

Fristad Lutheran Church

Wedding Guidelines

Updated - October 2008

Dear Christian Friends,

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding!

"Marriage is a gift of God, intended for the joy and mutual strength of those who enter it and for the well-being of the whole human family. God created us male and female and blessed humankind with the gifts of companionship, the capacity to love, and the care and nurture of children. Jesus affirmed the covenant of marriage and revealed God's own self-giving love on the cross. The Holy Spirit helps those who are united in marriage to be living signs of God's grace, love, and faithfulness." ELW pg. 286

Your decision to have your wedding at Fristad is exciting and says that you wish to have a Christian wedding service and marriage. A wedding held in any Christian church makes that service a worship service; therefore, everything in and surrounding the service should be done with that in mind.

This handbook has been prepared to help you plan for this important day in your lives and in the life of the church. We hope it will be of help as you prepare and look forward to the celebration of your marriage.

Fristad Lutheran Church Council

God bless you and your marriage!

If you have ANY additional questions,
please feel free to ask any of your Fristad friends!

PRE-MARRIAGE PREPARATION

General Guidelines

The following guidelines have been prepared and adopted by the Church Council of Fristad Lutheran Church. These guidelines include:

- That a minimum of four to six months advance notice be given to the pastor and the congregation of an intended wedding date.
- That by being married in the church, the couple affirms that God joins them together in a covenant of marriage.
- That by being married in the church, the couple is seeking the blessing of God upon their marriage.
- That in seeking God's blessing on their marriage, the couple is affirming a life-long commitment to one another.
- That in order for the couple to examine their present and future relationship, participation in a form of pre-marriage workshop or session is expected.

THE SERVICE

The Christian Wedding Service

When a couple chooses to be married in the church, they are choosing a ceremony that is a service of worship to Almighty God. The most important person at a Christian wedding is God, although tradition and social custom would have us believe it's the bride and groom. However, God is certainly the one being glorified.

Selecting the time and date

The wedding service may be held at the church most any time during the year, and anytime during the day, not in conflict with other church activities. Weddings shall not be performed in the church, however, during Holy Week, as this is a period of solemn reflection and penitence, and the worship area is kept devoid of any adornment (flowers, candles, banners, etc.).

Obviously, you must consult with Pastor prior to ordering or sending your invitations. This will avoid any conflicts with schedules as well as any possible unnecessary expense. We will cooperate in making the necessary arrangements in a spirit of mutuality and compromise.

Chancel Appointments (Colors)

The appointed color of the season of the church year, reflected in the altar and pulpit cloths (paraments) and the pastor's stole, will be used, and can not be changed to match the colors of the bridal party.

Visiting or Assisting Clergy

When a bride or groom is a member of another church or denomination, his or her pastor or priest may participate in the wedding service at the invitation of the host pastor. This should be discussed with Pastor.

Catholic/Lutheran Marriages

If a Catholic bride or groom plans to remain in their own church, it is necessary that you contact your priest to inform them of your intentions and also to fulfill all expectations and/or requirements to remain in good standing.

Bridal Party Participation

Members of the wedding party, friends or relatives are invited to participate in the wedding service by reading scripture lessons or any other reading chosen (in consultation with Pastor).

Holy Communion

Holy Communion may be celebrated at the wedding service but must be open to everyone. It must never be served only to the bride and groom or the wedding party while others are excluded. If Holy Communion is to be celebrated, the marriage service is set in the context of the full service of Holy Communion.

If you wish, you may provide the bread and wine. Members of your family may be asked to prepare the elements and clean the communion-ware following the service. If members of our Altar Guild are asked to do these tasks, an honorarium is appropriate.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal is usually scheduled for the evening preceding the wedding service. This may be altered if needed. It is necessary that those in the wedding party arrive on time. The rehearsal should not last beyond one hour. Please bring marriage license to rehearsal or to the church office previous to wedding day.

If you would like Pastor to lead the prayer for a meal (rehearsal/groom's dinner and/or reception dinner), please let Pastor know and request it ahead of time.

Marriage Promises

#1

I take you, _____, 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.

#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.

#3

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 forgive you as we have been forgiven;

and I will share my life with you;

through the best and the worst of all that is to come, until death parts us.

You may choose any of the printed promises, or you may also wish to write your own marriage promises. These alternatives may help you generate some ideas of your own.

You may also wish to select portions of the printed alternatives to combine in preparing your own marriage promises to one another. (You do not need to memorize them.)

The following are possible scripture text readings for use at your wedding:

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-24

Proverbs 3:3-6

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7

Isaiah 63:7-9

Jeremiah 31:31-34

PSALM

Psalms 67, 100, 117, 121, 127, 128, 150

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39; 12:1-2, 9-18

I Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Ephesians 3:14-19; 5:1-2, 21-33

Colossians 3:12-17

1 John 3:18-24; 4:7-16

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-10; 5:14-16; 7:21, 24-29; 19:3-6; 22:35-40

Mark 10:6-9

John 2:1-11; 15:9-12

MUSIC SELECTION

Music for the Christian Wedding Service

The Inter-Lutheran Commission of Worship has issued the following statements regarding music at weddings:

"Music selected should embody high standards of quality and in general, reflect the praise of God, God's steadfast love in Christ as the foundation of and model of marriage, and the asking of God's presence and blessing."

"Wherever music is employed in the service, and by whatever instruments or voices, it should be high-quality examples of the art of composition, not cloud communication of the content and mood of the service with musical triteness or associations bordering on sentimentality, and be within the ability of the performers at hand to play or sing with assurance."

We ask that all music used at a Christian wedding is Christian in form and content and appropriate for use at a worship service.

Help in selecting your music

One guiding principle should govern the selection of all music. The Christian wedding is a service of worship to the honor and praise of almighty God. The music is to be God-centered. Obviously, some musical selections are not conducive to the atmosphere of worship and are not appropriate for use in the church. Often times a song will include the word God or use mis-quoted Scripture. This music would not be appropriate for use in the church.

It is extremely helpful to talk with Pastor and/or the church organist before selecting any music for your wedding. You can then also have an opportunity to hear a number of appropriate vocal solos, congregational hymns, as well as processional and recessional music, that you may wish to choose.

The use of congregational hymns is also recommended together with, or in place of, vocal solos. The advantages are strong congregational participation as well as rich, beautiful music.

(If certain songs have special meaning to you but are not appropriate at the ceremony, you may consider having this music performed at the reception.)

Again, in the selection of vocal music, the question should always be:

- Does it praise God?
- Does it ask God's blessing on the marriage?

See sections of Love, Marriage, Family in index of ELW.

Organ and/or Instruments

Often, the organist(s) of this church play for weddings. However, if another organist is needed or requested, it can be discussed with Pastor and/or the church organist. Instruments other than the organ may also be used. This too should be discussed with Pastor. Instrumental music should also reflect the mood of joy and celebration in the service.

Vocalists/Soloists

Selection and arrangements must be made well in advance of the wedding for the organist to receive music and for the organist and vocalist to practice together. Selections should be within the ability of the vocalist to sing with assurance.

PRE-MARRIAGE TASKS / CONSIDERATIONS

Your Photographer and Photo Taking

It is requested that flash pictures not be taken during the ceremony by the wedding guests nor by the official photographer. This may detract from the ceremony. Photos may be taken of the processional and recessional and of posed group pictures before and/or after the ceremony. At no time should the photographer be in view of the congregation in such a way as to distract them or hinder their view. The photographer may take natural light photos from the back of the Sanctuary during the ceremony. Video cameras are permitted.

The Marriage Candle

If you would like to have the Marriage Candle lighting ceremony, you are responsible for selecting and purchasing the three candles needed. The church has catalogs from which you may select candles with Christian symbols.

Bulletins

The church has catalogs from which you may purchase wedding bulletins. The church secretary can type the bulletin text for a small fee. If you wish her to do so, you must get the information to the church office two weeks prior to the wedding. Or, you may wish to have your bulletins printed by a local printer.

COUNSELING SESSIONS

Pre-Marriage Counseling Sessions

As previously mentioned, the purpose of the pre-marital counseling sessions is to assist you in getting your marriage off to the best possible start. In our time together we will get to know one another better, and hopefully, you as a couple will also get to know each other even better!

Part of our time together will be spent on planning for the wedding service. There will be information shared that will help you to make this service your own. We will also plan the details of the wedding, so that on rehearsal night, all will go smoothly.

You will be expected to attend a Lutheran Social Service (LSS) Pre-Marriage Seminar ("Intimate Beginnings" - \$80.00 fee), or at least three pre-marital counseling sessions with Pastor (including the Prepare Enrich Pre-Marriage Inventory - \$35.00 fee).

Our request for you to participate in the pre-marital sessions will hopefully be helpful to you as you begin your married life together. It should also be helpful as you plan and prepare for the celebration of your wedding day.

"PREPARE" Pre-Marriage Seminar

PREPARE was designed to help learn more about yourself, your partner and your relationship.

PREPARE results are not intended to predict your chances for marital success or to determine when or whether you should be married. PREPARE is not a test and there are no "right" or "wrong" answers. The usefulness of it is dependent on your willingness to respond fully and honestly.

The results of PREPARE are kept strictly confidential. Couple identification numbers will be assigned and used in place of your names.

The cost of having the PREPARE results tabulated is \$35.00. A check or money order made payable to PREPARE/ENRICH, INC. is needed the day that it is administered.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Marriage License Application

You will need to apply for your marriage license. This is to be done at the County Clerk's Office at the Court House in Balsam Lake, WI. The court house has information to further aid you in all the necessary legal requirements needed to secure a marriage license.

Call 715-485-9226 with any questions. (Remember to bring marriage license to the rehearsal or to the church office previous to wedding day.)

WEDDING FEES

General Wedding Fees (Generally, weddings are done for members)

| | MEMBER | NON-MEMBER |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| Pastor | Honorarium | \$100.00 |
| Fristad Organist | \$50.00 | \$50.00 |
| Custodian | \$60.00* | \$60.00* |
| Sanctuary Use | None | \$300.00 |
| Dining Area (Reception) | \$100.00 | \$300.00 |

(*All weddings 6pm or after - \$100.00)

All fees are to be paid the evening of the rehearsal. **Checks for the pastor, organist, and custodian are to be written directly to the person;** all other Fristad fees are to be written to Fristad Lutheran Church.

Wedding Reception Policy and Fees

1. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR SMOKING ON PREMISES.

2. You must provide all food and beverages.

Fristad workers will provide the following services:

- Make coffee, refill dishes, mix punch and arrange cookie and meat trays. Charge is \$1.00 per plate with a \$100.00 minimum charge. Salads are to be fully prepared. Buns should be buttered and ready for serving.
- The bridal table will be set with church plates at no fee (if requested), however, if church plates are to be used for all guests, a \$50.00 additional fee will be charged.
- If you choose to have the reception fully catered, there is a \$50.00 charge for use of the kitchen. Someone from the church will be present to assist in the kitchen.
- You are responsible for arranging and decorating the tables. Tablecloths are available at no charge for your use. Laundering of the tablecloths after the reception will be done by Fristad.
- You must provide disposable cups and ice for the punch. You are welcome to use the punch bowl from the church kitchen. If you wish to use silver coffee servers, they must be provided by you.
- You are responsible for scheduling friends or family members to serve coffee, punch and cake at the reception.

3. We encourage the bridal couple to cut the first piece of wedding cake prior to serving the meal. The cake then can be easily included when serving the meal.

4. Fristad custodial responsibilities following the reception are:
 - Replacing tables and chairs
 - Disposing of garbage
 - Vacuum and clean floors
 - Insure complete set-up for Sunday worship and/or Sunday School
5. We ask that you please take all remaining food home with you following the reception.
6. Seating capacity of our dining area is 180 guests in one seating; the sanctuary will hold 256 guests comfortably.
7. All arrangements for the reception are to be made with the present chairperson of the Fristad women's group. (Individuals name and telephone number will be provided by Pastor.)
8. Only one wedding and reception will be scheduled on the same day.

WEDDING INFORMATION

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Bride's Name | |
| Groom's Name | |
| Bride's Address | |
| | |
| Bride's Telephone | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Wedding/ Reception | |
| Type of Reception | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Luncheon (\$1.00 per plate - \$100.00 minimum) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Catered (\$50.00 for use of kitchen) Must have someone from Fristad present. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Use of dining room (\$100.00 member/\$300.00 non-member) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Use of church plates in place of disposable plates (\$50.00 - Dishwashing) |
| Anticipated number of people to be served | |

Summary of Fees for Reception

| | | |
|---|----------|--|
| Luncheon | \$1.00 x | |
| Catered/Kitchen | \$50.00 | |
| Dining Room Use - Member | \$100.00 | |
| Dining Room Use - Non-Member | \$300.00 | |
| Custodial Fee (\$100.00 for weddings 6pm or after) | \$60.00 | |
| Dishwashing Fee (For church plate setting - all guests) | \$50.00 | |
| TOTAL COST | | |

Please return to chairperson of Fristad's women's group or leave at church office at least three weeks before reception.