



# *Wedding Guide*

*Gather, Grow, and Go*

**BETHEL LUTHERAN**  
*Wedding Guide*

*Congratulations on your engagement!*

*Bethel Lutheran shares in your joy as you make your wedding plans and prepare for your married life together. We look forward to doing our best to help make your wedding ceremony a beautiful and joyous event for you and your guests and one that brings honor and glory to God.*

*The Bethel Lutheran Wedding Guide reflects careful organization, planning and experience.*

*We sincerely hope it offers the necessary guidelines, helps and suggestions you seek as you prepare for your wedding.*

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
4501 HOOVER ROAD  
GROVE CITY, OH 43123  
(614) 875-0510  
[www.bethel-lutheran.org](http://www.bethel-lutheran.org)

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## PLANNING A CHRISTIAN WEDDING

Whether you are planning a small wedding with your immediate family and a few of your closest friends, or a large formal wedding, it is important that you give serious attention to its sacred, spiritual aspects. A Christian wedding is Christ-centered. It is a commitment of two people to lifelong faithfulness to each other, rooted in the love that Christ has for us. A Christian wedding is a service of worship. We celebrate weddings liturgically, in the worship setting, the sanctuary of the church. A Christian wedding involves the community of faith. All who are gathered may renew their relational commitments and join in the worship of God and support each other. Please keep these things in mind as you plan the service itself, the music, the flowers, the apparel, and all other aspects of the day. We are here to help you plan a wedding that is centered on the glory of Jesus Christ.

As Pastor, I also wish to assure you that we are personally interested in you and will be glad to respond to your questions anytime along the way.

*Pastor Peter Ray*

## SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

Members of Bethel Lutheran may schedule a wedding at any time the Sanctuary is available. Non-members may be married at Bethel and may reserve a date six months or less in advance of the wedding. You may schedule your wedding by contacting Pastor Ray.

In order to make each wedding special, no more than two weddings can be scheduled for the same day. Because of the intensity of the parish schedule and also due to the nature of the season, weddings are rarely scheduled during Holy Week, the week between Palm Sunday and Easter.

Occasionally there are other activities that occur within different areas of the building on the same day as your wedding. The church office makes every effort to be certain that there are no time or space overlap requirements for any other activities or events that are scheduled the same day as your wedding.

Availability of our pastor is not automatic. The presiding pastor must be scheduled along with the facility. If a relative is ordained clergy and, with the permission of the presiding pastor, he or she may be invited to assist in the service.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Because we are aware of the pressures on marriages and expectations in families, we pray for God's blessing as you share your vows, and desire to help you consider the challenges of marriage. An important part of your wedding preparation will be the time your pastor spends with you. The pastor who will perform your ceremony will provide marriage preparation to ensure that your marriage begins on the best course possible. Please contact the pastor for an appointment soon after your wedding date has been set.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

You and your pastor will discuss these and various other options in planning your ceremony.

- Prelude/Gathering Music
- Seating of Family
- Processional
- Greeting
- Declaration of Intentions
- Prayer of the Day
- Scripture Readings
- Pastoral Reflection (short Sermon)
- Exchange of Vows and Rings
- Acclamation and Marital Blessing
- Prayers and Lord's Prayer
- Benediction/Blessing
- Presentation of Couple
- Recessional
- Postlude

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

You may wish to choose from the following passages which are commonly read at weddings or consult with your pastor regarding other scriptures or readings.

### OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:26-31  
Genesis 2:18-24  
Ruth 1:15-18  
Song of Solomon 2:8-10  
Song of Solomon 2:10-13  
Song of Solomon 8:6-7  
Isaiah 25:6-10  
Isaiah 63:7-9  
Jeremiah 32:38-41  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

### NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39  
Romans 12:1-2  
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13  
Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33  
Philippians 2:1-5  
Philippians 3:13-14  
Colossians 3:12-17  
1 Peter 3:1-9  
1 John 3:18-24  
1 John 4:7-11, 19-21

### PSALM

Psalm 33  
Psalm 100  
Psalm 117  
Psalm 121  
Psalm 127  
Psalm 128  
Psalm 145:8-10, 15, 17-18  
Psalm 148:1-4, 9-14  
Psalm 150

### GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-16  
Matthew 7:21, 24-27  
Matthew 19:3-6  
Matthew 22:35-40  
Mark 10:6-9  
Luke 19:1-9  
John 2:1-10  
John 15:4-5, 9-16

## USING THE SANCTUARY

**SIZE:** The Sanctuary has movable rows of chairs and comfortably seats 225, with a maximum seating capacity of 250.

**FLOWERS:** Floral arrangements may be used near the altar, on special stands provided by the florist. Tacks, nails or tape are not allowed on the chairs. Decorations on the pulpit or communion table are not allowed. Please plan to remove any flowers immediately after the ceremony; any flowers remaining after the wedding will be discarded by our custodial staff. Please refrain from using any glitter.

**DÉCOR/COLOR:** The liturgical colors of the season remain on the altar, pulpit and lectern at all times. Altar furnishings may not be removed or moved.

## SUGGESTED VOWS

The following vows are options. Your pastor will talk with you about *your* vows.

- 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.
- 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, 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.
- I take you, (*Name*), 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.
- (*Name*), 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.

## WEDDING MUSIC

The sanctuary is equipped with organ and piano. The music staff member working with you are personally contracted and will consult with you to select music suitable for worship during your ceremony.

### PROCESSIONALS

<i>Canon in D</i>	Pachelbel	<i>Threads of Love</i> (piano)	L. Line
<i>Hymn</i>	Vangelis	<i>Trumpet Voluntary in D Major</i>	Purcell
<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	J.S. Bach	<i>Trumpet Tunes in C &amp; D Major</i>	Johnson
<i>Processional of Joy</i>	Beethoven/Hopson	<i>Wake, Awake</i>	Bach
<i>Rhosymedre</i>	Ralph Vaughan Williams	<i>Water Music: Air</i>	Handel

### RECESSIONALS

<i>Four Seasons: Spring</i>	Vivaldi	<i>Rondeau</i>	Mouret
<i>Ode to Joy</i> (piano)	Beethoven/ L.Line	<i>Trumpet Tune in D Major</i>	Purcell
<i>Processional of Joy</i>	Beethoven/Hopson	<i>Water Music: Allegro Maestoso</i>	Handel
<i>The Rejoicing</i>	G.F. Handel		

## WEDDING BULLETIN

Wedding couples choosing to use a wedding bulletin may purchase bulletin covers from stationers or Christian bookstores. The church office does not type, format or print wedding bulletins. The format of the service should be planned in consultation with the presiding pastor.

## REHEARSAL

The rehearsal for a formal wedding is usually scheduled for the evening before the wedding (booked at the same time you schedule the wedding). Plan about one hour for the rehearsal. The organist or musicians playing the processional and recessional should be in attendance. The pastor will be present at the rehearsal. The entire wedding party, including parents, as well as readers, should attend and plan to arrive at the church fifteen minutes prior to the start of the rehearsal.



## WEDDING DAY GUIDELINES

You will be scheduled for three hours' use of the Sanctuary and Narthex: 1½ hours before the ceremony and 1½ hours after the beginning of the ceremony. Musicians may rehearse prior to the ceremony while the bridal party is dressing. Plan to complete pre-wedding Sanctuary photographs 45 minutes before the ceremony. Following the ceremony, there will be time for more photographs. Be aware that another wedding may precede or follow yours.

No real rose petals are to be tossed by flowers girls due to staining of the tile. For safety reasons, aisle runners are not allowed.

Rice, confetti or bird seed and the releasing of balloons are not permitted inside or outside the church building or on the premises. Bubbles may be used outside the church building.

Smoking is **NOT** allowed in any part of the church building. Those smoking outside the building are asked to please use the receptacles provided for disposal of cigarette remains.

## WEDDING FEES

**WEDDING FEES**, due 6 months before the wedding. Make checks payable to Bethel Lutheran Church.  
Church fee for wedding & rehearsal \$500 (*waived for Bethel members*)

### TYPICAL RANGE OF HONORARIA

Musicians	As Contracted
Pastors	\$200-\$500

Honoraria are given directly to the recipients.

## DRESSING ROOMS

The bride and her attendants and the groom and his attendants will be provided dressing rooms away from one another and away from arriving guests. Each dressing room has restroom facilities nearby. The wedding couple *MUST* arrange for the removal of all personal items from the dressing rooms and assign a responsible person who will ensure that the dressing rooms are restored to their original condition prior to leaving for the reception. Care should be taken when using anything that may damage surfaces or carpeting. The wedding party is expected to treat all spaces, furnishings and equipment with the utmost of respect and care. The wedding party will be held responsible for replacement or repair of any items damaged.

## NURSERY

The Nursery is available for child-care during the wedding ceremony. You must provide adult supervision and reserve the room. The congregation assumes no liability in the event of accident or injury. Please return the room to its original condition and remove all trash.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**No flash photographs may be taken during the wedding ceremony.** The professional photographer may take flash pictures from the rear center aisle of the Sanctuary only during the processional and recessional. The photographer must remain behind the guests during the ceremony.

**Photographs are most easily taken prior to the service.** Bridal couple and group pictures may be taken after the service, with any poses from the service recreated at that time.

## VIDEOTAPING

Videotaping may be set up in the rear of the Sanctuary. Video cameras in the front of the church may be used if secured on a tripod.

## MARRIAGE LICENSE

The marriage license may be purchased at the Franklin County Marriage License Bureau at 373 South High Street, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Columbus, OH. (614) 525-3898; for questions call (614) 525-3108. Completion of paperwork may be completed on-line at [www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate) in order to expedite the process once you appear at the courthouse to purchase your license.

Applications may be submitted Monday through Friday between 8 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. The couple must apply together, in person, and bring a valid picture ID or Birth Certificate and Social Security Card. The minimum age for applying for a marriage license without parental consent is 18.

Those who have been married before must bring all prior divorce information and a certified copy of the most recent divorce decree or a certified copy of your previous spouse's death certificate.

The cost of the license is \$50, **CASH ONLY** and *MUST BE PAID* when the application is submitted.

There is no waiting period to receive the license following the acceptance of the application and no blood test or physical examination is required. The license is valid for 60 days. Additional information is available on-line at [www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate).

It is preferred that the license be in the pastor's possession early in the week of the wedding, but no later than at the rehearsal.

## A MATTER OF COURTESY

The staff at Bethel Lutheran enjoys sharing in wedding celebrations. If you wish to have the presiding pastor, the organist, musicians and their spouses or guests join you at the rehearsal dinner and/or wedding reception, it is most appropriate to issue formal invitations well in advance. They will not assume they are invited unless you invite them. They will attend if their schedules permit.

## WEDDING INFORMATION

Wedding Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Number of Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Bride \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Church background \_\_\_\_\_

Bethel member? \_\_\_\_\_ Parent(s) members? \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Groom \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Church background \_\_\_\_\_

Bethel member? \_\_\_\_\_ Parent(s) members? \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Reception Site \_\_\_\_\_

Address & telephone \_\_\_\_\_

## WEDDING PARTY INFORMATION

Officiating Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Escort \_\_\_\_\_

Maid/Matron of Honor \_\_\_\_\_

Other Clergy \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Bride \_\_\_\_\_

Best Man \_\_\_\_\_

Please pair the attendants as couples below, placing them in order of how they will enter the church. Remember that the first person/couple entering the church will be the farthest away from you at the altar.

Bride's Attendants

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Attendants

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Junior Attendants (or Additional Attendant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Flower Girl \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Ushers \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Junior Attendants (or Additional Attendant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ring Bearer \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## PRE-CEREMONY DETAILS

Are you planning to dress at church? \_\_\_\_\_ What time do you anticipate arriving? \_\_\_\_\_

If setting up snacks, who will be responsible for kitchen set up/clean up? \_\_\_\_\_

Other help needed \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be taking photographs before the ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_

What time? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Photographs after ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_ How long? \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive at church at what time? \_\_\_\_\_

Studio \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Videographer's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive at church at what time? \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Florist's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive at church at what time? \_\_\_\_\_

Who will be responsible for the corsages? \_\_\_\_\_

Will groomsmen serve as ushers, or will there be separate ushers? \_\_\_\_\_

Who will escort the mothers? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want a 'bride's side' and a 'groom's side' seating arrangement? \_\_\_\_\_ Or open seating? \_\_\_\_\_

Rooms reserved for you 1½ hours prior to the start of your ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## OTHER IMPORTANT PARTICIPANTS

Bride's Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Parents \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How will the parents enter the church? \_\_\_\_\_

Any special music at this time? \_\_\_\_\_

Seating arrangement of parents \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Will there be any special ceremonies (i.e., parent candle lighting, presenting roses to parents?)

\_\_\_\_\_

Special seating (i.e., grandparents, special people – to be seated during prelude) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Acolytes (candle lighters) \_\_\_\_\_

When will the candles be lit? \_\_\_\_\_ When will they be put out? \_\_\_\_\_

Readers \_\_\_\_\_

Guest book attendant \_\_\_\_\_

Bulletin distributors (ushers?) \_\_\_\_\_

Others? \_\_\_\_\_

## THE PROCESSIONAL

How will the wedding party enter? (i.e., men and women together or men from side with the groom?)

\_\_\_\_\_

How will the bride enter? \_\_\_\_\_ Escort \_\_\_\_\_

How will the groom enter? \_\_\_\_\_ With pastor or groomsmen? \_\_\_\_\_

Other information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## THE RECESSIONAL

How will the wedding party leave the sanctuary? \_\_\_\_\_

How will the parents leave the sanctuary? \_\_\_\_\_

How will "special people" leave the sanctuary? \_\_\_\_\_

How will the guests leave the sanctuary? \_\_\_\_\_

## PASTOR'S PLANNING GUIDE

Bride _____	Groom _____
Phone(s) _____	Phone(s) _____
Bride _____	Groom _____
Wedding Date _____ Time _____	Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____
Presiding Clergy _____	Assisting Clergy _____
Marriage Preparation date/time _____	
Marriage education classes _____	
Wedding Coordinator _____	Phone(s) _____
Musician/Organist _____	
Processional selected _____	Recessional selected _____
Special music selection _____	Soloist _____
Special music selection _____	Soloist _____
Scriptures selected: Text _____	Reader _____
Text _____	Reader _____
Text _____	Reader _____
Text _____	Reader _____
Sermon/Meditation _____	
Vows Selected _____	
Unity candle _____ yes _____ no	
Kneeling pillows _____ yes _____ no	
Chairs _____ yes _____ no	
How will parents be involved? _____	
_____	
_____	
Eucharist celebrated _____ yes _____ no	
Bulletin _____ yes _____ no	Reviewed _____
Wedding license _____ <i>Secured at least 7 days prior to the wedding and given to the presiding clergy at the rehearsal</i>	
Introduce as _____	