



YOUR WEDDING AT KVITSEID LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**“Remember that a successful
marriage depends on two things:**

- **Finding the right person and**
- **Being the right person.”**

From Life's Little Instruction Book

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Checklist:

- The church has been reserved with definite date and time. _____
- The rehearsal date has been set. _____
- An orientation meeting with the pastor has been set. _____
- Marriage counseling sessions have been scheduled (12 hours) _____
- The entire wedding party (parents included) has been notified to be at the rehearsal. _____
- The organist or pianist has been contacted regarding music. _____
- Arrangements have been made with a florist. _____
- Arrangements have been made with a photographer. _____
- Arrangements have been made for removal of wedding decorations, flowers and gifts from the church. _____
- The marriage license has been taken to the church office. _____
- The damage deposit and all other necessary fees have been paid. _____

We are delighted that you desire to be married at Kviteseid Lutheran Church! This booklet is written as an aid for you as you make a host of decisions and arrangements leading up to your wedding day. It's a place to start a conversation about your wedding worship service.

Kviteseid Lutheran Church is a community of people whose focus is upon Jesus Christ. We believe that his life and ministry, his Cross and Resurrection, direct our life and hope. By seeking marriage at Kviteseid, you declare this to be your belief as well. Here are some brief statements we believe to be true:

A wedding at Kviteseid Lutheran Church is:

Worship. This is to say that we place God at the center of the covenant you make on your wedding day. People, music, text and vows, and the shape of worship itself find their focus in Jesus. The dignity of marriage comes from the fact that you gather among friends to seek God's blessing on your new life as husband and wife.

Corporate. There are no observers at your wedding, only participants. We listen, speak, sing and pray. Your wedding is not a performance; it is the family of God gathered to praise God for his blessings and to hear you speak promises of fidelity to one another. In truth, God is the audience, and we are the worshipers.

Time for proclamation. Our message is the Good News that God showers forgiveness, love and grace upon our lives through the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Whenever the community gathers, it hears that Word, and it belongs to you as husband and wife.

Time of celebration. We gather to celebrate for you, with you and because of you, that Jesus Christ has blessed marriage with possibilities for lived-out grace and forgiveness. We rejoice in worship at God's goodness to you and us and the joy you find in each other.

If you have questions or concerns about any of the material in this wedding planning booklet, please voice those concerns to the pastor. We want to hear what you have to say.

SETTING THE DATE

Contact the church parish assistant at (320)734-4455, to have your wedding date and time placed on the church calendar. We will take

your requested date and time, and the pastor will then schedule your wedding. You must speak with the pastor before the scheduling can be complete.

WEDDING LICENSE

Since weddings are regulated by the state, you must secure your license in Minnesota. You may obtain a wedding license from your county Register of Deeds. Bring the license to the church office for processing by the Monday before your wedding. No wedding can proceed without the license.

WEDDINGS FOR MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS

A wedding is considered a member wedding when the bride, groom or their parents are members of the congregation. Fees for nonmember weddings are different than those for members. We encourage all couples married at Kviteseid Lutheran Church to attend services and become participating members of the congregation.

ORIENTATION MEETING

It is your responsibility to make an appointment with the pastor well in advance of your wedding day. Three months is a good rule of thumb. The orientation meeting serves several important purposes:

1. It provides an opportunity for you and the pastor to become better acquainted.
2. It is a time to discuss the wedding service.
3. Questions and concerns may be shared.
4. Your wedding date will be re-confirmed and other wedding information will be gathered.
5. A pre-marital inventory will be scheduled. This is a requirement before Pre-marriage Counseling begins. The inventory generally takes about one hour. The cost is \$35.00 for the couple.

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

An important part of wedding planning is preparation for marriage. The pastor presiding at your wedding will administer *Prepare/Enrich*, a pre-marital inventory, to determine the strengths and growth areas of your relationship.

When the inventory is returned following confidential computer evaluation, the pastor will arrange follow-up sessions with you to discuss the inventory. It is the pastor's option to refuse to perform the ceremony or advise a delay and/or further counseling.

Occasionally the pastor may recommend Pre-marital Counseling with a certified counselor rather than the pastor. The fee for the inventory procession can be paid at your orientation meeting with the pastor.

The marriage license fee is reduced for couples who have completed at least 12 hours of premarital education. In order to qualify for the reduced license fee, the parties must submit, at the time of applying for the marriage license, a statement that is signed, dated, and notarized or marked with a church seal from the person who provided the premarital education **on their letterhead** confirming that it was received. The premarital education must be provided by a licensed or ordained minister or the minister's designee, a person authorized to solemnize marriages under section 517.18, or a person authorized to practice marriage and family therapy under section 148B.33. The education must include the use of premarital inventory and the teaching of communication and conflict management skills.

GUEST PASTORS

The pastor at Kviteseid Lutheran Church will participate in all weddings in the church. If you would like other clergy to participate in your wedding, it should be discussed with the pastor at Kviteseid before any arrangements are made. Should you desire to have a guest pastor participate in the wedding worship, the presiding pastor will contact the guest pastor to work out what role the guest pastor will have in the worship service.

RECEPTION

Kviteseid Lutheran Church has a well equipped kitchen and large fellowship hall if you choose to have your reception here. Preparations for use of the kitchen, whether done by family/friends or caterers, will need to be discussed with one of the W.E.L.C.A. Board members. Use and set up for the fellowship hall will need to be discussed with the custodian. Please contact the church office for contact information.

ALCOHOL AT THE WEDDING

Alcohol use by the wedding party before the rehearsal or wedding is strictly prohibited. Any alcohol use or evidence of its use by the wedding party will be cause for postponement of the wedding. We reserve the right to exclude from the wedding party any people who are not sober.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

Normally, rehearsals are scheduled for the day or evening prior to the wedding. They can, however be scheduled for the morning of an evening wedding. Rehearsals last 60-90 minutes and are conducted by the presiding pastor. It is very important to relay any questions about the ceremony at that time.

The following people should attend the rehearsal: bride and groom, attendants, ring bearer and flower girl, readers, musicians, ushers and reception hosts.

CARE OF THE CHURCH SANCTUARY

The church sanctuary is a place set apart for the worship of God. The baptismal font and Christ candle may be carefully moved during pre-wedding photography, but must be returned to their places for the wedding worship.

CANDLES

You may choose to use a unity candle as part of your wedding worship service. This is the only extra candle or decorative item that may be placed on the altar. The pastor will discuss the use of the unity candle with you during your orientation.

If other candles will be used throughout the sanctuary or narthex, you are responsible for providing protection to the carpet. (Ex: Placing plastic underneath candelabras.)

PARAMENTS AND BANNERS

The paraments are placed on the altar and pulpit, and are worn as stoles by the pastor. They emphasize the spirit of the season of the church year. The paraments may not be removed. The pastor can tell you at your orientation meeting what color paraments will be in place on your wedding day in case you want to harmonize the color scheme

of your wedding with the paraments' color for your wedding day.

In addition to the paraments, banners corresponding with the season of the church year are hung on both sides at the front of the sanctuary. Wedding banners are available. If you would like the wedding banners hung, it is your responsibility to notify the banner committee at least two weeks prior to the wedding day. Call the church office for the names and numbers of banner committee members.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOTAPING

It is your responsibility to secure a photographer and videographer. Because of the nature of the wedding as a worship service, we remind you that flash pictures may not be taken during the wedding itself; only timed exposures taken from the back of the sanctuary may be taken. Please plan to have all photos completed at least a half hour before the wedding service is to begin. Videotaping may be done from an unobtrusive location. Camera lights may not be used during the worship service.

WEDDING MUSIC

The 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. Our organist is prepared to help you to plan the music for your wedding. You should meet together preferably six weeks before the wedding. You will want to discuss such things as Prelude, Processional, Recessional, Postlude, hymns and solos.

Music should be selected based upon what is appropriate to the style of the worship service. A simple definition of worship is: "That which directs our thoughts and actions to God, rather than to ourselves or things of the world." One or two solos is an appropriate number to have for your wedding. Do not forget your guests as you plan the music for the service. Because all are participating in worship, let your guest join in expressing their praise. Planning for congregational hymn singing for the processional or recessional is very effective.

The texts and the music should contribute to the worship atmosphere of the service. The selections should be of musical quality. The

texts should correspond to the themes which are inherent in a Christian marriage service. Such themes are; God's love for the church displayed through Christ's forming the foundation for the love a man and a woman share; God's blessing petitioned for the marriage; the praise of God necessarily expressed when Christians rejoice.

Recorded music is in poor taste and can never be reproduced adequately for a service. Recorded music will always detract from the beauty of the wedding service. For these two reasons recorded music is not considered fitting for a worship service and is not permitted.

The fee for the organist includes all meetings to hear and choose music, practicing with soloists, rehearsal and wedding.

The Bridal Chorus, commonly known as 'Here Comes the Bride,' is not appropriate for weddings held at Kviteseid Lutheran Church. It comes from the opera Lohengrin in which there is a killing and violence over the prize, the "fair maiden." It ends with the wedding couple tragically separated from each other forever. In recent years many churches across the country have stopped using this piece of music because of its origin.

Countless processional have been written by church music composers for the wedding worship service. If you would like your processional to be extremely familiar, we suggest "Trumpet Voluntary" by Purcell. This piece has replaced "Here Comes the Bride" in terms of tradition. Our organist is prepared to play many other pieces which are appropriate to the worship service.

Recommended Processional Organ Music

Canon in D	Pachebel
St. Anthony Chorale	Brahms
Trumpet Tune in D	David Johson
Trumpet March	J.S. Bach
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	J.S. Bach
Trumpet Voluntary	Clarke, Purcell, or Heron

Recommended Recessional Organ Music

Trumpet Tune in D	Clarke, Purcell,
Fanfare	Lemmens

Water Music	Handel
Toccat	Dubois
Bell Symphony	Purcell
Rondeau	Mouret

Appropriate Solos for Weddings

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Composer</u>
Oh God of Love	Augsburg	Austin Lovelace
The Greatest of These is Love	Novello	Daniel Moe
A Wedding Blessing	Augsburg	Walter Pelz
The Call	Galaxy	R. Vaughn Williams
Wedding Song	Peeters	Flor Peeters
Wedding Prayer	G. Schirmer	F.G.Dunlap
Three Wedding Solos*	Augsburg	G.W. Cassier
Wedding Song	Chantry	Heinrich Schultz
A Perfect Love	Augsburg	K. Nystedt
Jesus Stand Beside Them	Arlington Press	Austin Lovelace
The Lord's Prayer	Augsburg	David Johnson
Wedding Blessings*	Concordia	Paul Bunes
Treasures	Word Music	Honeytree
Make Us One, Father	Word Music	Paul Johnson
The Gift of Love	Hal Hopson	
The Wedding Hymn	BMI Canada Limited	Handel

*Collections

**Available at most music stores

Suggested Hymns*Beginning of the Service*

- # 395 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord
- # 870 We Praise You, O God
- # 527 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

- # 765 Lord of All Hopefulness
- # 408 Come, Thou Almighty King
- # 835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High!
- # 414 Holy God, We Praise Your Name
- # 858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- # 867 In Thee is Gladness

During the Service

- # 585 Hear Us Now, Our God and Father
- # 508 You are Mine
- # 631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- # 624 Jesus, Still Lead On
- # 502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- # 802 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
- # 838 Beautiful Savior

End of the Service

- # 840 Now Thank We All Our God
- # 836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
- # 864 Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven
- # 537 On Our Way Rejoicing

Examples of Inappropriate Music

Theme From “Ice Castles”

Time in a Bottle

Evergreen

Longer

The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face

Theme from “Lion King”

WEDDING BULLETINS

The wedding service bulletin is used to remind the wedding guests that they are worshipping with the bride and groom. It is helpful but not

always necessary to use a bulletin.

The bulletin should contain the complete order of service, along with hymns, vocal solos and instrumental music, a listing of those in the wedding party, etc. The pastor will work with you in arranging the order of worship to be placed in the wedding bulletin.

FLORIST AND WEDDING DECORATIONS

The following guidelines should be followed in setting up floral arrangements and wedding decorations:

1. No adhesive tape may be applied to the pews to hold flowers or other decorative items.
2. Floral displays and candles other than unity candle may not be placed on the altar.
3. Flower stands are available for placement elsewhere.

Please make arrangements for removal of wedding decorations, flowers, and gifts from the church.

THE WEDDING WORSHIP SERVICE

The marriage worship service from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* is the preferred order of worship and will be discussed during the pre-nuptial sessions with the officiating pastor. An additional sheet explaining each part of the service is included in the wedding materials.

THE TRADITIONS OF RICE - ALTERNATIVE METHODS

If you choose to follow the custom of throwing rice following the wedding ceremony, please use birdseed instead. If you are going to be throwing birdseed, please do not give it to your guests until after the ceremony, when it is going to be used outside. There should not be any in the sanctuary or fellowship hall. This should be used outside only, and away from the front door.

Another alternative is bubbles. Again, if you are going to use bubbles, please distribute them after the ceremony, and instruct your guests to blow them outside.

FEEES

A fee schedule and list of suggested gratuities can be found on page 15. *All fees should be paid upon final arrangements for date and time of the wedding.*

WEDDING SCRIPTURES

Every wedding at Kviteseid Lutheran Church includes Scripture as an integral part of the worship service. Please consult with the pastor concerning the scriptures you wish to use. You may choose one or two passages from each category to be read at the wedding service. One lesson is especially needed for the Gospel reading. Suggested passages appropriate to a church wedding are listed below.

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31	Genesis 2:18-24	Joshua 24:15b
Ruth 1:16-17	Psalms 33	Psalms 100
Psalms 117	Psalms 127	Psalms 128
Psalms 136	Psalms 145:8-10	Psalms 150
Isaiah 63:7-9	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	
Song of Solomon 2:10-13 and 8:7		

New Testament

Romans 12:1-2	Romans 15: 4-8, 13	Ephesians 5:21-33
Philippians 4:4-7	Colossians 3:12-17	I John 4:7-12
I Corinthians 12:31-13:1-13		

Gospel Reading

Matthew 19:4-6	Mark 10:6-9	John 2:1-10
John 14:21-24	John 15: (1-8) 9-12	John 17:20-23

WEDDING VOWS

You may choose one of the following sets of vows for your wedding. If you choose to edit or consolidate these vows or to write your own, they should be consistent with the Biblical understanding of marriage. The vows listed below can be your guide for style, content and length. Make sure you work with the pastor on your vows, and be careful not to promise the impossible.

TRADITIONAL VOWS

Name, will you have this *woman/man* to be your wedded *wife/husband*, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony?

Will you love *her/him* in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep you only unto *her/him*, so long as both shall live?

I will.

I, *Name*, take you, *Name*, to be my wedded *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, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge you my troth.

VOWS FROM *EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP*

I take you, *Name*, to be my *wife/husband* 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.

Or

In the presence of God and this community, I, *Name*, take you, *Name*, to be my *wife/husband*; to have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

ALTERNATE VOWS

I take you, *Name*, to be my *wife/husband*, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect and 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.

Or

I take you, *Name*, to be my *wife/husband*. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful *wife/husband*, 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.

Or

I take you, *Name*, to be my *wife/husband* from this onward, to join with you and 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.

WEDDING FEES AND GRATUITIES

Minimum suggested fees for members:

- \$75.00 for organist
- \$75.00 for soloist
- \$50.00 for custodial services
- \$150.00 for pastor

Minimum fees for non-members:

- \$100.00 for the fellowship hall and kitchen (if used for reception purpose)
- \$100.00 for rental of the Nave
- \$50.00 for custodial services for the Nave
- \$50.00 for custodial services for the fellowship hall and kitchen (if used for reception)
- \$150.00 for Pastor when he/she is to be involved in the wedding

The following are suggested, please work out details with the individuals:

- \$75.00 for organist
- \$75.00 for soloist

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE MARRIAGE RITE

The items listed in regular boldface type are included in all weddings. Items preceded by an asterisk may be added according to the discretion of the wedding couple in consultation with the pastor. Page references are from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal.

*** Solo and lighting of the candles**

Because your wedding in the Church is a worship service, the music you choose should be appropriate to that setting (that is, religious songs). If you have a particular song that doesn't speak explicitly about God that you want sung on this important day, before worship begins is the appropriate time for the song. You also may choose to have the ushers light the candles at this time.

*** Processional music or hymn**

Processional music suggestions are listed on page 10. The organist can also help you choose this.

Greeting and prayer

These are found on pages 286 and 287.

Scripture lessons

The Lutheran worship service always includes reading of Scripture, and the wedding service is no exception. This packet includes some appropriate Scripture lessons on page 14 but feel free to choose another text or consult with the pastor on other possibilities. If you choose to have someone other than the pastor read the lesson during the service, make sure your reader is comfortable with public speaking and with the lessons. Your reader should be present at the wedding rehearsal.

Wedding address

This brief sermon (emphasis on the word “brief” by the pastor will be based on your chosen Scripture lessons and pre-nuptial conversations with you.

*** Hymn or solo**

See above comments on music and hymns.

Marriage vows

This wedding packet has included a number of different wedding vows from which you can make your choice (pages 14-16). It’s just fine if you want to combine or edit the different vows or even to write your own. If you choose to write your own vows, they should follow the outline of the promises on page 288, and must be approved by the pastor.

Exchange of rings and announcement of marriage

Found on page 288.

Blessing

Found on page 289. You’ll be kneeling for this section of the service. You may choose to include parents and other significant people in the blessing.

*** Hymn, solo, and/or Unity candle**

If you choose to use a unity candle in your wedding, this is the spot in the service that seems to work best. The unity candle may be placed

on the altar or on a separate stand in the altar area. See above comments about hymns and wedding music.

Prayers

Found on page 289.

The Lord's Prayer

You and the rest of the wedding party should know this prayer by heart so you can say it with the congregation. For the congregation, it's found on page 290 (right column).

Benediction

This is a final good word and blessing on your marriage, found on page 290.

*** Presentation of the couple**

Many couples want to be presented as a married couple to the congregation and gathered family and friends. If you choose this option, you need to tell the pastor at the rehearsal how you want to be introduced: Mr. and Mrs. John Doe, Jane and John Doe, John Doe and Jane Smith-Doe, etc.

Recessional music or hymn

Suggested recessional music can be found on page 10. The organist can also help you choose this..

Sample bulletin

If a bulletin is used, the bulletin should contain the complete order of service, along with hymns, vocal solos and instrumental music, a listing of those in the wedding party, etc. A usual order of service is as follows:

**The Marriage Ceremony of
Full Name of Bride
Full Name of Groom
Date**

Kviteseid Lutheran Church Milan, MN

GATHERING

Processional	<i>"title"</i>
Entrance of the Bride (if different from the Bridesmaids)	<i>"title"</i>
Greeting	p. 286
Declaration of Intention	p. 287
Prayer of the Day	

WORD

First Reading
Second Reading
Gospel Reading
Message by Pastor Cathie Rhodes

MARRIAGE

Vows	
Giving of Rings	p. 288
Acclamation	p. 288
Marriage Blessing	p. 289
Candle or Sand Ceremony	
Solo	<i>"title"</i>
Prayers of Intercession	p. 289
Lord's Prayer	p. 289

SENDING

- Peace p. 290
- Blessing p. 290
- Dismissal p. 291
- Recessional "title"

(Page two of bulletin) The Wedding Party

INFORMATION FOR THE PASTOR & CHURCH OFFICE

Please complete this section and return it to Kviteseid Lutheran Church as soon as possible. Please print clearly. You may also e-mail the information. *See front cover for address and e-mail address.*

Name of bride: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell #: _____

E-mail: _____

Name of groom: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell #: _____

E-mail: _____

Bridal Party:

Maid/Matron of Honor: _____

Bridesmaids: _____

Flower girl: _____

Best man: _____

Groomsmen: _____

Ring bearer: _____

Ushers: _____
