



Your Wedding | Calvary Lutheran Church

(Updated as of December 2018)

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Your Church Wedding

Welcome! We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate your marriage in the Church. The Church rejoices as couples exchange the vows that will bind them together as husband and wife. Human marriage is a reminder of the covenant God has made with us in baptism. In baptism God joined us to Christ with promises of love, forgiveness, and faithfulness. As you exchange your vows, we will rejoice in the unending love and faithfulness of God.

This booklet and the accompanying Wedding Planning Workbook are designed to help you plan a wedding at Calvary Lutheran Church. Your wedding is an act of worship and requires careful and thoughtful planning. At your wedding you will come to give thanks and praise, to ask God's blessing on your marriage and to seek Christ's counsel in Word and in prayer. The wedding service is intended to be focused on God and God's divine love for humanity. We look forward to working with you as you prepare for this important day.

Before the Wedding

Wedding Date

The date for your church wedding and rehearsal needs to be decided in consultation with the church office before any other plans are completed to avoid conflicts in scheduling. A nonrefundable reservation fee must be made to Calvary Lutheran Church within seven days of reserving your date in order to confirm the booking. This fee (see page 3) varies for members and nonmembers of Calvary. The fee schedule will be determined by your membership status at the time the date is reserved. We do not schedule weddings during Holy Week, or Easter Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. We are only able to allow reservations for other holidays or holiday weekends after confirming that a pastor, custodian, and wedding coordinator are available for the service.

Pre-Marital Guidance

You have many things to plan; it may seem at times you are drowning in the work of wedding preparations. And yet the wedding lasts only one day. We want to help you do the work of preparing for your marriage, which is intended to last a lifetime. At Calvary we ask all couples to attend a pre-marital retreat. There are two different models available to you for this counseling, both of which combine valuable instruction on key topics (conflict, communication, money, etc.), with time to process these ideas together privately as a couple. Classes are also good opportunities to connect with other couples in the same life stage as you.

The first option is a retreat facilitated by Calvary staff. Pre-marriage classes will all be hosted at Calvary. They will be based on the Prepare/Enrich program. You will each fill out an inventory ahead of time, and a report will be generated based on your answers that will help you identify your strength and growth areas in your relationship, some description of your unique personality and how you understand marriage and family. This report will only be seen by yourselves and the facilitator for your specific class. It is completely confidential. The program comes with a workbook with communication exercises in it that we will use in our classes designed to get you talking, planning and dreaming about your future together. The cost of the retreat is \$150.

The second option is a retreat facilitated by LifeWorks ministries sometime well in advance of the wedding day. The retreat combines both valuable instruction on key topics and time to process ideas by yourselves as a couple. The retreat runs Friday evening (6:00-9:30 p.m.) and Saturday (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) and costs \$300/couple. (For those for whom this cost is prohibitive, Calvary offers scholarship subsidies. Please contact your officiating pastor about this.) Following the retreat, you will follow up on your experience and share insights with your officiating pastor. You will also meet with your officiating pastor to plan out the wedding worship service together.

For more information about these retreats and to register, go to www.calvarygf.org.

The Wedding Service

The most important task in preparing for your wedding is planning the worship service. The later pages of this workbook, and your sessions with the pastor, can assist you with this planning. As you plan, please remember the service is worship, focused on the covenant of marriage. In this service, the invited guests are not mere spectators but participants. Since each church wedding is a celebration for those gathered, as well as for the couple, you will want to involve the guests in the service. Congregational songs or hymns, responsive readings, and unison prayers are examples of such participation. You are invited to meet with the wedding coordinator regarding questions about appropriate decoration of the worship space and other such details.

Wedding and Reception Costs

	Members	Nonmembers
Nonrefundable Reservation Fee	\$100	\$500
<i>(In order to finalize your reservation, this nonrefundable fee is to be paid at the church office within seven days of booking your date. Fees are determined by membership status at time date is reserved.)</i>		

Sanctuary wedding		
Wedding Coordinator*	\$150	\$150
Custodian*	\$150	\$150
AV Technician*	\$100	\$100
<i>(contact the church to request a tech)</i>		

Fellowship Hall wedding		
Wedding Coordinator*	\$150	\$150
Custodian*	\$150	\$150
AV Technician*	\$100	\$100

**The above fees should be separate checks (wedding coordinator, custodian, and AV technician) made out to the individual. Contact the church office for the list of people working your wedding. All checks must be turned into the church office by the Monday prior to your wedding day.*

Pastor	\$200
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(We recommend an honorarium of the above suggested amount for the pastor performing the service. The check should be made out directly to the pastor then given either to him or her at the rehearsal.)

Pre-Marital Retreat	\$150-\$300
<i>(See additional information on previous page.)</i>	

Musicians	<i>(Please contact musicians directly to know their fees.)</i>
<i>(Payment is due at the rehearsal, with checks written directly to the musicians.)</i>	

Here is a list of Calvary musicians whom you are welcome to contact.
They can also help you choose music for your wedding.

Organist	Kristine Middleton - 701-213-7160
Vocal soloist	Anna Larson (for more contemporary music) – 218-790-0426
Vocal soloist/Pianist	Karly Ritland – 701-330-3344
Piano, guitar, violin	Don Craig - 701-213-8379

General Information

- **Wedding Date** | Reservations for church facilities must be made with the church office during office hours (Monday-Friday) and well in advance of the wedding.
- **Wedding Coordinator** | Plan to contact one of the following well in advance of your wedding to set up an initial meeting.
Sanctuary weddings: Gloria Sanford – 701-772-4236.
Fellowship Hall weddings: Meghan Olson – 701-772-4897 or meghan.olson@calvarygf.org
- **Marriage License** | Marriage licenses can be obtained at any county courthouse in North Dakota. Please bring the marriage license to the Calvary church office by the Tuesday before the wedding.
- **Wedding Bulletins** | are the responsibility of the couple. Please bring two copies of the completed bulletin to the church office by the Tuesday before the wedding. The remainder of the bulletins are to be brought to the rehearsal.
- **Guest Pastors** | The pastoral staff welcomes the opportunity to work alongside additional pastors. Please discuss this with the pastor officiating at your wedding.
- **Alcohol** | Alcohol is not permitted anywhere on the property of Calvary Lutheran Church.
- **Parking** | Due to the limited size of our parking lot, we request that you do not leave cars in the parking lot for Sunday mornings.
- **Holy Grounds** | The tables and chairs in Holy Grounds Coffee House are available for your use at no charge. We do ask that you dispose of garbage and leave the room arranged the way you found it. The coffee machine in Holy Grounds is not available for use.
- **Clean-up** | Please gather your belongings as quickly as possible for the sake of those working and those who will use the facilities after you. All gifts, decorations, and leftover food are to be removed immediately to allow preparations for Sunday morning worship.
- **Invitations** | The pastors, musicians, and wedding coordinators do not assume they are invited to the rehearsal dinner or the wedding reception. If you would like any of these people present as your guests, please send them a written invitation.
- **Picture Taking** | When you reserve your wedding date you will be given photographer and videographer guidelines regarding our church policies for weddings. You are responsible for relaying these guidelines to the photographer/videographer. We encourage you to take most of your pictures prior to the wedding. The altar and the baptismal font are not to be moved for pictures or for the ceremony; for weddings held in the Fellowship Hall, that is also true regarding the musical instruments on the back stage. If you would like a picture taken with the pastor, please make arrangements with him/her ahead of time. Videotaping may be done from the balcony or from specific areas in the church. Please confer with the wedding coordinator. Please communicate our expectations to your photographer. Thank you.
- **Decorating for Your Wedding** | Calvary is blessed to have a gifted fine arts team that decorates our worship and gathering spaces for the days and seasons of the church year. Due to the amount of time and care that goes into these worship decorations, they are not to be removed for weddings. For Fellowship Hall weddings, the musical instruments on the back stage are not to be moved. Regarding the cloth paraments on the pulpit and altar, we do offer you the option of using either those that are already up for the season *or* a set of white paraments available for occasions like your wedding. Other displays in our worship spaces, however, may well still be present in the appointed seasonal colors, so it is wise to consult with the wedding coordinator regarding what decorations will already be in the worship space before making your wedding decorating decisions.

Planning Your Wedding Service

As you look forward to your wedding day and a lifetime of marriage, you are probably busy making many plans – choosing dresses, flowers, invitations, and perhaps preparing to move. In the midst of all this exciting busy-ness, it can be easy to lose sight of what is important. We at Calvary Lutheran Church hope that you will keep your sights on continuing to nurture and care for your relationship with each other. We also hope you will put time and energy into the planning of your wedding service. Your marriage begins in this service as you make promises of love and fidelity to each other in the sight of God and your loved ones. This next portion of the workbook is intended to guide you through the steps of planning your wedding worship service so that it is a meaningful, worshipful experience for you and for your guests.

The workbook will explain the basic parts of a Christian wedding service. By understanding why we do what we do, the different aspects of the service will become more meaningful to you. The workbook will also guide you through some questions regarding the service. We encourage you to work through these questions as a couple, as they will not only help you to plan your service, but also will help you to talk about your individual understandings of marriage.

The workbook provides you with a number of different options for the service – you need not use them all. Those that are essential to the Christian wedding service are discussed first. There are many choices to make and you are invited to consult with the pastor officiating at your wedding. In the back of the workbook you will find a wedding planning worksheet that will help you to put together the different aspects of your service.

Blessings to you as you prepare for your wedding and your marriage!

Before You Start

This section will focus on your understanding of Christian marriage.

1. What are the reasons you have chosen to be married in the Christian Church?
2. In what ways do you think God will be present in your wedding? In your marriage?
3. What does it mean to you to have God's blessing?

A Word on Marriage in the Church:

On your wedding day you will become married through your exchange of vows. You join your lives together through these promises of love and fidelity. Your promises act as an agreement, a contract, or a covenant between you. When you make this covenant in the Church, you are asserting that this is a covenant made before God, grounded in God, and blessed and sustained by God. We are able to enter into such covenant relationships with one another only because God has entered into such a relationship with us. As 1 John 4 says, "We love, because God first loved us." We enter into the marriage covenant remembering the covenant that God has made with us in our baptism. In baptism God made marriage vows to us, promising us God's eternal love and faithfulness. While human love is imperfect, God's love is perfect and eternal. Christians ground their marriages not only in their love and commitment to one another, but also in the love and commitment that God has for them.

The Essential Wedding Service

I. THE WORD

There are many possible parts to a wedding service, but some are central to marriage in the Christian Church. A wedding service, like a Sunday service, is centered on the Word of God. You will want to begin by choosing the scripture readings for your wedding. Most people choose two or three readings. Some choose one reading from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and a Gospel reading. As you choose your reading(s), carefully consider your answers to the questions in the previous section and what you want to communicate to the assembled congregation. Below are some suggested scripture readings. Read through them and then answer the questions that follow.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Genesis 1:26-28	Male and female, God created them
Genesis 9:8-17	The rainbow and God's covenant with Noah
Joshua 24:15	As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord
Ruth 1:16-17	Where you go, I will go; your God will be my God
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	For everything there is a season
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	Two are better than one; a three-fold cord is not easily broken
Song of Sol. 2:10-14, 16a	My beloved is mine and I am his
Isaiah 54:10-14	My steadfast love will not depart from you
Isaiah 61:10-11	Clothed in salvation as a bridegroom...and a bride
Jeremiah 31:31-34	I will make a new covenant

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Matthew 5:1-10	The beatitudes
Matthew 5:13-16	You are the light of the world
Matthew 7:24-29	A wise man built his house upon a rock
Matthew 19:3-6	The two shall become one flesh
Matthew 22:35-40	Love is the greatest commandment
Mark 10:6-9	What God has joined together, let no one separate
John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana – Jesus turns water into wine
John 13:1-17, 34-35	Jesus' example of servant love and the "new commandment"
John 15:1-8	I am the vine and you are the branches
John 15:9-13(14-17)	Love one another as I have loved you
Romans 12:9-12	Love what is genuine
1 Corinthians 13:4-13	Love is patient, love is kind
Ephesians 3:14-19	May you be grounded and rooted in love
Ephesians 5:21-33	Be subject to one another
Philippians 2:1-11	Be of the same mind, having the same love
Colossians 3:12-17	Put on love, which binds everything together
1 John 4:7-12	Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another
1 John 4:16b-21	We love because God first loved us
Revelation 19:5-9	The marriage of the Lamb.

PSALM READINGS

Psalms 100	God's steadfast love endures forever
Psalms 117	The faithfulness of the Lord endures forever
Psalms 127:1-2	Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain
Psalms 136	For God's steadfast love endures forever
Psalms 148	Praise the Lord, from the earth!
Psalms 149	Sing the Lord a new song
Psalms 150	Everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Questions to discuss with your partner:

Which readings appeal to you? What do you like about those readings? Who will read?

A note about readers: While the pastor is happy to read the scripture passages you have chosen, you are also welcome ask friends or family members to do one or all of the readings. Some couples also use the opportunity to honor a baptismal sponsor or mentor in the faith by inviting them to read. No matter who you ask, you should give them a copy of the reading ahead of time and be sure they have a copy of the reading on the day of the wedding. It is helpful for readers to be present at the

rehearsal to practice and familiarize themselves with the P.A. system. Even those with public speaking experience are encouraged to rehearse the readings with our sound system.

Message/Sermon/Homily Following the reading(s), the pastor will preach a brief message. This is intended to be a word of Good News to the couple and to the assembled congregation.

II. THE VOWS

You will enter the covenant of marriage through the exchange of vows. These are holy promises which you will keep for your lifetime. We encourage you to consider your vows carefully and return to them frequently throughout your married life. You may use one of the vows below, vows from another source, or write your own vows (in consultation with the pastor). The essential ingredient to wedding vows is the promise of commitment. Here are some options for vows to be used at your wedding.

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.
1. I 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 parts us; and to that end, I promise you my faithfulness.
2. 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.
3. I, name, give myself to you, name. By the grace of God, I promise to support and care for you. In the love of Christ, I promise to love and cherish you. With the Spirit's help, I promise to be faithful to you, as long as we both shall live.
4. 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 forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will share my life with you, through the best and worst of all that is to come, until death parts us.
5. 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.
6. I take you, name, to be my *wife/husband*. I promise before God and this congregation 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.
7. Pastor: Name, do you take, name, to be your wedded *wife/husband*, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death parts you; and to that end, do you promise him/her your faithfulness?

Groom/Bride response: "I do."

III. EXCHANGE OF RINGS

The exchange of rings is, in fact, an optional part of the wedding ceremony. However, the couple traditionally exchanges rings or other tokens as a physical sign of their covenant and vows. You do not wed each other with your rings, but with your vows. The following are some options for words to speak during the exchange of rings.

1. *Name*, I give you this ring, as a sign of my love and faithfulness.
2. *Name*, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow. With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
3. *Name*, receive this ring as a token of my love and faith. A circle without beginning, without ending, expressing my ever present love for you.
4. *Name*, I give you this ring to symbolize my love and commitment to your life, through all things and for all time.

IV. THE PRAYERS

As a worship service, the wedding service is framed by prayer. The service will begin with the invocation, in which the pastor prays that God's presence will be known by all those gathered. After the vows and exchange of rings, a series of intercessory prayers are offered. These prayers are offered not only for the couple and their life together, but also for the assembled congregation, the Church, and the world. This prayer typically includes an intercession for those who have died; this would be an appropriate place to remember loved ones who have passed away.

If you choose, you may invite a friend who is comfortable with writing and offering public prayers to have a part in the intercessory prayers. You may also prepare a prayer petition to be offered by the pastor or other intercessor.

Other Possibilities for the Wedding Service

Music

While not required, music is often chosen as part of the wedding ceremony. Music typically accompanies the gathering of the congregation, as well as the entrance of the wedding party. Music might frame important aspects of the service, such as the readings and/or the vows. The music you choose should be done in consultation with your musicians, as well as the pastor. As you choose music, please keep in mind that this is a service of worship and the music should point the hearers toward praise of God and the good news of God's love for the world. Also, consider the "sub-message" the music might provide. The original context of the piece of music might make it less than desirable for use in your wedding service.

Listed below are solo pieces that would be a fine addition to your wedding service. Other pieces may be used, in consultation with the pastor and the musicians.

Classic Sacred Song:

Wedding Prayer -- Fern Glasgow Dunlap
O, Lord Most Holy -- Frank
O, God of Love -- Lovelace
Will Sing New Songs of Gladness -- Dvorak
Traditional Lord's Prayer -- Albert Hay Malotte

Contemporary Songs:

I Will Be Here -- Steven Curtis Chapman
How Beautiful -- Twila Paris
In This Very Room -- Ron and Carol Harris
Covenant Hymn -- Rory Cooney and Gary Daigle
If You Could See What I See -- Geoff Moore and Steven Curtis Chapman
Love Grows Here -- Don Besing
Love of My Life -- Jim Brickman
Parent's Prayer (Let Go of Two) -- Greg Davis
Bridal Prayer -- Roger Copeland
By My Side -- Thomas Porter
This Day -- Point of Grace
Love Will Be Our Home -- Steven Curtis Chapman
The Unity Candle Song -- Kelly Willard
The Other Side of Me -- Michael W. Smith
Bless the Broken Road -- Rascall Flatts
Cinderella -- Steven Curtis Chapman
When God Made You -- Natalie Grant, Newsong
Because You Are -- Celia Whitler
When I Say I Do -- Matthew West
Hold You Up -- Matthew West
Light in Me -- Brandon Heather
Your Love Broke Through -- Rebecca St. James
1,000 Miles -- Mark Schultz
Unfailing Love -- Jimmy Needham
Testify to Love -- Avalon
Gift of Love -- Hopson
Faithful Friend -- Twila Paris and Steven Curtis Chapman
Household of Faith -- Bret Lamb and John Rosasco

Congregational Hymns/Songs

A congregational hymn or song is an excellent way to involve your guests in the act of worship. It might be sung following the processional, after the homily or at the end of the service. If you use a congregational hymn or song it is best to choose one that is familiar to most of those assembled. You will also want to make copies ahead of time to be used by the wedding party. Hymns or songs could also be sung by a soloist or ensemble for special music. Any of the following hymns would be appropriate for your wedding service (ELW designates the “red” hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship). You also have the option of using songs or hymns not included in the hymnal, and either printing them in your programs, or projecting them on the screens (*a Calvary AV technician will need to be hired for the latter option*)

Some Congregational Hymns

- ELW 631 – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- ELW 502 – The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- ELW 585 – Hear Us Now, Our God and Father
- ELW 586 – This is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited
- ELW 659 – Will You Let Me Be Your Servant
- ELW 838 – Beautiful Savior
- ELW 856 – How Great Thou Art
- ELW 858 – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- ELW 656 – Blest be the Tie That Binds
- ELW 732 – I Was There To Hear Your Borne Cry
- ELW 733 – Great is Thy Faithfulness
- ELW 840 – Now Thank We All Our God

Family Blessing

Marriage is the celebration of the creation of a new family. If this is your first wedding, your family of origin will no longer be your primary family unit. If you have been married before and have children, you will be merging two families into one. Including a family blessing in the service is an excellent way to mark these important transitions.

Parent Blessing

A blessing of the couple by their parents may be included at the beginning of the service or following the vows. The blessing might be as simple as the parents standing and answering the question, "Will you, the families of name and name, give your love and blessing to this new family?" with the words, "We will." The parents might also come forward to lay hands on the couple as they or the pastor speak a prepared blessing.

Blessing Of A New Family

If either or both of you have children, this is a moment of huge change for them. They may be wondering what their place will be in this new family. You are encouraged to use a blessing service like the one that follows to mark this important transition in their lives. Some couples purchase small tokens for the children (a pendant, ring, etc.) that children can keep as a reminder that they are a valuable part of this new family. Consult with the pastor regarding your wishes for a family blessing. The example below is meant to be used directly following the couple's exchange of rings

Pastor: As name and name join their lives as one, they create not only a new marriage relationship, but also a new family. They have purchased rings/pendants/other gifts for children's names. They give these to the children as a reminder that just as name and name have pledged their love and commitment to each other, so do they pledge their eternal love and commitment to children's names.

Blessing of Rings: Loving God, Jesus took the little children into his arms and blessed them. Bless these rings and children's names who will wear them/receive them. Let children's names find comfort in the love that name and name have for them and help them always to know the love that you have for them as their heavenly parent. And all God's children said, "AMEN."

The couple gives the gift to each child, saying these words together:
Child's name, we give this ring/token to you as a sign that we will always love you and care for you.

Let us pray...God, thanks for families. Thanks for love. Bless this family now and forever. Amen.

Congregation Blessing

The family and friends who have gathered for your wedding should also be given the opportunity to bless you and your relationship. The congregational blessing typically follows the parental blessing. The congregation is invited to rise and is asked by the pastor, "Will all of you, by God's grace, do everything in your power to uphold and care for these two persons in their life together?" The congregation then responds, "We will."

Unity Candle

Although the unity candle has become standard at most modern weddings, it is by no means a required part of the service. Some couples choose to light the candle as a symbol of the joining of their two lives. The

candles can also represent the light of Christ that grows as we enter into relationships. If you choose to use the unity candle, you might consider using your baptismal candles to represent the light of Christ that burns in each of your lives. The individual tapers are often lit by parents from the large baptismal candle as part of the unity candle ceremony. A piece of music typically accompanies the lighting of the unity candle.

Some couples also use this time to greet their families. The couple might walk to each set of parents and greet them as a married couple. Some couples choose to give a rose to each set of parents.

Congregational Participation

Your guests are not simply witnesses to your marriage, they are participants in the worship service. You will want to find ways for them to participate. They might sing a hymn, be involved in the congregational blessing, read a psalm (some suggested psalms are on page 10), read a litany, or share in Holy Communion. The congregation might be invited to give a response during the intercessory prayers and pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Holy Communion

While not typically done in the Lutheran Church, Holy Communion may be celebrated as part of the wedding service. Holy Communion is a sacrament in which God comes to us with God's self-giving love. Communion is the marriage feast for God and God's people; it recognizes the presence of Christ among us. If you choose to celebrate Holy Communion, all those present are to be invited to share in the meal.

Gathering and Sending (Processional and Recessional)

As you plan your service, you will want to consider how members of the wedding party, the pastor, readers, and special guests will enter the worship space. Traditionally, the following order is used: groom's grandparents, bride's grandparents, groom's parents, bride's mother. The wedding party follows, with the maid/matron of honor and best man last, followed by the ring bearer and flower girl. The couple (or the bride) follows. The following are some questions to help you determine the order of the procession:

- How many grandparents will be seated? Who will accompany them?
- Who will accompany the groom's parents?
- If the couple's parents are divorced, where will each parent be seated? Will step-parents/significant others be included in the procession?
- Who will accompany the bride's parents/mother?
- Will the pastor or the processional cross be leading the procession?
- Will the wedding party enter as couples or will the men enter from the side door?
- If there are a ring bearer and/or flower girl, will they stand up front, or be seated with an adult? (It is recommended that children under the age of 5 be seated during the service)
- Will the bride and groom both enter from the back?
- Will they walk together or be accompanied by their parents?
- If the couple does not enter together, who will accompany the bride/groom?

Putting it All Together

Once you have decided which parts of the service you will be using, it is time to determine the order of service. The pastor can assist you in this task. Below is a suggested order of service. The italics indicate those things that might appear elsewhere in the service. The service follows the general format of gathering, word, vows, blessing, and dismissal.

Service of Marriage

Prelude (this is music played as the congregation gathers and as the grandparents and parents are seated)

Processional (typically accompanied by a piece of instrumental music or a congregational hymn)

Welcome (by the pastor)

Prayer of the Day

*Litany or responsive reading by congregation
Solo or hymn*

Scripture Readings (readings you have chosen. May include a psalm to be read responsively by the reader and congregation)

Homily (a short sermon preached by the pastor)
Solo or hymn

Exchange of Vows (you become married through exchanging your promises)

Giving of Rings (rings are blessed and exchanged as tokens of your promises)
Blessing of a new family may be placed here

Blessing of the Couple (pastor says prayers of blessings for the couple. The couple may kneel or remain standing. The parent and congregational blessings may be added here. The couple may wish to have their parents and/or bridal party lay hands on them during the blessing prayer)

Unity Candle or Sand Ceremony

Solo or instrumental music accompanies this

The marriage license might be signed at this time (this need not be done during the service)

Prayers of Intercession (prayers for the couple, the assembled community, and the world)

Lord's Prayer (spoken or sung)

Service of Holy Communion, if desired

Benediction (a blessing of the entire assembled congregation)

Recessional (usually a piece of music is played as the wedding party and pastor leave the worship space)

Postlude (music played as the guests leave)

Wedding Service Planning Sheet

*Use this form to organize the elements of your service.
Fill in the blanks for those elements that you will be using.
A suggested order of service is found on the next page.*

Prelude: (music choice) _____

Processional: (music choice) _____

Solo or hymn (if desired): _____

Scripture reading(s): _____

Other readings (if desired, chosen in consultation with pastor): _____

Solo or hymn (if desired): _____

Exchange of Vows: Vows # _____

Exchange of Rings: Rings # _____

Unity Candle or Sand Ceremony (if desired): (music choice) _____

Will you greet your families? Yes No

Will the marriage license be signed now? Yes No

Blessing of the couple

Will you have a parent blessing? Yes No

Blessing of your new family? Yes No

Blessing by the congregation? Yes No

Will the Lord's prayer be spoken or sung?

Will there be holy communion?

Recessional: (music choice) _____

Other notes on the service:

Reception Planning Sheet

In the event that your reception is held at Calvary, the wedding coordinator will give you are our reception planning and guidelines sheet and be your contact person in working through the details.

Suggested Order of Service for Bulletin

The Marriage Service of
Bride's name
And
Groom's Name
Calvary Lutheran Church
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Prelude	<i>Name of piece of music and composer</i>
Processional	<i>Name of piece of music and composer</i>
Welcome	
Declarations of Intent	
Prayer	
<i>Solo or hymn</i>	
Scripture reading(s)	<i>List readings</i>
Wedding Message	<i>Pastor's name</i>
<i>Solo or hymn</i>	
Exchange of Vows	
Exchange of Rings	
Blessing of the Couple	
<i>Unity Candle</i>	<i>Piece of music and composer</i>
Prayers	
Lord's Prayer	
Benediction	
Presentation of Couple	
Recessional	<i>Piece of music and composer</i>

(Note: You are not required to have as many solos/hymns as listed here.)

God bless you as you plan your wedding service!