

# WEDDING HANDBOOK

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## MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

3505 - 122ND AVENUE EAST · EDGEWOOD WA 98372  
253-863-5171 · [WWW.MTVIEWLUTHERAN.ORG](http://WWW.MTVIEWLUTHERAN.ORG)

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# CONGRATULATIONS

Like countless couples you have begun to plan what many consider to be the most important event in your lives—the day when you will gather with loved ones and publicly declare your decision to live out your lives with each other.

Your love reveals the greatness of God's love both for you and for the whole world. You remind us that God's love is permanent, faithful, gentle, forgiving, and creative. The mystery of married love can reflect the mystery of God's goodness working in the world. Your marriage is a model of the life-giving love that exists between Christ and his church. We see through you marriage the way God wants to be joined to our community. Your marriage is a gift that belongs to and blesses all of us.

Marriage is God's institution. It is very important that you include him in your preparations that he may give your marriage all the joy and harmony he intended for you to have. God is the source of all love; therefore, the presence of Christ, God's Son, is vitally necessary for joy and blessings in one's home and marriage. As your home life should be lived to the glory of God, so should your marriage ceremony glorify him. It is just as important to desire his blessing throughout your marriage as it is in establishing it. May your lives therefore be lived in holy love and in active preparation in his church.

Your wedding ceremony is actually a worship service in which God is to be glorified. By being married in the church you are requesting the blessing of God on your marriage. The readings you select, the prayers that are said, the music that is played, and the actions you take state what the two of you believe about marriage and what Christian people believe. In the rite of marriage, two individuals come before the Lord and his family to give themselves to each other for a lifetime. What is said and done in the liturgy has as much to say about what this faith community holds sacred in life as it does about the two individuals. Yours is not only the celebration of one marriage but also the celebration of all who are married in the Lord.

The pastor will be in charge of the worship service. You should consult with him on all phases of the service. He is open to suggestions and recommendations that do not violate the solemnity of the occasion.

It is our hope that this wedding booklet will be helpful to you. Take the time to read it all the way through. It provides essential information about weddings at Mountain View Lutheran Church.

*God bless you as you prepare for your wedding and your life together.*

# YOUR WEDDING

## AT MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Scheduling of arrangements should be made at least three months in advance of your wedding date.

## COUNSELING

The pastor will meet with you prior to your marriage. The purpose of this meeting is simply to become better acquainted and focus minds and hearts on the importance and significance of this commitment as well as this service. Pastoral commitment to conduct the marriage is made at the conclusion of the first session. As you ask the pastor to act as God's servant in joining you in marriage, you are asking him to assume the great responsibility of helping you realize the spiritual significance of your marriage. At that time the date is reserved on the official church calendar and your deposit of 50% of the fee is payable. The balance is due at the time of the rehearsal. You will be required to attend a one-day workshop with Northwest Pastoral Counseling of University Place or a similar recommended counseling service. **If you are not a member, you will also be required to attend a New Member Class, whether or not you join.**

## THE WORSHIP SERVICE

The most proper setting for a Christian wedding is in the church. However, the pastor is willing to officiate at a Christian wedding in most reasonable settings. There are basic elements that remain the same in every wedding, but limited freedom is allowed to reflect the individuality of the persons being married. Good taste and liturgical awareness are the guidelines. Remember, this is a worship service—a time to glorify God and ask for his blessing on your marriage.

You may want to consult the pastor as to the color of the paraments (altar coverings) for the church season in which you will be married. The paraments will not be changed to match your color scheme.

Our sanctuary seats 550 guests, including the balcony. There are 20 pews on each side of a 72-foot aisle. The chapel seats 125 guests. We have two wooden candelabra available for your use at no cost.

# SUGGESTED MARRIAGE TEXTS

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Genesis 1:26–28  
Genesis 2:15–24  
Isaiah 42:5–17  
Isaiah 61:10-11



## EPISTLES

Romans 5:1–17  
Romans 6:1–11  
Romans 8:1–11  
1 Corinthians 13  
Philippians 2:1–16  
Philippians 4:4-7

## PSALMS

96  
97  
98  
100  
111  
145  
147  
149

## GOSPELS

Mark 8:31–38  
Luke 6:46-49  
John 2:1–11  
John 8:31–36  
John 13:1–10  
John 15:12–17

# MUSIC

Your wedding is a service of worship, and the music therefore must be carefully and discriminately chosen. It should embody high standards of quality, and the texts should reflect the praise of God, the steadfast love of Christ for his church as the foundation and model for love and fidelity in marriage, and the invocation of God's presence and blessing. Secular, sentimental music does not befit a sacred service. Your "special song" is much more appropriate at the reception. *The Wedding March* by Mendelssohn and the *Bridal Chorus* from *Lohengrin* by Wagner (more familiar here as *Here Comes the Bride*) are not appropriate sacred/classical music for a wedding.

Please contact our Leader of the Public Song as soon as the wedding date has been set. The bride and groom may engage a soloist or other special music of their own choosing. The music should be in harmony with the rest of the service as a worship of God, so it is important to discuss it with the pastor before making any arrangements or finalizing any of your wedding music. A suggested honorarium for a soloist is \$75.

## MUSIC FOR THE SOLOIST

There are countless pieces of music that are available and appropriate for your soloist. If there is a favorite contemporary Christian song, hymn, or classical art song that is appropriate to the wedding ceremony, please discuss it with the Leader of the Public Song prior to making any decisions as to who will sing or what the music may be. Below you will find a list that you are not limited to but may find helpful:

<i>The Lord's Prayer</i>	Malotte
<i>When Love is Found</i>	Wren
<i>Parent's Prayer</i>	Davis
<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	Bach
<i>I Will Be Here</i>	Chapman
<i>Ave Maria</i>	Schubert
<i>Wedding Prayer</i>	Rice
<i>Without Love</i>	Tjornhom
<i>Shine On Us</i>	Smith
<i>How Beautiful</i>	Paris
<i>Time for Joy</i>	Limpic
<i>Two Candles</i>	Salsbury

# WEDDING COORDINATOR

The Wedding Coordinator works with the bride and groom to organize the wedding service at the church. Please call the church office at 253.863.5171 to schedule an appointment to go over the service details and facility use and to get your questions answered. You must use the Mountain View Wedding Coordinator unless previously arranged with the pastor.

## PICTURES

Since your wedding is a worship experience, all photographers (professional and amateur) are asked in reverence to God to refrain from flash photography during the service. Flash photography will be permitted during the recessional only. Please notify your photographer of this guideline. Videotaping can be done from the balcony.

## FLORIST

Flowers, decorations, and candelabra may be obtained from a commercial florist. Artificial flowers shall not be used on the altar and are discouraged from being used in the chancel (the area surrounding the altar) of the church. If you plan to secure bows on the pew ends, please use masking tape or florist clips. Insist that your florist deliver all your wedding flowers at least two hours prior to the time of the service.

Nothing (posters, streamers, banners, etc.) can be placed (interior or exterior) on the church building itself. These items are better suited to the reception. We expect that you will retain a certain dignity for this place of worship. Please do not move anything from its regular place. Dripless candles are to be used and snuffed, not blown out.

# RECEPTIONS

If you plan to use the church facilities for a reception, notify the pastor well in advance so that he can give you the names of those who are responsible for providing the reception. Depending on the number of guests, you may use the Fellowship Hall, gym, or chapel basement for your reception.

Reception fees for NONMEMBERS are as follows:

- \$150 for groups of 50 people or less.
- \$150 base fee for groups of more than 50 people, plus an additional \$1 per person over head count of 50.

Reception fees for MEMBERS are as follows:

- \$75 for groups of 50 people or less.
- \$75 base fee for groups of more than 50 people, plus an additional \$1 per person over head count of 50.

Fees will be determined at the reception and your check should be made payable to Mountain View Lutheran Church WELCA. The church will furnish all kitchen help, tablecloths, punch bowls, cups, plates, coffee service, silverware, etc. There is also an additional \$50 reception fee for the janitor, for both members and non-members.

# SECURITY

We are unable to secure the buildings during the wedding and/or reception, so you are responsible for your own belongings and gifts.

# SCHEDULE OF FEES

The church is here to conduct spiritual ministry, not to offer commercial services. However, the church has commercial costs it must sustain. Therefore, this schedule is prepared to help you determine the cost of your wedding as far as the church portion is concerned.

Fees for NONMEMBERS are as follows:

Use of facility	\$ 750
Coordinator	150
Musician	175
Janitor	50
Sound System	<u>35</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1160</b>

Fees for MEMBERS are as follows:

Coordinator	150
Musician	175
Janitor	50
Sound System	<u>35</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 410</b>

These member fees apply when either party to the wedding is a member of Mountain View Lutheran Church. Congregational documents define membership as persons who

“...make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments; live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran Church; and support the work of this congregation ...through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.”

(Constitution C.8.04)

# FEES

We request that separate checks be written for the pastor's honorarium, the wedding coordinator, musicians, janitor, sound person, and facilities usage—for ease of disbursement.

## PASTOR'S HONORARIUM

It is customary for the bride and groom to give a gift of appreciation to the pastor, taking into consideration the time in counseling, rehearsal, worship service, etc. The suggested gratuity is \$200 for members and \$250 for nonmembers. The check should be written directly to the pastor and given to him on the night of the rehearsal.

## THE MARRIAGE LICENSE

A Washington State marriage license can be obtained from the Pierce County Auditor, Marriage License Department at 2401 South 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 200, Tacoma WA 98409. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is a three-day waiting period. For more information call 253.798.7435 or visit the website at [www.co.pierce.wa.us/auditor](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/auditor). Please bring your license to the rehearsal and give it to the pastor.

# MAP

