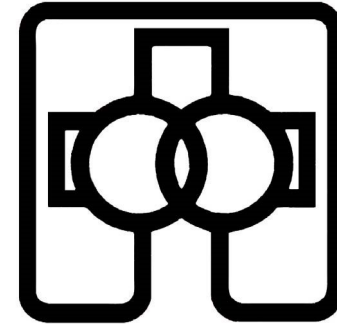


*Notes*

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*Wedding Guidelines*

Approved by First Lutheran Church Council: May 2021

*First Lutheran Church  
3601 Dakota Avenue  
South Sioux City, NE 68776  
(402)494-5461*

# Welcome

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Congratulations! We are pleased that you have chosen to be married at First Lutheran Church. The pastor and the staff are here to help you plan your wedding and prepare for this exciting day in your life. While we offer these guidelines to provide a basic understanding of the wedding practices at First Lutheran, your planning will be done in consultation with the pastor to allow for the best possible experience.

Marriage is a gift of God intended for the joy and strength of those who enter it and for the well-being of the whole human family. The ceremony is a service of worship in which we offer thanks and praise to God and ask for blessings on the bride and groom in their life together. Since the focus of the ceremony is worship, each decision concerning the service will be made with that in mind.

## Preparing for the Day

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### Use of Facilities

The sanctuary of First Lutheran Church is available at no charge for weddings of members, and the immediate family of members. The facilities are not usually available for rental by non-members, but occasional exceptions may be made to assist other area churches in serving their own member's needs for a larger worship space.

### Seating Capacity

The church will seat about 350 persons. The balcony is not usually available for wedding guests, but the narthex may be used for additional seating on chairs behind the glass wall. There are speakers to provide sound in the narthex area.

### Church

### Organist

Normally an organist from First Lutheran will play for any wedding at the church. The organist fee includes a half-hour consultation before the wedding, the rehearsal, and the wedding. Vocal or instrumental soloists using organ accompaniment are expected to be well prepared prior to rehearsal with the organist. It is the couple's responsibility to contact the organist and consult about suggested music. Organist contact information is available in the church office.

### Scripture Lessons

Two or three readings from scripture, with at least one being from the Gospels, will be included in the service. The couple may wish to select the readings to be used. The following list presents some possible choices.

#### Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31  
Genesis 2:18-24  
Song of Solomon 2:10-13  
Song of Solomon 8:7  
Isaiah 63:7-9  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8  
Psalm 33, 100, 117, 127, 128, 136, 150

#### New Testament

Romans 12:1-2  
1 Corinthians 12:31--13:13  
Ephesians 5:21-33  
Colossians 3:12-17  
1 John 3:18-24  
1 John 4:7-12

#### Gospels

Matthew 19:4-6  
John 2:1-10

Mark 10:6-9  
John 15:9-12

### Holy Communion

If Holy Communion is requested as a part of the service, it must be open to all eligible communicants and not be limited to just the wedding party.

### Bulletins

The bride and groom are responsible for preparing any bulletin used at the service. Please provide the pastor with a sample of the bulletin content before printing the final copies.

# Planning the Service

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## ☞ *Order of Worship*

The order of worship for the marriage ceremony is found in the *Lutheran Book of Worship*. In consultation with the pastor, there are many parts of the service that can be tailored to your particular needs.

## ☞ *Clergy*

With rare exceptions, the pastor of First Lutheran will serve as the presiding minister at the service. If you wish to have other clergy participate in the ceremony, discuss this with the pastor, who will then issue the invitation to the guest clergy.

## ☞ *Music*

Since the marriage ceremony is a service of worship, the music chosen must be in harmony with the liturgical and spiritual character of the occasion. Some secular music may not be appropriate and would be better used at the reception rather than as a part of the ceremony. Please consult with the pastor about your choices of music.

It is also appropriate to include one or more hymns as a part of the service. The pastor will discuss these options during the planning sessions. If you would like to look at some hymns that are available for use at a wedding, the following list from the *Lutheran Book of Worship* would be a good place to start.

#287 O Perfect Love  
#289 Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer  
#456 The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
#534 Now Thank We All Our God  
#549 Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven

#288 Hear Us Now, Our God & Father  
#315 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
#527 All Creatures of Our God and King  
#543 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
#551 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

## ☞ *Scheduling*

Weddings will be scheduled on a first-come first-served basis. Non-members may only schedule six months in advance. Plan your wedding as far in advance as possible to avoid conflicts. The days of Holy Week (Palm Sunday to Easter), Christmas, New Year's Eve, and Synod Assembly weekend (late May/early June) are not available for weddings.

## ☞ *Counseling*

Premarital counseling sessions are expected of all persons seeking to be married at First Lutheran. The counseling is conducted by the pastor and will be scheduled at a time convenient to both the couple and the pastor.

## ☞ *Marriage License*

Obtain the marriage license well in advance of the wedding at the Dakota County Courthouse. **Bring the license to the church office at least one week prior to the ceremony. The rehearsal will not begin if the license is not in the church office.**

## ☞ *Rehearsal*

Normally the rehearsal is held the night before the ceremony, but other arrangements are possible. The punctual participation of the entire wedding party is assumed.

## ☞ *Expectations*

In the interest of clean-up and safety, rice, bird seed or confetti are not to be used on the church grounds.

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on church grounds. If a member of the wedding party is under the influence of alcohol at the time of the wedding, that person will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the church.

No food or beverages are permitted in the sanctuary.

### ☞ *Photography and Video*

Because the marriage is a service of worship, flash photography at the pastor's descension. All pre-wedding photography should be completed at least thirty minutes prior to the beginning of the ceremony. Family and guests should limit their photography to times before and after the ceremony.

If video cameras are used, they must be placed in such a way as to be unobtrusive. Persons videotaping must remain in one location and not move around during the service.

### ☞ *Decorating Guidelines*

- Please contact the church office to arrange for access to the church prior to the wedding for any deliveries or decorating needs.
- All decorations that are not the property of the church should be removed immediately after the ceremony.
- The paraments will remain the liturgical color appropriate to the season, and the baptismal font will remain in the sanctuary.
- Large floral arrangements may not be placed directly on the altar.
- Protect surfaces from wax drips by any candles provided by the bride and groom.
- Be careful when decorating pews and other surfaces. Do not use tape, nails, tacks or any means that might leave a mark or scratch. Use special care to avoid placing equipment on the bell tables at the front of the sanctuary.
- The use of white or ivory candles is preferred in the sanctuary.

### ☞ *Dressing Rooms*

The women may use the lounge and the men may use the nursery as they prepare for the ceremony.

### ☞ *Fees*

*Use of the sanctuary: Members	No charge
Non-members	\$500
* Refundable Deposit	\$100
*Scheduling Fee	
Wedding	\$100
Reception	\$25
*Pastor's honorarium	\$250
Organist	\$150
Vocal or Instrumental Soloists	arrange with soloist
Use of Video Projection System	\$75
Use of CD player in the church sound system (requires First Lutheran Church Sound Tech)	\$50

Please contact Brandon Trautwein (402/412-2135) to arrange his services as a Sound Tech for your wedding.

#### **\*Mandatory fees**

**Fees for professional services should be brought to the church office when the church is booked for the wedding. The Church will NOT be reserved until fees are paid.**

### ☞ *Receptions*

If the church fellowship hall is to be used for the reception, contact the church office for information about additional fees and guidelines.

### ☞ *Pastoral Courtesy*

If you would like the pastor to attend a rehearsal dinner or reception, please provide advance notice. If the pastor is married, also indicate if a spouse is included in the invitation. Inform the pastor in advance if there will be any pastoral expectations at the event (such as offering a prayer). Because of the busy schedule at First Lutheran, the pastor may not be able to attend these additional celebrations but will make every effort to be present if possible.