the unity candle, presenting flowers to parents and whatever other customs the future may bring, are not essential to the wedding, but may be used. Caution should be taken to avoid cluttering the service with temporary fads.

The primary purpose of your wedding service is to seek the blessing of our Almighty Father and to make your vows before Him. He is the center of all that takes place in your wedding and He will abide faithfully with you long after the decorations have faded.

PARENTS AND HONORED GUESTS

Traditionally, the mother of the groom is ushered in before the mother of the bride. Grandparents and other honored guests are also ushered in beforehand. Unfortunately, that leaves the father of the groom to trail along behind. The father of the bride also is left alone during the recessional. It is possible to make your plans so that the usher proceeds both sets of parents into their position of honor.

We further ask that both bride and groom consider the special needs of those who are elderly, handicapped, wheelchair bound and the like. Please make those special needs known to the pastor and the ushers.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Taking flash pictures during the service is not allowed. Please notify family and friends of this rule.

The photographer you engage for your wedding pictures will be allowed to take pictures **during the service without flash and they are not allowed up by the altar area**. Any deviations from this rule must be cleared with the pastor.

Video cameras are allowed during the service. They are to be used only when no extra lighting is attached. **There is to be no more moving around of camera people during the service.**

Photographers are guests in the church and should respect our rules. Any movement in the church should be done with dignity. **The appointments of the church are not to be used as props.**

USHERS

Ushers should arrive at the church *at least* 45 minutes before the ceremony. Ushers will be coached by the pastor at the wedding rehearsal. These things should always be kept in mind:

- The only reserved seats in the church are for parents and members of the immediate family, including grandparents.
- Guests carrying cameras into church should be advised not to take flash photographs during the service. The time for picture taking should be advertised in advance.
- Ushers should be advised by the bride and groom to remain after the service for pictures if this is desired.
- It is good church custom for the usher to precede guests up the aisle rather than have the woman take his arm.
- It is not good custom to inquire and seat guests according to whether they are "friends of the bride or groom." This is especially so when one side will have a preponderance of people in attendance.

THE PROCESSIONAL

True Lutheran custom has the bride and groom approach the altar together. Some brides wish to approach the altar alone or at the right side of her father or some other male relative or friend. If that is the case, the groom will enter the church at the same time as the pastor. The processional and recessional will follow the pattern of church processions, with the principles following in ascending order. The last place is reserved for the bride who will be immediately preceded by the ring bearer or flower girl(s).

FLOWER GIRLS AND RING BEARERS

Although it is your choice, you should be aware that no one can ruin your wedding more quickly than the choice of the wrong ring bearer or flower girl. Under the age of four they can either go into "performance" or "weepy" mode. Sometimes both.

If a child is under the age of four and is not acquainted with being in church, or has had no pre-school experience in walking in line, we recommend **alternate seating arrangements should be made** for the child after the processional is completed. Forewarned is forearmed.

FLOWERS

Flowers should be placed in the chancel at least an hour before the service begins. It is hoped that real flowers, reflecting your good taste and your best for the Lord will be used in the chancel of the church.

If other containers are brought in or rented, please make arrangements to have them removed after the service.

No decoration is to be placed on the altar.

Corsages and boutonnieres may be placed in rooms where the wedding party prepares for the wedding.

As always, an overabundance of flowers is garish and the odor can be quite upsetting for those who are not used to standing still for a half hour or longer.

SPECIAL SERVICE REQUESTS

We will try to honor special requests concerning the wedding service. Pastors should be notified in advance of these requests. Last minute or "surprise" changes are not appreciated, and may not be acceptable. As you prepare for your wedding the following should be kept in mind:

- All chancel furnishings are dedicated items and should neither be removed or used as props.
- The church does not have an aisle runner which is not necessary for a wedding. If a runner is rented, please have it picked up after the service.

KISSING

Kissing is frequently done as part of the nuptial blessing in the wedding. If you wish to kiss at your service, please let it be done in good taste.

THROWING RICE and/or BIRDSEED

Throwing rice or birdseed is a pagan custom and a mess to clean up. Rice is an ancient fertility symbol. (We are not sure what throwing instant rice means.) We discourage both for practical and caring reasons.

Both complicate the cleanup of the church and premises at a time when cleanup must be done quickly and often quite late. Birdseed which is round and hard is especially difficult to clean up and presents a danger of slipping to your guests. Moreover, birds do not feed on it, as presumed, since they are not night feeders.

In short if you feel that rice or birdseed must be used, the custodial fee is raised by \$10.00.

DECORATIONS AND ALCOHOL

It is assumed that the groom will not be decorated before the service by well-wishing friends. Cars maybe decorated, but as damage seems to happen most easily, please have your folks be careful. As for alcohol in church or on the grounds either before, during or after the service.....I'm sorry but **Alcohol is not allowed.**

SUGGESTIONS FOR MUSIC

All music in your wedding service should have Christ as its focus. Songs should not be chosen because they are love songs or have sentimental value. The Parish Musical Director or pastor at Messiah will be glad to help you select music worthy of your wedding.

YOUR WEDDING TEXTS

You are encouraged to accept responsibility for choosing the lessons to be read at your wedding. You may have as many as three lessons (seldom done). If so, an Old Testament lesson, a Psalm and a New Testament lesson is traditional. It is suggested that you choose your lessons from the categories below. The decision to use all of the lessons you have selected will be made by the pastor.

If these texts do not seem to fit your needs, or you have a special request, the pastor can be consulted. Choosing the lessons for your wedding should be the privilege of both the bride and the groom. Lessons should be chosen with care and concern for the message they convey.

SCRIPTURE VERSES FOR CHRISTIAN WEDDINGS

Your readings can be read by the pastor or by individuals who have encouraged you in your faith. These are just suggestions. There are many other verses that may have meaning for you. You may also shorten a particular section of Scripture.

Genesis 2:18-24 (NIV) The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Ruth 1:16 (NIV) But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. (note: this is about family dedication, not couple)

Psalms 37:3-7 (NIV) Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. 4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: 6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. 7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.

Psalms 100 (NIV) For giving thanks. Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he, who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. 5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalms 117 (NIV) Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. 2 For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD.

Psalms 118:1 (NIV) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalms 127:1 (NIV) Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.

Psalms 136 (NIV) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. 2 Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever. 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever. 4 to him

who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever. 5 who by his understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever. 6 who spread out the earth upon the waters, His love endures forever. 7 who made the great lights-- His love endures forever. 8 the sun to govern the day, His love endures forever. 9 the moon and stars to govern the night; His love endures forever. 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever.

Proverbs 3:3-4 (NIV) Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

Proverbs 31:10-31 (NIV) A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. 11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. 13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. 14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. 15 She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. 16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. 17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. 18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. 19 In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. 20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. 22 She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. 23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. 27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 29 "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. 31 Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NIV) Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: 10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Isaiah 61:10-11 (NIV) I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV) "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Matthew 19:3-6 (NIV) Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" 4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to

his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV) Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Mark 10:6-9 (NIV) "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 7 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, 8 and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

John 3:16-21 (NIV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

John 2:1-11 (NIV) On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." 4 "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. 8 Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, 9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." 11 This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

John 15:9-12 (NIV) "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:11-17 (NIV) I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

Romans 5:1-8 (NIV) Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings,

because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians 6:13-19 (NIV) The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! 16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

1 Corinthians 11:11-12 (NIV) In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Ephesians 3:14-19 (NIV) For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NIV) Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV) For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how

wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 4:29-32 (NIV) Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV) Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Philippians 2:1-5 (NIV) If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Philippians 4:4-9 (NIV) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Colossians 3:12-17 (NIV) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 (NIV) It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 3:1-9 (NIV) Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided

hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. 7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. 8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 4:8-11 (NIV) Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 John 4:7-12 (NIV) Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:16-18 (NIV) God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

SUGGESTED WEDDING VOWS

1. I take you _____ to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise you; I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect, trust, help and care (obey) you; I will share my life with you; I will forgive you

as we have been forgiven; and I will try with you better to understand ourselves, the world and God, through the best and the worst of what is to come until death parts us.

2. I _____ in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, _____ to be my wife/husband, 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.

3. I take you, _____, to be my wife/husband, from this day forward, to join with and to share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

4. I take you _____ to be my wife/husband. 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.

5. _____ I take you to be my wife/husband from this day 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.

ALTAR GUILD AND CANDELABRA INFORMATION

The Messiah Altar Guild has a set of Aisle Candelabra available for rental during your wedding. The cost for rental of the candelabra is \$40.00 with a check made payable to Messiah Altar Guild. If you choose to add the 12 Aisle Candelabra to your wedding, this fee will include the Altar Guild members setting up the candelabra before and taking them down after your wedding.

PARAMENTS

Paraments are colored cloths which hang in the altar area and on the altar in accordance with the themes of the Church Year. These banners or other church decorations are NOT to be moved or changed to match the colors in your wedding.

The colors of our Paraments generally follow this schedule:

- Advent (four weeks before Christmas.....Blue
- Christmas, until Epiphany, January 6.....White
- Epiphany until Ash Wednesday.....Green
- Lent, Ash Wednesday, through Easter Saturday.....Purple
- Easter & 7 weeks after, up to Pentecost.....White
- Pentecost.....Red
- Trinity Sunday.....White
- Season of Pentecost, up to Advent.....Green

UNITY CANDLE

A candle holder for the Unity Candle is available for your use. These three candles – one larger and two standard candles – are furnished by the bridal couple. The Unity Candle is NOT to be placed on the altar.

WEDDING RECEPTION SERVICE

Arrangements for a wedding reception must be made through the Women of Messiah Wedding Reception Coordinator. WOM furnishes this service for receptions held in the Blue Room or the CrossRoads space. The reservation request form and deposit must be filled out with the Administrative Assistant prior to any meeting with the Reception Coordinator. A schedule of options and fees is available upon request.

WEDDING PREPARATION CHECKLIST

As it states in the section, “Selecting Your Wedding Date,” you **MUST** make sure that the Church is available before you put any of your other plans in place.

1. Communicate date/time of your wedding with the Pastor and the Administrative Assistant and reserve wedding/rehearsal date/time on Church calendar.
2. Arrange initial meeting with a Pastor.
3. Reserve wedding/rehearsal date/time with the musicians.
4. Arrange meeting with Director of Parish Music
5. Approval of wedding music
6. Secure a sound person (this can be arranged through the Administrative Assistant)
7. Arrange a meeting with the wedding coordinator. You will work with that individual to determine the times that the church is to be opened and any other details regarding the rehearsal and wedding days.
8. Select Wedding worship folder cover if you would like the church to print them (this needs to be done at least a month in advance)
9. Deliver reservation forms/fees for aisle candelabras/reception to the church office
10. Be sure you have reserved and know which rooms will be used by the wedding party for dressing and preparation.
11. Work with the Administrative Assistant to get your final bill/fees for the wedding.
12. Deliver payment of fees/gratuities to the Wedding Coordinator one week before the wedding. If fees are not paid, you will not have your wedding.
13. Review photography guidelines with your photographer.
14. Arrange who will read scripture readings
15. Select sermon text
16. Select wedding vows – please consult the Pastor

WEDDING FEES: Non-Members

Deposit (non refundable deposit to be paid to reserve your date)	\$300
Custodial Fees (includes preparation before & cleaning of worship/common areas after)	\$150
Organist	\$150
Pastor	\$350
Wedding Coordinator (Includes rehearsal night, 1 ½ hours prior to the ceremony and up to 1 ½ hours after the start of the wedding ceremony) additional time is \$15/hr	\$100
Sound Person	\$40

Optional Additions (not included above)	
Aisle Candelabra	\$50
Additional Rehearsal with musicians	\$35
Reception	<i>To be arranged with Women of Messiah</i>

Additional Fees for additional rooms/cleaning of additional rooms can be requested and are not included in the above figures.

All fees are due the week before the wedding. A detailed list of who the checks should be made out to needs to be arranged with the Administrative Assistant. Please turn in payments to the church office or wedding coordinator.

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