



CALVARY WEDDINGS



Calvary Lutheran Church

605 Douglas Street

Alexandria, MN 56308

320-763-5178

Pastor Hans Dahl, Lead Pastor

Pastor Angie Larson, Executive Pastor

Marriage Preparation
at
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We're so excited for you as you prepare to enter into the life-long gift from God called marriage! We are looking forward to walking with you as you prepare both for your wedding day and your life together. At Calvary our mission is to *lead people to a lifelong faith in Jesus Christ* and marriage is one step in that journey.

The pastor's role is to help you both prepare for your life together, to encourage you in Christ-like love for each other and the world, and to serve as an agent of the state as a civil function. We look forward to getting to know you and celebrating your ceremony together.

Pastor Hans Dahl, Lead Pastor
Pastor Angie Larson, Executive Pastor

Wedding Coordinator
Paige Meier—weddings@calvaryalex.org

Calvary Church
320-763-5178
office@calvaryalex.org

Pre-wedding Checklist

6-12 Months Before Wedding:

- ◇ Complete Wedding Date Request at www.calvaryalex.org. Calvary's office will contact you to ensure date and time is available.
- ◇ Pay \$125 deposit at www.calvaryalex.org/wedding or mail to Calvary Lutheran, 605 Douglas Street, Alexandria, MN 56308

3-6 Months Before Wedding:

- ◇ Calvary's wedding coordinator will contact you about completing the Prepare/Enrich Inventory, online fee of \$35. Prepare and Enrich needs to be completed prior to the Marriage Retreat
- ◇ Attend Marriage Retreat, fee of \$175

1-3 Months Before Wedding:

- ◇ Select Vows and Bible verses and share with the wedding coordinator
- ◇ Meet with Wedding Coordinator to complete the outline of the wedding and confirm date/time of rehearsal
- ◇ Meet with your musician(s) to select music for wedding service (if not done earlier)
- ◇ Notify wedding party of rehearsal date, time and place

2 Weeks Before Wedding:

- ◇ Deliver the following items to the Wedding Coordinator:
 - Copy of worship bulletin
 - Complete wedding payment online at www.calvaryalex.org/wedding

1 Week Before Wedding:

- ◇ Meet with Pastor assigned to your wedding—No requests available

General Information

The Role of the Wedding Coordinator

Calvary's wedding coordinators walk with you through wedding planning, preparation, and process. They will work with you as you complete preparations, plan your ceremony, conduct your rehearsal, and assist your wedding party on your wedding day to ensure that all goes smoothly.

Wedding Fees:

Onsite Wedding \$675

Package includes:

- ◇ Venue Fee \$125 (includes custodial)
- ◇ Wedding Coordinator Fee \$250
- ◇ Pastor Fee \$250
- ◇ Sound Tech \$50
- ◇ Couple will be responsible for additional fees for Prepare and Enrich and Pre-marital retreat

Offsite Wedding

Package One: \$500—Travel radius of 25 miles from Calvary

- ◇ Wedding Coordinator Fee (\$250)
- ◇ Pastors Fee (\$250)

Package Two: \$500 + Travel Expenses outside of 25 miles from Calvary

- ◇ Wedding Coordinator Fee (\$250)
- ◇ Pastor Fee (\$250)
- ◇ Additional reimbursement for mileage at IRS rate and overnight accommodations if needed

Room Rental

Rentals for bridal showers or needs prior to four hours before the ceremony may be available. Contact the church office at 320-763-5178 to make a request.

The Pre-Marriage Process

At Calvary, we commit to prepare and support you in your marriage vows. We ask that you regularly participate in our worship community by attending worship services and volunteering in areas that are of interest to you. We use a tool called “Prepare/Enrich,” Our couples complete a questionnaire that the pastor will use at our retreat. The cost for this processing the inventory is \$35, which you will do on-line and pay with a credit card. Our wedding coordinator, will have this sent to you and we ask that you do the questions separately. Remember, this is not a test, it is a tool to help you with counseling/retreat.

Our required **“Pre Marriage Retreat”** serves as a large portion of your counseling as well as a shorter meeting with the pastor before your wedding. At our retreat, we will discuss the foundation of a strong marriage and the unique gifts and challenges you bring to this marriage. Depending on the number of weddings we have, we will have one or two options for our retreat. **Cost for the retreat is \$175 per couple.**

Musicians/Organist

Our church organist or pianist is often available for weddings. If you wish to have someone else play, please ask our wedding coordinator and work with her to arrange this.

Reception

For information about holding your wedding reception at Calvary Lutheran Church, contact our Wedding Coordinator. Additional fees apply.

PLANNING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Order of Worship

Our Wedding Coordinator will work with you on the order of your ceremony. The wedding service is an act of worship. The Christian tradition provides the setting of the service; the language, architecture, symbolism, and music combine to express our faith in Jesus Christ, as well as that of the Christian community which is the church.

Please use the following outline of a marriage ceremony for your service:

Prelude

Processional

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading (Old Testament or Psalm)

Solo or Congregational Hymn (optional)

Scripture Reading (New Testament reading)

Scripture Reading (Gospel)

Marriage Homily

The Exchange of Vows

The Exchange of Rings

Pronouncement of the Marriage

Lighting of the Unity Candle or Sand Ceremony (optional) & Solo (optional)

Blessing of the Marriage

Prayers & The Lord's Prayer (Spoken or sung)

Benediction

Presentation of the Couple

Recessional

Music at the Wedding

The selection of music for the wedding service should be made in consultation with the Wedding Coordinator

We ask that you choose your music carefully, remembering that your wedding is a worship service and that you want to look back on your wedding day with joy. We encourage songs that are sacred, praising God, however, secular music is allowed, as long as it is tasteful.

If you wish to have someone else play the organ or piano you will need to get approval from our Wedding Coordinator. If you need suggestions for soloists, we will help you with this.

Some couples use a congregational hymn during the service. Singing a hymn gives the congregation a chance to participate directly in the celebration. We encourage you to speak with the pastor if you have questions.

Scripture (Bible) Readings

You are encouraged to select 2-4 readings from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible to be read aloud at your wedding service. As with the selection of music, these readings reflect God's love for you, God's blessing of your relationship, and your faith in Jesus Christ. There are beautiful texts of the Bible that speak to God's love for us, and the love that God hopes we will show to each other.

Listed below and on the following page are scripture readings for you to consider. You may also feel free to choose scriptures that are meaningful to you and/or your families:

Old Testament — *The story of God and God's people before the time of Jesus*

Option A: Woman and man created in the image of God
(Genesis 1:26-28)

Option B: Companionship rather than loneliness
(Genesis 2:18-24)

Option C: Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart
(Proverbs 3:3-6)

Option D: The voice of the beloved (Song of Solomon 2:10-13)

Option E: Many waters cannot quench love
(Song of Solomon 8:6-7)

Option F: God's steadfast love lifts up the people
(Isaiah 63:7-9)

Option G: The new covenant of the people of God (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Psalm — *A collection of poetic prayers and songs*

Option A: May God be merciful to us and bless us (Psalm 67)

Option B: We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture
(Psalm 100)

Option C: The steadfast love of the Lord (Psalm 117)

Option D: The Lord keeps watch over you (Psalm 121)

Option E: Unless the Lord builds the house (Psalm 127)

Option F: Blessed are those who walk in the Lord's ways
(Psalm 128)

Option G: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord
(Psalm 150)

New Testament — *Stories of the founding of the Christian Church on earth*

Option A: If God is for us, who is against us
(Romans 8:31-35, 37-39)

Option B: A living sacrifice and genuine love
(Romans 12:1-2, 9-18)

Option C: The greatest gift is love (1 Corinthians 12:31--13:13)

Option D: The breadth, length, height and depth of Christ's love
(Ephesians 3:14-19)

Option E: Walk in love, as Christ loved us (Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33)

Option F: Rejoice in the Lord always (Philippians 4:4-9)

Option G: Clothed in compassion, kindness, meekness and patience
(Colossians 3:12-17)

Option H: Let us love in truth and action (1 John 3:18-24)

Option I: Let us love one another for love is of God (1 John 4:7-16)

Gospel Reading — *The story of the birth, life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ*

Option A: The beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-10)

Option B: You are the light, let your light shine (Matthew 5:14-16)

Option C: A wise person builds upon the rock (Matthew 7:21, 24-29)

Option D: What God has united must not be divided

(Matthew 19:3-6)

Option E: Love, the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:35-40)

Option F: They are no longer two but one (Mark 10:6-9)

Option G: The wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11)

Option H: Love one another as I have loved you (John 15:9-17)

Vows

Your wedding vows should reflect the complete sharing that marriage implies and a commitment that is life-long. Your vows should also express how your marriage commitment and faithfulness depend on God's grace and love. Below are some examples that have been used previously. You may also choose to write your own vows:

Option 1) In the presence of God and this community, I, _____, 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. And with the help of God, I pledge you my faithfulness.

Option 2) I, _____, give myself to you, _____. 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.

Option 3) I take you _____, to be my *wife/husband* from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and with the help of God, I promise to be faithful to you and to care for you as long as we both shall live.

Option 4) I take you, _____, to be my *wife/husband*. With the help of God and before these witnesses I promise 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 to strengthen you, so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.

REHEARSAL & WEDDING DAY SPECIFICS

- ◇ It is helpful to have an agenda written for your wedding party so that they know where to be and when. Bring the printed wedding bulletins to the church the night of the rehearsal.
- ◇ No smoking is allowed in the building, and no alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs of any kind are allowed on church property, indoors and out, at any time. If, at any time the pastor or Wedding Coordinator becomes aware that any member of the wedding party has been impaired by such behavior, we reserve the right to cancel the ceremony without notice.
- ◆ During the service, there should be no gum chewing, and no change or keys in pockets.
- ◆ 45 –60 minutes before the service, the wedding party (with the exception of the ushers) will gather the Bridal Party. Our pastor will offer a prayer before the ceremony begins. This also brings everyone together to process into the Sanctuary.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal will require 30-60 minutes, depending on the number of people in your wedding party. Please let our wedding coordinator know the time of your rehearsal at least one month prior to your wedding.

Please encourage members of the wedding party to arrive on time to ensure we can be efficient with our time.

Musicians may be present at the rehearsal but it is not required. Pastors will not be in attendance. As a group, the Wedding Coordinator will review church guidelines, explain the wedding day schedule, rehearse walking in and out of church, when and where to receive flowers, etc.

Decorating the Sanctuary

No church “furniture” may be moved. None of the items the church has placed on the altar may be moved or removed. Though fresh flowers may be placed on the altar. Our unity candle holders and stand are available for your use for either the unity candles or sand ceremony.

Paraments (the cloth coverings) on the lectern, altar, and pulpit may not be obscured or decorated, nor may the colors be changed (these colors reflect the seasons of the church year). Seasonal decorations already in place for the current season may be used at the wedding at no additional cost. These decorations may not be changed or moved.

You are responsible for designating someone who will promptly remove all additional decorations you bring to the church after the wedding ceremony’s end.

Holy Communion

If you would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, all persons attending the wedding must be invited to participate.

Marriage License

You may apply for a marriage license at the Clerk of Court in any county courthouse in the state of Minnesota. Marriage licenses may be obtained up to six months prior to the wedding date. It is your responsibility to bring the license to the church ceremony. **Your wedding license cost will be cut significantly after the retreat and counseling with your pastor. Please ask your Wedding Coordinator about this.**

Wedding Day Schedule

Below is a ***sample schedule*** for the wedding day. If you would like to be at the church earlier than this schedule please contact the Wedding Coordinator to understand the fees and make arrangements.

12:00 pm Bridal party arrives and begins photos

2:00 pm Photographs conclude until the ceremony begins

2:00 pm Wedding party cleans up dressing rooms, snacks, etc.

2:40 pm Ushers begin seating guests

2:50 pm Pastor prays with wedding party in the Community Room

2:55 pm Family and Wedding party in place for processional

3:00 pm Ceremony begins

3:30-3:45 pm Ceremony concludes

Photography and Videography

The church will be open for the photographer three hours prior to the scheduled wedding time, and must be completed at least 30 minutes before the ceremony in order to allow the bridal party to be ready for the wedding ceremony and for the ushers to seat the wedding guests. It is a good idea for the photographer and Videographer to visit with the Wedding Coordinator when they arrive.

