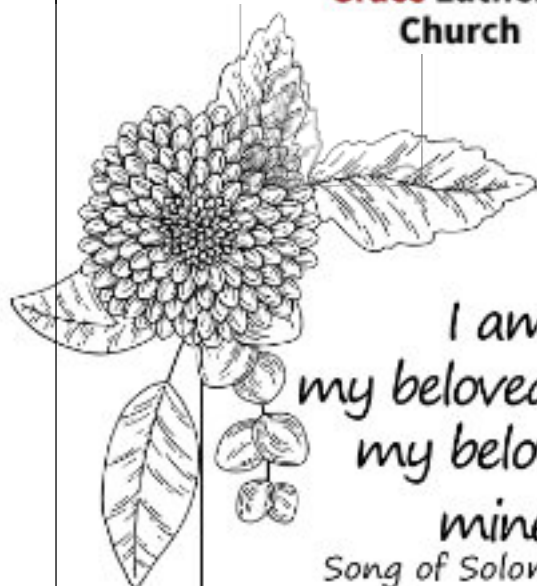


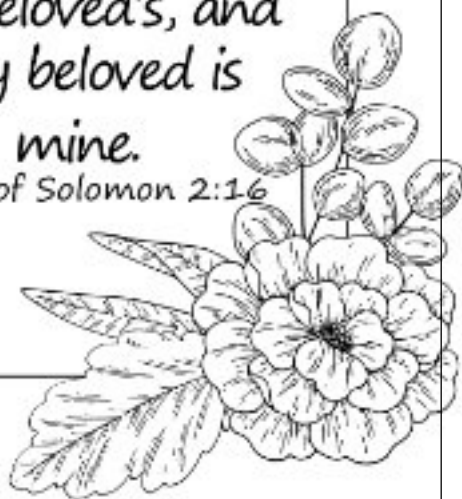


**Grace Lutheran
Church**



I am
my beloved's, and
my beloved is
mine.

Song of Solomon 2:16



...experience Grace
13655 Round Lake Blvd. NW
Andover, Minnesota 55304
763-421-6520
www.graceandover.org

Wedding Help & Guidelines

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Dear Wedding Couple,

Congratulations! We look forward to sharing your wedding day with you. We hope that it will be one of the happiest, most God-filled days of your lives.

We provide this booklet for you in an attempt to help you prepare for that day. In it, we try to provide basic information about weddings, and answer some of the most frequently asked questions. We hope that it will be helpful as you prepare for your wedding.

To plan your ceremony you will spend time with the pastor, worship and music director.

Between now and the time of your wedding, you should schedule pre-marriage counseling with a pastor. Email us to schedule your Premarital counseling.

You have exciting days ahead. We look forward to sharing them with you!

The Staff at Grace Lutheran Church

Weddings at Grace

GETTING STARTED

Your Ceremony

You do not need to be of a certain faith or have membership to be married here, but any ceremony held at Grace Lutheran Church or officiated by our pastors will be a Christian ceremony.

Book Your Wedding Date

The most important first step is to call the church office (763-421-6520) to schedule your wedding date. The days and times for weddings are varied. Weddings scheduled Monday -Thursday are usually held in the evenings at 6:00 p.m or after.

You MUST bring your Marriage License on the night of the rehearsal and give it to your officiant.

DESIGNING THE WEDDING

Other Clergy Participation

If you are considering having a Pastor from another church participate in the service, request this at the time you reserve your wedding at Grace, and approval must be granted from the Grace Lutheran Pastor.

Required Premarital Counseling

Each couple is required to premarital counseling with a pastor. Premarital counseling is typically 4, 1 hour sessions with a pastor. There will be homework before and after sessions. The total time spent in counseling and on homework is estimated 12 hours. Most counties in Minnesota offer a significant discount on your Marriage License for participation in 12 hours of Premarital counseling. We assure you this time is not ONLY for the discount. By scheduling this time you are making a commitment not just to the success of your wedding day but creating a firm foundation for your marriage and your life together.

Marriage License

A Marriage License must be secured in Minnesota. The License Office at the Anoka County Courthouse is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, and is closed on weekends.

The application must be made seven (7) working days before the license is issued, and the license becomes void if it is not used within six (6) months. Only one of the parties need be present to apply for the license, however, the person applying should bring proper identification for both parties. If either party is under the age of 18, both parents must accompany that party, both parents must sign the consent form, and a judge's consent must be granted. Any applicant who has had a previous marriage within the last ten years must bring a copy of the divorce decree to the License Office. The fee for a marriage license must be paid at the time of the application.

Please present your Marriage License to the wedding officiant on the night of your rehearsal. They will prepare the copies for signatures. Check with your county courthouse as requirements vary.

Rehearsal

A rehearsal is required unless the arrangements are to be very small and simple. About one hour should be allowed for the rehearsal, which will typically be held the night before the wedding. All who will be taking part in the wedding, including parents, and ushers, should be present for the rehearsal. The officiant will run the rehearsal in conjunction with the pastor. Soloists must coordinate with our Worship and Music Director for rehearsal times.

If you wish the Pastor or Director of Worship and Music to attend the rehearsal dinner or wedding reception, please issue the same kind of written invitation extended to others who will be attending. In the absence of such invitations, they will not expect to attend.

PLANNING YOUR CEREMONY

Communion

It is entirely appropriate, but not necessary for Holy Communion to be celebrated during a Wedding. Scripture often relates faith commitment to the Lord in terms of a wedding. In other places, heaven is compared to a wedding feast which never ends. When Holy Communion is celebrated, it must be open to the congregation and not limited to the bride, groom and the wedding party.

The Building

If you would like to host more than the ceremony at Grace, please request a Building Use Policy form and discuss with your officiant.

Wedding Music Information

If you are having recorded music You will need to share your song selections with our Worship and Music Director no later than 2 weeks prior to the wedding date.

- If you have special instructions for any song (start at a specific time, etc...) include those at this time.
- Share the playlist or Song titles with both the Pastor and the Worship Director via email – indicating at what point in the ceremony each song should be played. Be sure to include specific versions of each song if you are listing them, we want to make sure you have the music you want.

If you are having live musicians you will need to have all information to the Worship Director no later than 4 weeks prior to the wedding date. Please include the following:

- How many musicians will there be in total? Indicate whether they are singing, or playing an instrument. If playing an instrument, will they need to have any special equipment?
- Song titles and their place in the ceremony. It is your responsibility to make sure your musicians have the music.
- We will arrange a time on the day of the ceremony for musicians to come in, get organized, and sound check prior to any guests arriving.

Sound Technician

A Sound Technician is required to monitor the sound system during your wedding. As there may be several microphones in use, it is essential that they're monitored and adjusted properly. A fee for the Sound Technician is outlined in the Wedding Costs.

Photography and Video Taping

Photographers should meet with the Grace pastor prior to the wedding ceremony to discuss what is and is not allowed during the ceremony. Having photo memories of your day can be so special, but should not come at the cost of interrupting the ceremony itself. These may be taken during the processional and recessional. The church building will be open to you three (3) hours before the wedding begins so professional photos may be taken BEFORE the ceremony. Please inform your photographer. If you are not having photos taken, the building will be open to you 1½ hours before the wedding begins.

If professional photos are being taken in the Sanctuary prior to the service, they must be finished **no later than 30 minutes** before the service is scheduled to begin. If your wedding is to be video-taped, all photographers and videographers will be expected to stay in one place throughout the service and avoid blocking the view of any wedding participant or guest. A stationary video camera is allowed on the altar/chancel platform without an operator.

Flowers, Candles and Other Decorations

No flowers or decorations are required. If you wish to leave flowers for worship on the following Sunday, and would like acknowledgment in the Sunday bulletin, please inform the church office the week prior to the wedding. If decorations are needed, or if you plan to have candles, speak with your officiant to see what can or can't be used.

The liturgical Paraments on the altar, pulpit and lectern and the banners on the front wall are based on the seasons of the church year and cannot be changed to accommodate the wedding.

Alcohol and Tobacco

For legal reasons, we do not allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises or the grounds during your rehearsal, wedding, reception (if held at church) or at any other time. The lone exception to use of alcohol is the wine of the Lord's Supper (Communion). Furthermore, if you or any member of your wedding party is intoxicated and obviously impaired on the day of the wedding, we shall ask that person to excuse him/herself from the ceremony. A wedding service is the worship of God; drunkenness during a wedding simply will not be tolerated. Smoking is not permitted inside the church building.

COSTS FOR THE WEDDING

All fees are subject to change. When we begin your premarital counseling a few months before your wedding, we will inform you of the most up to date cost for your wedding at Grace Lutheran Church. Booking a wedding at Grace Lutheran Church in no way implies a contract as to cost. The date for your wedding is secured, but the total cost is subject to change.

Wedding Fees

- \$35 per couple Premarital Counseling
(paid to Grace or through assessment website by the couple.)
- \$100 Custodial Fee
- \$150 Organist/Pianist
- \$50 Sound Technician
- \$50 Projection (if applicable)
- \$350* Clergy
- \$50 Administrative Costs (if church is printing bulletins)

*Fee includes the Rehearsal.

Fee is greater for Off Site weddings which are possible at the discretion of the officiating pastor.

Notes:

Wedding Service Example:

The Marriage Celebration Uniting

_____ & _____

(month, day, year) _____

(time) _____

Grace Church Lutheran Andover, Minnesota

Prelude

Processional

Greeting and Prayer

Scripture

Readings _____

Music _____

The Wedding Message

Music _____

Exchange of Vows

Exchange of Rings

Lighting of the Unity Candle

Music _____

The Wedding Prayer

Holy Communion (if applicable)

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Presentation

Recessional

Postlude

People you may wish to include in the wedding bulletin:

Officiating Pastor_____

Parents of the Bride_____

Parents of the Groom_____

Grandparents of the Bride_____

Grandparents of the Groom_____

Maid or Matron of Honor_____

Best Man_____

Bridesmaids_____

Groomsmen_____

Ushers_____

Flower Girl_____

Ring Bearer_____

Personal Attendant_____

Scripture Readers_____

Vocalist_____

Musicians_____

Organist_____

Others_____

Bride and Groom's "Thank you" to friends and family

Wedding Vows

The promises you make to one another on your wedding day are among the most profound words you will ever share with each other. Great care and thought must go into what you say as you make public your declaration of love and commitment and promise. What follows here is a collection of vows and promises, both contemporary and traditional, but is, by no means, a complete collection. You are encouraged to give some thought to writing your own promises to one another. Some have used other parts of the following to help them get started. As you plan with your pastor, you will have the opportunity to work out all of these details.

1. _____, as we have come together in the midst of our families and friends-- And in the presence of God, I commit myself to you as your husband/wife.

I promise to love you and to be supportive of you as we both continue to grow and change. I promise to help you achieve the goals that you have set for yourself and for our marriage, and I promise to give you the freedom to be all that you were intended to be. I promise to be faithful to you, to join with you in both sorrow and celebration sharing all that is to come until death parts us.

2. I, _____ take you, _____, to be my wife/husband and my partner in life. I promise to share with you all that life may have to offer-- be it joy or sorrow, and to always be supportive, patient, and compassionate. I will respect, cherish, and protect you, and I will always be faithful to you. I promise to nurture you so that we may grow together to become all that we may grow together to become all that we can be. Most of all, I promise to be your best friend in life and to love you with all my heart forever.

3. In the name of God, I, _____, take you, _____, to be my 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 care for; until we are parted by death; this is my solemn promise.

4. 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 most challenging of what is to come until death parts us.

5. I take you, _____, 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.

6. _____, I take you to be my wife/husband. I promise 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.

7. I, _____, take you, _____, to be my husband/wife/spouse and partner in life. I promise to be honest with you, faithful to you, and to put my trust in you. In your times of need, I will be there to support and encourage you, to hold you and comfort you. I will help you reach for your dreams, and I will stand by you through both your failures and your successes. As we travel through life together, I will share with you the joys and wonders that lie ahead for us. And I promise to love you with all my heart and all my soul for as long as we both shall live.

8. I, _____, take you, _____, to be my husband/wife/spouse and partner in life. In the presence of our families, friends, and God, I promise to respect, protect, and cherish you and to always be faithful and honest with you. I promise to laugh with you in times of joy, and comfort you in times of sorrow. I promise to celebrate with you and always be supportive of you as we both continue to change and grow. I promise to pray for you and for our marriage, to grow in faith with you, and to always serve Christ and others by your side. Through all things, good and bad in sickness and in health for richer or poorer. I promise to be your best friend and to love you all the days of our life.

The Exchange of Rings

The circle has long been a symbol for marriage. These circles are made of precious metal to represent the enduring and precious nature of your relationship. Being unbroken circles, each represents unending love. As often as either of you look upon these rings, may you be reminded of this moment, the love you have promised, and the commitment, covenant in which you live.

- I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness
- I give you this ring of my promise, and 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.
- Take this ring, freely given, as a sign of my love and a symbol of my intention to live with you in love and respect. As this ring has no end, neither shall my love for you.
- Bride/Groom: I give you this ring as a sign of my promise. Bride/
Groom: I accept this ring as a sign of your promise.

Bible Passages

Genesis 1:26-31

26 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." 27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 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." 29 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. 30 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. 31 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 2:18-24

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." 19 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. 20 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. 21 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. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 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." 24 Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Deuteronomy 11:8-15

8 Keep, then, this entire commandment that I am commanding you today, so that you may have strength to go in and occupy the land that you are crossing over to occupy, 9 and so that you may live long in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give them and to their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10 For the land that you are about to enter to occupy is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sow your seed and irrigate by foot like a vegetable garden. 11 But the land that you are crossing over to occupy is a land of hills and valleys, watered by rain from the sky, 12 a land that the Lord your God looks after. The eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. 13 If you will only heed his every commandment that I am commanding you today—loving the Lord your God, and serving him with all your heart and with all your soul— 14 then he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, and you will gather in your grain, your wine, and your oil; 15 and he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you will eat your fill.

Ruth 1:16-18

16 But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

17 Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"

18 When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Psalms 85:1-13

1 Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

2 You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin. *Selah*

3 You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us.

5 Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

6 Will you not revive us again,
so that your people may rejoice in you?

7 Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.[a]

9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

12 The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

Psalms 118:24-29

24 This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

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

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

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

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

Psalms 128: 1-6

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

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

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

4 Thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the Lord.

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

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

Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.
10 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. 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Hosea 2:19-20

19 And I will take you for my wife for ever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. 20 I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and you shall know the Lord.

John 2:1-11

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. 9 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 10 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." 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 15: 9-12, (11-17)

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 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. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I

have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants[a] any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

31 But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way 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. 2 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. 3 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.

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 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. 9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; 10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. 11 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. 12 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. 13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 3:14-21

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. 16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. 18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Colossians 3:12-17

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 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. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



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