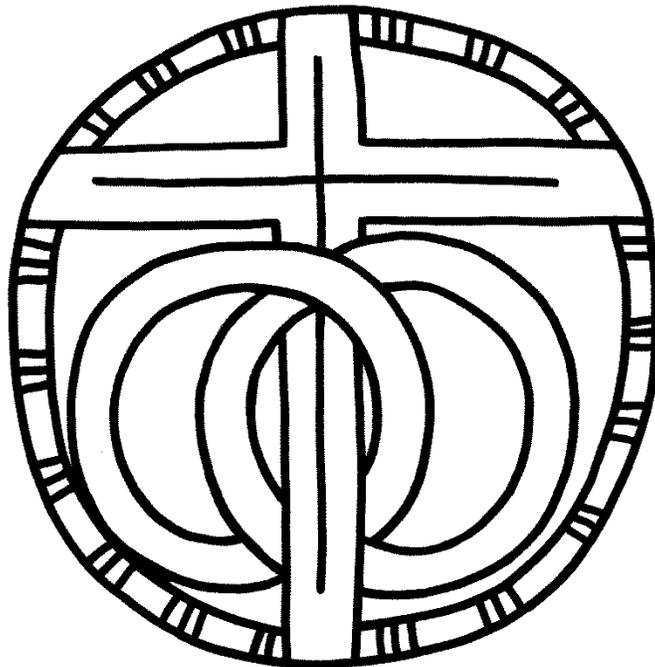


# WEDDING INFORMATION



## MIDVALE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Midvale Community Lutheran Church is a community of believers  
in Jesus Christ, called by the Holy Spirit to  
PRAISE, LIVE and SHARE God's love.*

4329 Tokay Blvd ♦ Madison, WI 53711  
(608) 238-7119 ♦ [www.midvalelutheran.org](http://www.midvalelutheran.org)

# **Planning Your Wedding with Midvale Community Lutheran Church**

## **Introduction**

Congratulations! Your wedding day is one of the most important days of your life, and we are thrilled that you are considering celebrating your wedding with us at Midvale Community Lutheran Church!

Please read this information so that you are aware of the way in which this congregation understands the rite of marriage and the process by which weddings are planned. The following guidelines are offered to help make your special day more meaningful and enjoyable, and to help your wedding reflect the love and glory of God. We look forward to working with you in planning this celebration. Please feel free to call the church if you have any questions.

## **A Lutheran Christian Understanding of Marriage**

Lutheran Christians understand marriage in two ways. On the one hand, marriage is God's gift. God intends to bring strength and joy to those who enter into marriage and, through marriage, to promote the well-being of the whole human family. On the other hand, marriage is a human institution. Two people make vows to each other, which are publically witnessed, and society recognizes their status as legally married.

For Lutherans, marriage is viewed through the identity we receive in our baptisms. God's baptismal promise of lifelong faithfulness and daily forgiveness to us is both the source and the model of marriage. Jesus remained faithful to God and to us, to the point of giving his life on a cross. In baptism God joins us to Christ's death and resurrection and promises to remain faithful to us, even when we are not faithful to God. Trusting in God's faithfulness, the partners in marriage pledge lifelong faithfulness to each other. Relying on God's forgiveness, they are empowered to forgive one another. In response to God's unconditional love, they are able to love each other as God loves them.

In baptism we become children of God and equal members of the body of Christ. Within marriage, partners live together as equals. Partners in marriage willingly are subject to and serve each other within the context of self-giving love, just as Christ gave himself in love for the world.

Finally, marriage is one way the baptized live out their vocation, by committing themselves to the roles of spouse and partner for each other. This particular calling is an important way in which they participate in the life of the Christian community and share in its mission. Christian marriage helps people, both inside and outside the Christian community, to glimpse the love with which Christ gave himself up for the world.

If one or both members of the couple are not baptized, it is permissible to be married at Midvale Community Lutheran Church. This is not uncommon. Please discuss this with the pastor prior to the wedding. We invite all people into a relationship with God through baptism, and if baptism is desired, we are eager to work with you for that purpose. However, we understand that some couples will come from different faith traditions, and we respect those beliefs.

### **Selecting a Wedding Date**

Once you have selected a tentative date and time for your wedding, it is important that you contact the church office as soon as possible to determine the availability of the Worship Center and the pastor. Email: [info@midvalelutheran.org](mailto:info@midvalelutheran.org) or call 608-238-7119. Members of Midvale will have priority over non-members in reserving a day and time.

- A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a wedding date, along with the completion of a Building Usage Agreement form, which can be obtained from the church office.
- The preferred time for Saturday weddings is 2:00, 2:30 or 3:00pm. The Worship Center must be free by 4:15pm so that it is ready for the 5:00pm Saturday worship service.
- Weddings are not usually scheduled on Holy Week (the weekend and week before and including Easter), Thanksgiving Weekend, the second and third weekends of December, and Christmas.

### **Selecting a Pastor**

A Midvale pastor will follow-up with you to begin planning for the ceremony after you contact the church office. If you have a preference for which pastor will preside at your wedding, please let the church office know. The pastors will attempt to honor your request. However, if there is a conflict or if the pastor is not available on your chosen date, a different pastor will be selected to preside. If the wedding is to be held at Midvale, it is customary for a pastor from Midvale to lead the ceremony. If you wish to involve a pastor of another congregation or denomination, you should discuss that possibility with Midvale's pastor. In most cases such arrangements can be made. The Midvale pastor will have final authority regarding the wedding service and the use of Midvale's facilities. If the wedding is not at Midvale, please discuss this possibility with the Midvale pastor to determine if she or he is able to preside at a wedding at a site away from the church.

### **Selecting a Musician**

For weddings at Midvale, one of Midvale's music staff can be selected for your ceremony. Please ask a Midvale pastor for help in securing a musician. The musician can help you select from a wide range of choices of music for the ceremony that reflects the personality of the wedding couple and is appropriate for a worship setting. We encourage the use of music that is of high quality and that is Christian in nature, whatever the musical style. Some music may be more appropriate for your reception than for use in the marriage service.

The following is included in the musician's fee:

- Prelude, processional, recessional and postlude music.
- Accompaniment of a soloist during the service and brief rehearsal with soloist prior to the service.
- Accompaniment of assembly hymns if included in the ceremony.

At times the soloist may request additional rehearsal time or the musician may be requested to be present at the wedding rehearsal. In these situations, an additional fee will be requested.

### **Midvale Wedding Coordinator**

After your wedding date and time have been agreed upon, and your wedding is at Midvale, you will be assigned and invited to meet with a Midvale wedding coordinator. The role of the wedding coordinator is to ensure that your wedding day is as stress free as possible and to be available to you during the planning process.

The wedding coordinator will:

- Conduct the wedding rehearsal.
- On the day of the wedding, assist all participants to know when and how to perform their particular role in the ceremony.
- Be available to answer questions leading up to the wedding ceremony and be present and available on your wedding day to answer questions and help as needed.

If you hire a personal wedding coordinator, they must work with and at the direction of the Midvale wedding coordinator in all aspects of the wedding ceremony at Midvale.

### **Pre-Marriage Sessions**

Because a couple is preparing for a life-long marriage, and not simply a wedding day, pre-marital counselling sessions are expected. Midvale pastors are glad to have this opportunity to become acquainted with each couple and discuss the necessary details for the marriage ceremony. If it is not convenient for a Midvale pastor to facilitate the pre-marriage counselling, because of the geography or other reasons, the couple may choose to receive counselling with a licensed marriage counselor or a pastor in their local area.

### **Planning the Marriage Worship Service**

The marriage service in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) book will form the basic outline for the marriage service. The pastor can provide you with an outline. The details are determined together by the couple and the presiding pastor so that the ceremony reflects both the worship context and the personality of the couple. Couples may choose to add their own prayers and vows using the forms in the ELW as examples. Suggestions for vows, music and Bible readings and music are included at the end of this booklet.

## **Wedding Program**

The pastor will help you determine what elements to include in your wedding program. It is the responsibility of the couple to design and print the program. A draft should be approved by the pastor before it is printed.

## **Marriage License**

The marriage license is issued in the Dane County Clerk's Office, 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Madison. Phone: 608.266.4452. Application must be made at least six full calendar days before the license is issued, and you may use your license within the next 30 days. Please confirm current rules with clerk's office. Your Marriage License should be brought to the church office no later than the Tuesday prior to your ceremony.

## **The Wedding Rehearsal**

Most rehearsals take place the evening prior to the wedding, although an alternate time may be arranged with the wedding coordinator. The wedding coordinator conducts the rehearsal. The pastors and musicians are typically not present at the rehearsal.

- All members of the wedding party, including attendants, ushers, and parents of the couple should be present at the rehearsal. It is the responsibility of the couple to make sure that those involved are on time for the rehearsal. The rehearsal should take an hour or less.
- If you are using printed wedding programs, bring them to the rehearsal.
- Attire may be informal, but in good taste.
- The church is not responsible for any loss or damage that may occur to items left overnight.

## **Decorations**

- The sanctuary is available for decoration on the day of the wedding. Please confirm with the wedding coordinator what time you desire the building to be opened for decorating, photos, florist deliveries or other pre-ceremony activities.
- Floral arrangements and decorations may be placed on tables or flower stands, but should not be placed on the altar. Please do not plan to move, remove or conceal any furnishings in the Worship Center. The color of paraments and vestments (the fabric adorning the altar and pulpit) used for the wedding service is the color for the season of the church year during which the wedding is conducted. The color is not changed for a wedding service.
- No decorations should be fastened to furnishings or woodwork. Please, no tape, nails or tacks of any kind.
- No open candles are allowed outside the altar area.
- Wedding flowers may be left for the weekend worship services if desired.

## **Photographs/Videos - Please inform your photographer**

- Flashbulb picture taking by family and guests during the wedding is distracting and should be restricted to before and after the wedding.
- Flash pictures by the professional photographer are permitted during the processional

- and recessional only. Encourage the photographer to remain unobtrusive.
- The only picture taking allowed during the wedding is without flash, from the rear of the Worship Center or in a location that doesn't distract from the ceremony.
  - Pictures taken before the wedding should be concluded at least 20 minutes prior to the start of the wedding to allow guests to be seated.
  - Picture-taking after the wedding is common. Please take pictures with the pastor as soon as possible after the wedding.
  - If your wedding is to be videotaped, cameras should be positioned in the back of the Worship Center.

### **Dressing Areas and Food and Drink**

Two rooms will be made available as dressing spaces prior to the wedding. The couple is expected to notify the wedding coordinator as to what time they would like to have access to the building.

Some couples may decide to provide food to their wedding participants prior to the ceremony. If you are considering this, please be sure the wedding coordinator is aware of this so accommodations can be made depending on where the food will be served. Plates, napkins, cups and other table wear and serving pieces must be provided by the wedding party. The wedding party is responsible for leaving all areas clean. No tobacco or alcohol is allowed at the church.

### **Following the Wedding Service...**

- Please assign someone to pick up all gifts, clothes, flowers and personal items. The church is not responsible for lost or forgotten items.
- Do not leave vehicles in the church parking lot overnight. We have limited parking and the space is needed for Sunday worship. Thank you.

### **Wedding Receptions at Midvale**

If you wish to have your reception in the Fellowship Hall, be sure to reserve this space when you set your wedding date.

### **Special Notes**

- No tobacco, alcohol or illegal substances are allowed on the church property at any time. No one who is under the influence will be allowed to participate in the rehearsal or the wedding.
- Neither rice nor bird seed is to be thrown inside or outside the church building.
- Suggestive slogans, signs, etc. are not permitted in or on the church building or parking lot, or on the members of the wedding party.

### **One Week Before the Wedding**

- Marriage License brought to the church office.
- Fees paid to the church office.
- Name or address changes after marriage provided to the church office.

- Confirm the opening and closing time for the building on your wedding day with the wedding coordinator. Please check with your florist to confirm their delivery will be made within that time.

**Expenses for Weddings at Midvale**

Non-refundable Deposit to Reserve Date . . . . .	\$ 50
Pastor . . . . .	\$250
Musician.....	\$200
Wedding Coordinator . . . . .	\$150
Custodian.....	\$ 50
Total after deposit.....	\$650

Non-Members pay an additional \$250 facility usage expense.

A check for all expenses should be made out to Midvale Community Lutheran Church and delivered to the church office at least one week before the wedding.

## Planning and Selecting Specific Elements of the Marriage Service

### Declaration of Intent

The declaration of intent occurs early in the marriage service and echoes the presentation in the rite for Holy Baptism. In the presentation, candidates for baptism (or their parents) are asked if they desire to enter into the covenant of baptism. Here, as an expression of baptismal dignity and equality, the couple is asked if they freely desire to enter into the covenant of marriage together. Additionally, as in baptism, there are options to include the families and assembly in sharing their love, blessing and support for the couple.

Declaration of Intent for the couple:

OPTION A: *Will you have*

(Name), will you have (name) to be your wife/husband,  
to live together in the covenant of marriage?

Will you love (her/him), comfort (her/him),  
honor and keep (her/him), in sickness and in health,  
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to (her/him)  
as long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

OPTION B: *Will you receive*

(Name), will you receive (name) as your wife/husband  
and bind yourself to (her/him) in the covenant of marriage?

Will you promise  
to love and honor (her/him) in true devotion,  
to rejoice with (her/him) in times of gladness,  
to grieve with (her/him) in times of sorrow,  
and to be faithful to (her/him) as long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

OPTION C: *Living in the promise of God*

(Name), living in the promise of God,  
[joined to Christ in baptism,]

will you give yourself to name in love and faithfulness?  
Will you share your life with (her/him),  
in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness,  
for richer, for poorer, for better, for worse,  
and will you be faithful to (her/him) as long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

Involvement of the families and assembly:

OPTION A: Will all of you

Will all of you, by God's grace, uphold and care for (name) and (name) in their life together?  
We will.

OPTION B: Families, friends

Families, friends, and all those gathered here with (name) and (name), will you support and care for them, sustain and pray for them in times of trouble, give thanks with them in times of joy, honor the bonds of their covenant, and affirm the love of God reflected in their life together?

We will.

## Wedding Vows

These vows are provided for the couple's use, and as examples of marriage vows that reflect our beliefs about marriage and God. They show that marriage vows include the promise of lifelong commitment and express complete sharing that marriage implies. Those who choose to write their own vows should do so with care and with the guidance of the pastor.

OPTION A: *I take you to be my*

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.

OPTION B: *In the presence of God*

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.

OPTION C: *These things I promise you*

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.

OPTION D: *Before God and these witnesses*

I take you, (name), to be my wife/husband, I promise  
before God and these witnesses to be your faithful wife/husband, 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.

OPTION E: *To join with you*

(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 will my whole life and with all my being until death parts us. 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.

**Suggested Wedding Music**

**Organ Processionals and Recessionals**

<i>Trumpet Voluntary in D Major</i>	Purcell
<i>Psalm 19</i>	Marcello
<i>Processional</i>	Handel
<i>Rigaudon</i>	Campra
<i>Toccato in F Major</i>	Buxtehude
<i>Hornpipe</i>	Handel
<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	Bach
<i>Air from "Water Music"</i>	Handel
<i>Prelude from Suite Gothique</i>	Boellmann

**Hymns for Congregational Singing or Soloist** (from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*)

All Glory Be to God on High	# 410
Baptized and Set Free	# 453
God Is Here!	# 526
Lord Jesus Christ Be Present Now	# 527
Gather Us In	# 532
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father	# 585
This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited	# 586
Love Divine, All Love Excelling	# 631
Blest Be the Tie That Binds	# 656
O Holy Spirit Enter In	# 786
Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus	# 802
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	# 836
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	# 858
Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven	# 864
Let All Things Now Living	# 881

**Pre-Service Music** (Organ)

<i>Arioso</i>	Bach
<i>If Thou Be Near</i>	Bach
<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	Bach

<i>Air (from "Water Music" Suite)</i>	Handel
<i>Andante</i>	Handel
<i>Adagio (from Sonata I)</i>	Mendelssohn
<i>Lord Jesus Christ Be Present Now</i>	Walther
<i>Pastorale</i>	Franck
<b>Pre-Service Music (Vocal)</b>	
<i>Psalm 128</i>	Robert Wetzler
<i>Song of Ruth</i>	Charles Gounod
<i>Wedding Song - Whither Thou Goest</i>	Heinrich Schutz
<i>O Perfect Love</i>	Healey Willan
<i>The Gift of Love</i>	Hal Hopson
<i>A Wedding Benediction</i>	Austin Lovelace
<i>O God of Love</i>	Dale Wood
<i>A Wedding Blessing</i>	Walter Pelz
<i>God Is My Shepherd</i>	Dvorak
<i>O Lord, Most Holy</i>	Franck
<i>Here at Thine Altar, Lord</i>	Rowley
<b>Wedding Blessings (Volume of 12 songs)</b>	
<i>Jesus Shepherd, Be Thou Near Me</i>	Bach
<i>O Love That Casts Out Fear</i>	Bach
<i>The Lord My Shepherd Is</i>	Helder
<i>O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts</i>	Brahms
<i>Love Divine, All Love Excelling</i>	Welsh-Bunjies
<i>Come, Follow Me</i>	Karg-Elert
<i>O Father, Son and Holy Ghost</i>	Kittel
<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	Bach (2 arr.)
<i>Lord Who at Cana's Wedding Feast</i>	Buxtehude
<i>O Father, All Creating</i>	Buxtehude
<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	Bach
<b>Seven Wedding Songs (Contemporary Solos)</b>	
<i>Happy Are You Who Fear the Lord</i>	Schiavone
<i>Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace</i>	Wienhorst
<i>Entreat Me Not to Leave Thee</i>	White
<i>Walk in Love</i>	Powell
<i>Love, in Christ</i>	Schultz
<i>Come, Lord Jesus, To This Place</i>	Busarow
<i>This Love</i>	Busarow

## **Bible Readings**

These correspond to the New Revised Standard Version, which is used in weekly worship at Midvale.

### **Old Testament**

Genesis 1:26-28	<i>Woman and man created in the image of God</i>
Genesis 2:18-24	<i>Companionship rather than loneliness</i>
Proverbs 3:3-6	<i>Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart</i>
Song of Solomon 2: 10-13	<i>The voice of the beloved</i>
Song of Solomon 8:6-7	<i>Many waters cannot quench love</i>
Isaiah 63:7-9	<i>God's steadfast love lifts up the people</i>
Jeremiah 31:31-34	<i>The new covenant of the people of God</i>

### **Psalm**

Psalm 23	<i>God is our good shepherd</i>
Psalm 67	<i>May God be merciful to us and bless us</i>
Psalm 100	<i>We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture</i>
Psalm 117	<i>The steadfast love of the Lord</i>
Psalm 121	<i>The Lord keeps watch over you</i>
Psalm 127	<i>Unless the Lord builds the house</i>
Psalm 128	<i>Blessed are those who walk in the Lord's ways</i>
Psalm 150	<i>Let everything that breathes praise the Lord</i>

### **New Testament**

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39	<i>If God is for us, who is against us</i>
Romans 12: 1-2, 9-18 1	<i>A living sacrifice and genuine love</i>
Corinthians 12:31-13:13	<i>The greatest gift is love</i>
Ephesians 3:14-19	<i>The breadth, length, height and depth of Christ's love</i>
Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33	<i>Walk in love, as Christ loved us</i>
Philippians 4:4-9	<i>Rejoice in the Lord always</i>
Colossians 3: 12-17 1	<i>Clothed in compassion, kindness, meekness and patience</i>
1 John 3:18-24	<i>Let us love in truth and action</i>
1 John 4:7-16	<i>Let us love one another for love is of God</i>

### **Gospel**

Matthew 5:1-10	<i>The beatitudes</i>
Matthew 5:14-16	<i>You are the light, let your light shine</i>
Matthew 7:21,24-29	<i>A wise person builds upon the rock</i>
Matthew 19:3-6	<i>What God has united must not be divided</i>
Matthew 22:35-40	<i>Love, the greatest commandment</i>
Mark 10:6-9	<i>They are no longer two but one</i>
John 2:1-11	<i>The wedding at Cana</i>
John 15:9-17	<i>Love one another as I have loved you</i>