

THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Congratulations! We are happy that you have chosen to be married at Zion Lutheran Church. It is a joy for us to help you in your planning and to share this experience with you.

The Psalmist of old said, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.' (Psalm 122:1)

God's people come to God's house for worship, prayer, and the meaningful experiences in their lives. Marriage is one of those experiences.

We believe that marriage is rooted in the steadfast love of God and that God's faithfulness and self-giving love is the model for the relationship between husband and wife.

God's house is a most appropriate setting for a marriage service. In the church God's people come together and corporately ask God's blessing on your marriage and give thanks for that blessing.

We provide this booklet in the hope that it will help you in planning the details of your wedding. It is our desire that every wedding should be a blessed and holy event for all the participants.



ADVANCE PLANNING

AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES

Zion is available to any person for weddings. Use of our facilities is on a first-come, first-served basis. This means that the earlier you reserve a date and time, the more likely you will be able to reserve the date that you choose.

Because of our desire to serve our members, we have chosen to give current members of Zion first priority when reserving a wedding date. Non-members will only be allowed to reserve a date up to 9 months in advance. A \$100 non-refundable deposit will secure the date and will be applied to the total costs. The deposit is due when you schedule your wedding.

Only one wedding will be held on any given day. There are certain weekends throughout the year that the church building is not available. These include the weekends of Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve/Day, New Year's Eve/Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and July 4.



THE WEDDING DATE AND TIME

Please contact the church office (225-6755) **before** you make final wedding arrangements. This will help ensure that the church facilities are available and that one of the pastors will be able to perform the ceremony on your chosen date. Please set this date as early as possible.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING

Because we care about your marriage, we require that all couples experience some sort of marriage preparation classes. Each pastor sets their own standards for this counseling. There may be a fee for counseling materials that are used. It is highly recommended that this counseling be scheduled as far in advance of the wedding as is practical so that the you will have the time to discuss the issues that are raised during these sessions. The time for this counseling should be arranged with the officiating pastor at the convenience of all involved. Couples who are living away from Aberdeen can complete these classes in your current location through another church or counseling center.

ORGANIST/SOLOIST

Our organist is available to assist you in music selection and to help you with vocalists and instrumentalists. If you wish to have another organist play, they must first meet with our organist. Since schedules fill up fast, it is important to contact the organist and soloist as soon as your date has been confirmed. It is the responsibility of the couple to contact both an organist and a soloist.

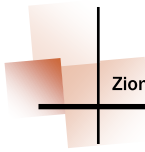
WEDDING MUSIC

Because your wedding service is also a worship service, it is important to choose music that is appropriate for a worship service. Please discuss your music choices with the pastor or music staff of Zion **before** you make a final decision concerning its use. The church organist will have some good suggestions for music and will be a valuable resource at this point. Congregational hymns are encouraged and may be sung in place of other music. A list of appropriate hymns is available from the pastor.

Recorded music may be used during the service. It is recommended however, that prelude, processional, recessional, and postlude music be performed by people playing the organ, piano, other instruments, or by live vocal solo. Vocal solos should be chosen in close consultation with the soloist. Solos should not be too difficult for the soloist to sing well, and they should be within the soloist's vocal range. It is better to choose a solo that isn't your first choice and have the soloist sing it well than to choose music that the soloist cannot sing and be disappointed with its performance.

MARRAGE LICENSE

Marriage licenses may be secured a maximum of 20 days and a minimum of 5 days before the wedding at the Register of Deeds office in any South Dakota courthouse. **The marriage license should be brought to the church office by Monday before the rehearsal and wedding. It is recommended that you drop off the license as soon as you get it.**



WEDDING BULLETIN

The wedding bulletin reminds your guests that your wedding is a worship service and that they are joining together with you, as you worship the Lord on this special day in your life. If you wish to have a wedding bulletin, you may choose among various covers at one of the local print shops or wedding supply stores.

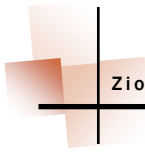
The pastor will help you prepare the order of service which is printed on the inside of the bulletin. Carefully proofread the final copy of your bulletin before it is printed. Be sure that you have accurately spelled the names of all the people who are participating in the wedding and who are listed in your bulletin.

UNITY CANDLE OR SAND CEREMONY

The Unity Candle and Sand Ceremony are meaningful symbols that are often used in marriage services. Zion has an oil base unity candle you can use. A table will be provided for the Unity Candle and/or the Sand Ceremony.

SOUNDBOARD OPERATOR

A trained sound operator will be provided to operate the sound board. The operator is also responsible for setting up microphones and practicing with musicians. He/she will be at your rehearsal and available one hour prior to the wedding service. If you use recorded music please have the recording/device available at the rehearsal.



THE RECEPTION

If you wish to use the Fellowship Hall at Zion Lutheran Church for your wedding reception, it is the responsibility of the bridal party to contact the Wedding Reception Committee at the church and to discuss the necessary arrangements/fees. Please contact the church office for a name and number at 225-6755.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE

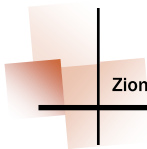
FOR THE WEDDING

Our sanctuary will comfortably seat approximately 235 people without undue crowding.

DRESSING ROOMS

The bride and her bridesmaids may choose to dress at home or the church. The Nursery, located near the restrooms is available for use as a dressing room. Included in the Nursery is a full-length mirror.

The groom and his attendants may dress in classrooms A&B or upstairs in a Sunday School room. The church is not responsible for personal belongings left in these rooms during the wedding. We suggest that you assign someone to be responsible for checking to make sure no items are left behind after the wedding.



GUEST BOOK

A guest book table and tablecloth will be provided by the church. The bridal party is responsible for placing the Guest Book in the Narthex. It is recommended that you have two pens to be used for signing the guest book.

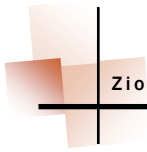
FLOWER STANDS

We have a variety of flower stands available for your flowers. Check with the officiating pastor if you wish to use any of these stands.

OTHER ARRANGEMENTS/INFORMATION

THE PASTOR

Ordinarily the called and ordained pastors who are currently serving Zion will officiate at all weddings at Zion. Exceptions may be made upon consultation with the officiating Pastor. You may also invite other pastors to participate in the service along with one of the pastors from Zion. However, **before** you extend such an invitation, please discuss this with the pastor who is officiating at your wedding.



FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Please arrange to protect the altar or the floor of the church from dripping wax.

The altar candles, candelabras, sanctuary candle, and Paschal Candle are part of the normal furnishings of the church and are not to be moved or removed for a wedding. The candles on the altar will normally be lit during your wedding. Please plan your choice of wedding decorations around these permanent fixtures.

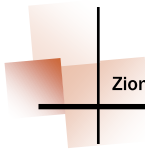
Any pew decorations will be the responsibility of the bridal party. Please take care that nothing that is attached to the pews leaves a mark on the wood (no tape). The use of candles as pew decorations is not allowed because of the danger to guests and the bridal party.

Please ask the officiating pastor when it will be possible to decorate the church for your wedding and reception.

Only real flowers are to be placed on the altar.

If you wish to leave flowers for the Sunday worship service, please inform the pastor. This will allow the church to properly recognize your gift on Sunday morning.

We do not allow white aisle runners as they pose a tripping hazard on the carpeted floor for the wedding party and they are very difficult to keep straight.



Your wedding will be held during one of the many seasons of the church year and the chancel paraments have the color and symbols of that particular season. Together with the large banners on the wall behind the altar, they cannot be changed or removed for the wedding.

PHOTOGRAPHS

You will need to arrange for your own photographer if you wish to have pictures of your wedding. Because of the popularity of spring and summer weddings it is important that you contact a professional photographer as far in advance as possible.

No flash pictures should be taken during the worship service. Flash pictures may be taken during the procession and the recession.

If you wish to videotape your wedding, please have the person who is doing the videotaping discuss this with the pastor before the service begins. It is important that this process be as inconspicuous as possible so that it does not detract from the ceremony. All video cameras must be stationary and on a tripod.

GIFTS

Families are responsible for any gifts brought to the church. Arrangements should be made for the protection of the gifts before and during the service and for taking the gifts from the church building following the wedding or reception.

CONDUCT

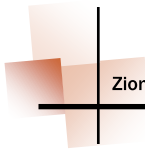
Members of the wedding party are asked to conduct themselves respectfully and with reverence both at the rehearsal and at the wedding. Please remember that we are in God's House, and that this building is a place of worship. We ask that you treat it accordingly.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are not allowed in the church building or on the church grounds for any reason (not even on a party bus). Please make this known to all participants. If alcohol is found inside the building or in the parking lot, the pastor reserves the right to cancel the wedding.

SMOKING

No smoking is permitted inside the church building. There are cigarette receptacles outside the NE and NW doors of the Fellowship Hall. Please use the receptacles provided and **do not discard cigarettes on the ground.**



PASTOR AND SPOUSE

If you wish the pastor be present at the rehearsal dinner or the reception, please extend an invitation prior to the rehearsal and indicate whether the pastor's spouse and family are included in the invitation.

CUSTODIAL/NEIGHBORLY COURTESIES

WE REQUEST THAT NO RICE, BIRD SEED, GLITTER OR CONFETTI BE THROWN OR USED FOR WEDDINGS AT ZION, EITHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE BUILDING.

Please be careful not to leave litter scattered around the parking lot or curbside which might blow onto someone else's yard. The church's neighbors would appreciate it if people would not honk their horns or make loud noises after 9:00 PM.

THE WEDDING REHEARSAL

TIME

The rehearsal time is to be set with the officiating pastor. Frequently, the parents of the groom provide a rehearsal dinner, and the time should be scheduled with such a dinner in mind. In addition, the time should also be set in consideration of having all the members of the wedding party (the parents, the ushers, the organist, the soloist) present at the appointed time. Please urge all who are to be present to be prompt so that your rehearsal can begin on time. Allow approximately one hour for the rehearsal.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Everyone who participates in the wedding should be present. This includes the bride and groom, the best man and maid/matron of honor, all bridesmaids and groomsmen, the ring-bearer and flower girl, all ushers and candle lighters, and the parents of both the bride and the groom. It is also important that the soloist/ organist/musician(s) be present. It is also helpful if the soloist can attend the rehearsal to practice with the organist/pianist.

THE PROCEDURE

The couple, with the pastor, will determine where the participants will stand. The pastor will go through the worship service so that all the participants will be familiar with what is to take place. The organist will play the processional and recessional music so everyone can practice marching in and out to the music. Finally, the pastor will show everyone how to organize the receiving line and will give instructions to the ushers and candle lighters.

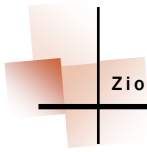
OTHER DETAILS

By rehearsal time the bride and groom should know:

- 1) How many pews to be reserved in front for parents, grandparents, and relatives, allowing for seven persons per pew. These persons should be notified that they are to be seated in a reserved section so that they can inform the ushers when they arrive for the service.
- 2) Which ushers will usher the parents of the bride and the parents of the groom and who will light candles, unless you have arranged for other candle lighters.

- 3) The order of the wedding party---where they will stand and who will be matched with whom in the processional and recessional.
- 4) Whether the bridesmaids and maid/matron of honor will walk down the aisle alone or with the groomsmen and best man.
- 5) The location of the receiving line. If the reception is not being held in the church building, you may have your receiving line either at the rear of the sanctuary (or outdoors in good weather), or at the place of your reception.
- 6) Who will sit in which pew if either the parents of the bride or groom have been divorced and/or remarried.

Please note: If more than one song on a CD/iPod is required, songs must be available for the sound operator on the night of the rehearsal. The bride/groom is responsible for downloading music and/or purchasing the CD.



THE WEDDING

(Please note: These procedures will generally be followed, although each pastor may do things differently. In addition, provision will be made for variations in the ceremony which have been previously discussed with the pastor who is officiating at the wedding.)

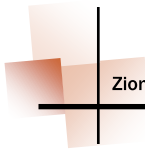
THE CEREMONY

ORDER OF SERVICE

The order of service most often used at Zion Lutheran is to be found page 287 of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book. Some changes will be permitted upon the request of the bride and groom, as long as such changes are consistent with the sacred nature of the service.

HOLY COMMUNION

As baptized Christians, you may want your marriage set in the context of Holy Communion. Since it is a sign of unity, the entire congregation will be invited to participate. We do not offer Communion only to the bride and groom. All are welcome at the Lord's Table believing that Jesus died for our sins and is present in the meal.



A suggested order of service is printed on page 19 of this booklet. The order of worship will be discussed at one of the consultations between the couple to be married and the officiating pastor.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The bride and groom are urged to select two or three Scripture readings to be used as part of the ceremony. Some suggested passages are the following:

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:18-24

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Ruth 1:12-18

Psalm 33

Psalm 100

Psalm 117

Psalm 117

Psalm 127

Psalm 128

Psalm 136

Psalm 150

Ecclesiastes 3:1-12

Song of Songs 2:10-13

Song of Songs 8:7

Hosea 1-3

Matthew 19:4-6

Mark 10:6-9

Luke 8:4-8

Luke 12:22-30

John 2:1-10

John 15:9-17

Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 6:13-20

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Ephesians 5:21-33

Colossians 3:12-17

1 Peter 3:1-9

1 John 3:18-24

1 John 4:7-12

THE VOWS

Wedding vows are one of the most important parts of your wedding. They represent the promises you make before God and to each other as you begin your life together as husband and wife. Your vows will shape your marriage. You are welcome to write your own vows or use one of the printed vows below. You may choose to combine them to make them your own.

Below are some vows which may be chosen by the bride and groom:

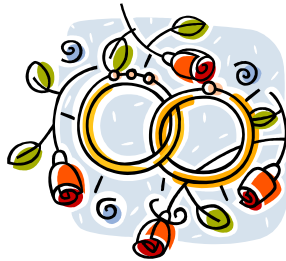
I take you, _____, to be my wife (husband) from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us (LBW)

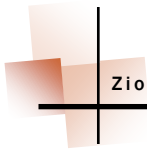
I, _____, take you _____, to be my wife (husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death parts us, according to God's holy law; and for this I promise you my faithfulness (SBH - red book, Service Book and Hymnal).

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 for 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 worst of what is to come, until death parts us.

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.

_____, I take you to be my wife (husband) 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.





SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR A WEDDING

The Prelude

The Processional

The Invocation, Declaration and Opening Prayer

Solo or Hymn

The Scripture Lessons (2or 3)

The Meditation/Homily/Sermon

Solo or Hymn

The Marriage/Wedding Vows

The Exchange of Rings

The Pronouncement of Marriage

The Lighting of the Unity Candle /Sand Ceremony

Solo or Hymn

The Marriage Blessing

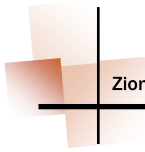
The Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (spoken or solo)

** Holy Communion, if desired, begins after the Prayers*

The Benediction

The Recessional

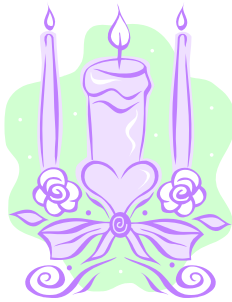
Postlude

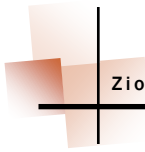


1. Listing of music and composer is appropriate for any of the music if desired. Check with organist for proper format.
2. Hymn or solo/music is not needed for all of the indicated places. Please check with pastor for placement of additional music.
3. Scriptures should be designated like this: John 3:16. Usually 2 or 3 lessons are read. (See page 16 for scripture suggestions.)

When the Unity Candle/Sand Ceremony is used, there usually is a musical selection sung/played during lighting of the candles or the sand ceremony.

No flash pictures are allowed during the service. Please put a note in the bulletin or worship folder. Pictures are permissible during the processional and recessional.





BEFORE THE SERVICE

You may arrive up to 4 hours before your wedding begins. Everything must be removed 1/2 hour after the ceremony has ended.

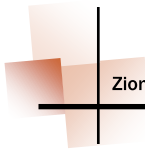
The ushers should arrive about forty-five minutes prior to the beginning of the service, unless they are asked to be part of the pictures.

Candles should be lighted approximately 10 to 15 minutes before the beginning of the wedding service if they are to be lighted by the ushers. If you have chosen specific people to be candle lighters, the candles may be lit immediately before the seating of the parents.

No guests will be seated after the parents have been seated until the bridal party has entered the sanctuary.

FOLLOWING THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

When the wedding has concluded, please be sure that all decorations, flowers, and candles that you have provided are removed from the sanctuary. In addition, assign a person to check to see if anyone has left clothing or valuables in the church. These items may then be taken to the reception. Please make sure all garbage is placed in the garbage cans. It is the responsibility of the wedding party to leave the church in as good a condition as possible following the wedding.



WEDDING FEES

Member *

No fee for the use
of the sanctuary

Fellowship Hall - \$100.00

Kitchen - Free will offering

Sound System - \$ 75.00

Sound System if
all taped music
is used - \$ 100.00

Custodian without
reception - \$ 75.00

Custodian with
reception - \$125.00

Pastor - optional honorarium

Organist & Soloist -
arrange with musician

Wedding
Coordinator - \$100.00

Non-Member

Sanctuary - \$200.00

Fellowship Hall - \$200.00

Kitchen - \$ 20.00

Sound System - \$ 75.00

Sound System if
all taped music
is used - \$ 100.00

Custodian without
reception - \$ 75.00

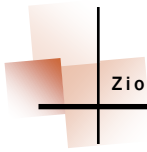
Custodian with
reception - \$125.00

Pastor - \$200.00

Organist & Soloist-
arrange with musician

Wedding
Coordinator - \$100.00

* You must be an active member of Zion for a full year prior to your wedding date to qualify for member rates.



WHEN TO PAY

A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due when you schedule your wedding. All other fees and honorariums should be paid at the time of the rehearsal.

***Note:** Kitchen fees are payable to Zion Lutheran Church Women. It is also required that two women of the ZLCW committee be in attendance if the reception is held in the Fellowship Hall.

Notes:



There is no more lovely, friendly, and charming relationship, communion, or company than a good marriage.

—Martin Luther

