

## **THE WEDDING RINGS:**

After the bride and groom have exchanged their vows to each other, it is customary to exchange rings as symbols of these vows. The rings will be blessed by the pastor during the service before the exchange.

## **THE LESSONS:**

Usually, two or three lessons are chosen. They may be all from one category or from different categories. Some suggestions follow:

### **PSALMS:**

#### **Psalm 89:1-3a**

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David.

#### **Psalm 100**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

#### **Psalm 117**

Praise the LORD, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

#### **Psalm 118:1-4, 26-29**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

#### **Psalm 127**

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.

Sons are indeed a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth.

Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

#### **Psalm 128**

Happy is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways.

You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.

The LORD bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

#### **Psalm 136:1-9**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;

who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever;

who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever;

who spread out the earth on the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever;

who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever;

the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever;

the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever;

#### **Psalm 150**

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

## **OLD TESTAMENT READINGS:**

### **Song of Solomon 8:6-7**

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

### **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

### **Song of Solomon 2:10-13**

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

### **Genesis 1:26-31**

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

### **Genesis 2:18-23**

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

### **Isaiah 61:10-11**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

### **NEW TESTAMENT READINGS:**

#### **Colossians 3:12-15**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

### **VOWS:**

Because the marriage vows are personal promises made by the bride and groom to one another, it is permissible to write your own vows. This should be done with the guidance of the pastor to insure that the vows reflect the complete sharing which marriage implies and the commitment that is life-long and Christ-centered. The first vow below is the standard vow. Four other options are included:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 to better understand ourselves, the world and God; through the best and the worst of what is to come until death parts us.

4. I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband, from this time 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.

5. I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband; and I promise to love and respect you; to honor and to trust you; sharing all that I am and all that I will become. I commit myself to you for the rest of my life.

## **A SUGGESTED SERVICE OUTLINE**

### Marriage Service

#### **Gathering:**

- Prelude
- Processional
- Invocation and Greeting
- Declaration of Intention
- Prayer of the Day

#### **Word:**

- Scripture Lessons
- Solo (instrumental or vocal)
- Wedding Message
- Hymn or Solo

#### **Marriage:**

- Vows
- Giving of Rings
- Acclamation
- Marriage Blessing
- Unity Candle (Solo)
- Wedding Prayer
- Lord's Prayer

#### **Sending:**

- Final Blessing
- Presentation of Couple
- Recessional
- Postlude

#### **Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

#### **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

#### **1 John 4:7-12**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

#### **1 John 3:18-24**

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him

whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

## **GOSPEL READINGS:**

### **Matthew 19:4-6**

He answered, "Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

### **Matthew 22:35-40**

and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

### **Matthew 5:1-10**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### **Matthew 7:21,24-29**

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!" Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

### **Matthew 5:14-16**

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

### **John 2:1-10**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons

## **PLANNING YOUR WEDDING:**

The first person to consult with is the pastor. Together you should set the date and arrange for marriage classes. The date of the wedding should be set well in advance (at least three months, and preferably six months). It is wise to have an alternative date in mind. The Knife River Lutheran Church pastor will officiate at all wedding services held at our church, unless permission is given by the pastor for other arrangements.

## **CLOSED TIMES:**

At Knife River Lutheran Church, there are times of the year when weddings will not be held. The week between Palm Sunday and Easter is closed. The dates of December 23 through December 26 are also closed. No weddings will be held on these days.

## **PRE-MARRIAGE PREPARATION SESSION(S):**

Each couple will be required to participate with the Pastor in some pre-marriage preparation conversation. This may involve one or two sessions at a time set for mutual convenience between the couple and the pastor.

## **REHEARSAL:**

Most weddings require a rehearsal so that all people involved will be comfortable with the service and be able to participate fully in the worship. All attendants, ushers, organist and everyone else taking part should attend the rehearsal. Everyone should be present and on time. If everyone is on time, the rehearsal will last approximately 45 minutes to one hour.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS:**

Video cameras may be used at the wedding if the camera is stationary, no lights are used, and the camera is positioned off of the altar area. At no time in the course of the ceremony will flashbulbs be permitted. We request that no pictures be taken after members of the bridal party have entered the church and have proceeded to the altar. A timed exposure from the back of the church is permitted.

We realize that many bridal couples do not want their pictures taken together before the ceremony. However, we suggest that the majority of photographs be taken before the ceremony and be completed at least 45 minutes before the guests arrive.

## **DRESSING ROOMS:**

There are several rooms downstairs that may be used for the bridal party. Please see that the rooms are returned to their normal order before permanently departing the church. We ask that you please do not use the narthex or sanctuary as a changing/dressing room.

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

- No alcoholic beverages are to be served at the church or on church property at any time.
- The wedding party must refrain from all alcoholic beverages immediately prior to the ceremony.
- No smoking.
- No pets allowed during the ceremony.
- Neither rice nor anything else should be thrown at the bride and groom inside the building or on church grounds.

Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

### **John 15:9-12**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

## **WEDDING RECEPTION:**

Receptions can be held at Knife River Lutheran Church. However, food preparation and clean up must be arranged by the bridal couple. If necessary, it may be possible for a few women of our women's group to help serve and clean up (but no preparation of the food) with a suggested donation of \$200 to our women's group.

## **MARRIAGE LICENSE:**

DON'T FORGET THE MARRIAGE LICENSE! Under NO circumstances will the pastor perform a wedding without a valid marriage license. A State of Minnesota marriage license must be obtained at least 5 days and not more than 6 months before the date of the wedding. This license should be given to the pastor at least one week before the wedding, with the names of the witnesses. NOTE: Witnesses must be at least 16 years of age.

Do not hesitate to call the pastor or the wedding coordinator with any concerns or questions that you have. We are here to make one of the most important days of your lives a day of celebration and worship. The congregation of Knife River Lutheran Church wishes you happiness and blessings on your new life together.



## **CHURCH CAPACITY:**

Approximately 120 persons can be seated in the sanctuary and 30 more seated in the narthex which is open to the sanctuary. Extra chairs from the fellowship hall will need to be carried up for seating in the sanctuary and narthex.

## **COLORS:**

The season of the church year determines the color of the altar paraments. The paraments may not be removed or changed. Ask the pastor or wedding coordinator what colors will be on the altar on your wedding day.

## **DECORATIONS:**

The sanctuary is a place of worship, and decorations should not interfere with the movement of people or obstruct the altar. Flowers and candles have become traditional ways to create the mood of worship and celebration. For use on the altar, we have two gold candleholders and two gold vases, or the option of two blue pottery candleholders and two blue pottery vases. We will be happy to show both selections if you desire. Otherwise, the altar is not changed. Only live flowers are to be put in the vases on the altar.

Knife River Lutheran Church does have candelabra available for use in your wedding. If you prefer, Anderson's Greenhouse & Florist in Two Harbors has different styles of candelabra available for rent. We do not have special unity candle stand, but have a small wooden white table that would be appropriate. If you are ordering an aisle runner, a fifty foot white runner is sufficient.

Church banners or furniture are not to be moved without permission. Knife River Lutheran Church welcomes you to use our special wedding banner for your service.

The bridal couple will make arrangements for fresh flowers on the altar. Flowers placed on the altar may remain for Sunday's service if the couple desires.

## **YOUR WEDDING AT KNIFE RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Our congregation congratulates you on your upcoming marriage and is happy that you chose Knife River Lutheran Church for this important worship service. Marriage should begin in a church. It is a place for God's people to come together and ask God's blessings as you celebrate your union with each other and Christ.

The service may be formal or informal, traditional or contemporary, but it should always be in the context of worship. The music and readings should reflect the beauty and celebration of this important event in our sanctuary.

We will be helpful and accommodating as you plan your wedding; however our church has certain requirements from which we choose not to waiver. We ask that you be respectful and considerate of these.

Many people, members and friends alike, have been touched by the ministry of this congregation. If you are living in this area and do not have a church home, we invite you to consider Knife River Lutheran Church your home. If you are from out of town, we invite you to worship with us when you are in the area.

## **ARRANGING FOR THE WEDDING:**

The checklist provided below will ensure all required procedures and timelines are properly met:

- Contact Pastor at Knife River Lutheran office to see if the chosen date is available. Have alternate dates in mind in case they are needed.
- Contact Knife River Lutheran Church organist.
- Contact Wedding Coordinator.
- Contact Custodian.
- Attend pre-marriage preparation session(s), as arranged with the Pastor.
- Arrange meeting with Pastor at Knife River Lutheran office to plan details of your wedding service.
- Bring marriage license to Pastor at Knife River Lutheran office and pay all related wedding fees at least one week prior to the wedding.

**Knife River Lutheran Church  
158 Church Road; PO Box 218  
Knife River, MN 55609**

Pastor: Rev. Susan K.W. Berge

Church: (218) 834-5172  
Home: (218) 464-1951

Organist: Carol Carlson

(218) 834-5950

Custodian: Hannah Weishaar

(316) 641-7097

Wedding Coordinator: Susan Hubbartt

(218) 834-5871

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

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

Susan Hubbartt, Wedding Coordinator, is available to assist you in your wedding plans and answer any questions you may have about your wedding at Knife River Lutheran Church.

**KNIFE RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WEDDING FEES**

Bride's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Rehearsal Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reception at Knife River Lutheran?**

**NO YES** If yes, anticipated number of guests: \_\_\_\_\_

**Knife River Lutheran Church Membership?**

Bride: YES NO Groom: YES NO

**Church Usage Fees:** Payable to Knife River Lutheran Church at least one week prior to wedding.

Church (for members):	_____	No charge
Church (for non-members):	_____	\$200.00
Hall (for members):	_____	No charge
Hall (for non-members):	_____	\$150.00
Hall (women of church to help serving & cleaning):	_____	\$200 to church womens' group

**Other Fees:** Checks payable to the individual (see page 1 for names), delivered to church office at least one week prior to wedding. (The following are MINIMUM suggestions.)

Pastor (wedding at the Church)	Members: _____ \$200	Non-Members: _____ \$300
(wedding elsewhere)	Members: _____ \$300	Non-Members: _____ \$400
Organist:	Members: _____ \$200	Non-Members: _____ \$300
Soloist/Instrumentalist	Fees May Vary	
Custodian:	Sanctuary Only: _____ \$150.00	Entire Church: _____ \$250.00

*YOUR  
WEDDING*



*at*

*Knife River Lutheran Church  
The Heart of the Community*