

# Planning Your Wedding at Gethsemane



Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
901 4<sup>th</sup> Street South, Virginia, MN 55792  
218-741-4961

## **OUR MISSION:**

To draw all people to Christ, nurture faith,

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### **Gethsemane Staff Involved with Weddings**

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Brenda Varani, Secretary	<i><a href="mailto:brenda@gelc.info">brenda@gelc.info</a></i>	218-741-4961
Sue Swanson, Organist		218-780-4934
Lance Ness, Custodian		

## First Steps

1. **Contact Us.** As soon as you know that you desire to be married at Gethsemane, call or visit the Church office and talk with Brenda Varani, our parish secretary. Brenda will check on the availability of the church for your tentative date and the availability of the pastor. Brenda will then mail you a copy of this booklet.
2. **Worship Regularly.** Worship is central to the Christian Faith. Christians are called by God to do many things including praying, learning, serving, giving, and inviting but everything is based on a life of worship.

*People who are married in our church are encouraged to worship regularly before, during, and after the wedding service. If you live locally, please worship at Gethsemane, as this will be your place of worship on the joyous day of your wedding and this community would like to support your life together. If you live out of the area, please find a congregation with whom to worship. If you do not have a regular worship life, this is a great time to start!*

3. **Initial Meeting.** Contact Gethsemane's pastor to arrange an initial meeting approximately six months before your wedding. Since weddings are official church services, our pastor officiates at weddings. If you wish another clergy person to assist, please discuss this at the initial meeting with the pastor.

## Premarital Preparation

Our goal is to help couples develop and maintain a strong marriage. Our premarital preparation program is designed to help a couple get their marriage off to a great start. .

Couples usually meet privately with the pastor 3-5 times prior to the wedding, depending on your availability. We will be using a book called **Talk Points**, by Dr. Franklin Nelson. This is an excellent resource that helps to facilitate discussion on a variety of important topics. During the several sessions of premarital preparation, the couple will work on material from the book both at home and together with the pastor.

Our premarital program meets the State of Minnesota requirements for a **reduction of \$70 off the marriage license fee**. This means that each couple completing the program is entitled to pay only \$30.00 for a marriage license rather than \$100.00. (Even more helpful!)

The state requirements include 12 hours of **premarital preparation**, teaching of **communication** and **conflict resolution skills**. A letter will be given you at the end confirming your completion of the process. Please contact the pastor at least 6 months prior to your wedding date to set up your introductory session. You should complete your premarital preparations with the pastor 2-4 weeks prior to your wedding so that you can take this letter to the County Clerk to obtain your marriage license.

You can apply for your marriage license at these area locations:

<b>Virginia Office</b>	307 1 <sup>st</sup> Street South, Virginia, MN 55792
<b>Duluth Office</b>	100 North 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Duluth, MN 55802
<b>Hibbing Office</b>	1810 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue East, Hibbing, MN 55746
<b>Ely Office</b>	118 South 4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue East, Ely, MN 55731

## Price List

### **\$250 Offsite Officiant Fee**

Includes: Honorarium for pastor

### **\$350 Member\* Fee**

Includes: Honorariums for pastor, custodian, organist/pianist

### **\$450 Non-Member Fee**

Includes: Honorariums for pastor, custodian, organist/pianist and a donation to the Gethsemane General Fund

Please pay fee in full to the office or pastor at least one week before the wedding so that honorariums may be prepared for participating staff. If the wedding site is more than 10 miles from the church, travel fees may apply (mileage is calculated at the current federal mileage reimbursement rate).

*\*A "member", according to the Gethsemane Constitution, is any person received into the congregation by baptism or affirmation of baptism who both worships and gives an offering at least once a year.*

## Use of Facilities

Gethsemane has a number of facilities that might be used for your wedding. Our sanctuary has 36 pews that can seat 300 people comfortably and 360 snugly. An additional 40 seats are available in the balcony. The sanctuary has a pipe organ and a grand piano. In addition to the sanctuary, we have a chapel for smaller weddings, a fellowship hall and kitchen for receptions, a nursery, and other rooms for dressing or other uses. We also have a garden area that may be used for pictures and very small weddings.

Because of the diverse ministry of Gethsemane, it is possible that other people will be using the facilities at the same time as your wedding. Room reservations will always be respected. Beyond that, it is assumed that respect and courtesy will resolve any differences of understanding



regarding facility use. In the unlikely event that a funeral service must be scheduled in the sanctuary on a wedding day, the time of the wedding service takes priority over the time of the funeral service, but the funeral service takes priority over picture taking.

- Our building and parking lot are **alcohol-free**.
- Smoking is only permitted outside the building, at least 20 feet away from any entrance.
- We request that you use birdseed or bubbles instead of rice or confetti for exit celebrations. Please distribute these items outside the building only.
- Gethsemane is **not responsible for any lost or stolen articles**. We urge you to place valuables in secured and locked areas. Wedding gifts should be locked in vehicle or kept at another secure location.

Thank you for treating Gethsemane property  
with the respect befitting a House of Prayer.

## The Wedding Worship Service

The wedding service is a worship service of this congregation. Its primary purpose is to honor and glorify God. This underlying assumption guides all considerations of the wedding service.

**Order of Worship:** We use the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* for wedding services. A copy of the ELW is available for you to see. Other orders of worship are also possible. Please talk with the pastor if you desire an order of worship other than the one in the ELW.

**Holy Communion:** The ELW wedding service is designed to fit into a service of Holy Communion. If you would like Holy Communion at your wedding, please talk with the pastor. If Holy Communion is served at a wedding, it must be open to the whole congregation.

**Assisting Ministers:** There are ways to involve other people in the service as lectors (reading the Scripture Lessons), acolytes (lighting the candles), greeters (people who welcome guests and distribute bulletins), and other ways that can be created. Other clergy may be involved in the worship service.

**“Giving Away the Bride”:** The following is excerpted from *The Lutheran Book of Worship: Minister's Desk Edition*: "Because of the nature of the partnership entered upon by the bride and groom, no provision is made for the father giving the bride away. If such an expression is desired, it is appropriate for the parents of each partner to meet the couple as the procession ends and mutually exchange the Peace. Thereafter the bride and the groom may proceed to the altar."

**Audio/Video Recording of the Service:** You may wish to record your wedding. Video recording devices should be set up in the balcony (the street side only) or on the landing behind the pulpit so as not to intrude into the worship service. Video cameras should stay at least ten feet away from the amplification equipment to avoid feedback.

**Bulletins:** Bulletins list the order of worship and the participants. They are optional for your wedding service. Regular size (5.5 X 8.5) and slim line (4 X 9) are available in a variety of designs and can be purchased from stationary stores or church bookstores. The church office has catalogs with sample designs. The cost at these stores for stationary is about \$7-10 per 100 pages.

During a meeting with the pastor, you will work together to plan the worship service and then that order of service can be printed in the bulletin.



**Candles:** Two altar candles and the Christ Candle will be lit for your wedding. You have three additional options:

1. Gethsemane can set up two 7-candle candelabras.
2. Gethsemane can set up 10 pew candles.
3. If you desire a unity candle or

another symbolic act of unity, you will need to supply the candles/materials.

**Aisle Runner:** A white aisle runner can be rented from a florist. The aisle requires a 75 foot aisle runner.

**Ushers:** We recommend two ushers for 100-200 guests, and four ushers for 200-400 guests. Ushers have important responsibilities within the worship service and their selection should be made with care. The duties of the ushers will be reviewed at the wedding rehearsal.

**Personal Attendant:** We require you to select a point person that will work with the pastor to make sure that everyone in the wedding party knows their responsibilities, take care of last minute details and basically be a person “in the know”.

**Decorations:** Balloons, confetti and paper streamers may not be used in the sanctuary. Please do not use any tape or other adhesive on any of the church walls. The church has available for you special clips for pew ends for floral or any other decorations.

## Supporting professionals

**Florist:** We strongly recommend that you schedule a florist early as florists limit their number of wedding orders for each date. Please let the pastor know the name of your florist. Altar bouquets are often left for Sunday worship and acknowledged in the Sunday bulletin.

**Photographer:** Schedule your desired photographer early and discuss your desired poses ahead of time. We ask that the professional photographer be the only one taking pictures during the worship service and that they be inconspicuous (remaining off altar and maintaining a distance of at least 15 feet from the couple during the wedding service). Please make sure your guests know not to take flash photography during the worship service.

**Musicians:** Gethsemane will offer you the services of our church organist/pianist. You may choose other organists, pianists, or musicians for the wedding service. One organist or pianist is included in the unified fee – all other musician honorariums need to be negotiated with those individual musicians/ensembles.

## Rehearsal

The rehearsal gives everyone in the wedding party an opportunity to know what is required of him or her in the service. It is important that all members of the wedding party, parents and grandparents be present and on time. It is also very important that the ushers be at the rehearsal. Their duties constitute a large portion of the rehearsal. If a unity candle is to be used, please bring it with you to the rehearsal. (The rehearsal is also a good time to pay any extra musicians to avoid worries on the wedding day.)

***A reminder that alcohol is not permitted in the church or the parking lot. If any member of the wedding party, including the bride or the groom, are visibly intoxicated, the pastor reserves the right to send that person home.***





## Marriage Vows

Marriage vows are a highlight of the wedding service. You can select from the vows listed here, edit or change them, write your own vows within certain guidelines, or choose vows from other traditions.

1. I take you, \*\*\*\*, to be my wife/husband/partner/spouse 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. (LBW Vows)
2. I, \*\*\*\*, take you, \*\*\*\*, to be my wife/husband/partner/spouse, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better and for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.
3. I take you, \*\*\*\*, to be my wife/husband/partner/spouse; and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect and 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 better to understand ourselves, the world and God; through the best and the worst of what is to come until death parts us.
4. I take you, \*\*\*\*, to be my wife/husband/partner/spouse. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful husband/wife/partner/spouse, 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, and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.
5. \*\*\*\*, I take you to be my wife/husband/partner/spouse 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.
6. 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.

7. I take you, \*\*\*\*, to be my wife/husband/partner/spouse, 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.

[used with permission from *Life Passages: Marriage, Healing, Funeral*. Renewing Worship, Volume 4. Marriage. **Page 15**]

## Scripture Readings

The reading of Scripture is central to the wedding worship service, as it places the union in the context of our lives of faith. Two or three lessons, usually one each from the Old Testament, Epistles, and Gospels, are read. The following are some commonly read suggestions, but you are encouraged to choose Scripture readings that have particular meaning for you.

### Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31	First creation account
Genesis 2:18-24	Second creation account
Joshua 24:14-15	Our household will serve the Lord
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	Everything has its time
Song of Songs 8:6-7	Love is as strong as death
Isaiah 63:7-9	God's mercy remembered
Psalms 33	The greatness and goodness of God
Psalms 100	A psalm of thanksgiving
Psalms 117	Universal call to worship
Psalms 127	God's blessings in the home
Psalms 128	Family is reward for devotion to God
Psalms 150	Praise for God's surpassing greatness

### New Testament (Epistles)

Romans 8:35, 37-39	Inseparable from God's love
Romans 12:1-2, 9-13	New life in Christ
Romans 15:5-6	Live in harmony, glorify God
1 Corinthians 13	The gift of love
Philippians 4:4-9	Rejoice in the Lord
1 Colossians 3:12-17	The Christian life
1 John 4:7-12	God's love

## Gospel Readings

Matthew 19:4-6	Unity in marriage
Matthew 22:34-40	The greatest commandment
Luke 12:22-31	On anxiety
John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana
John 15:9-12	Love one another

## Music at Weddings

Because of different tastes and expectations, the planning of music for your wedding may be confusing.

The key

assumption at Gethsemane is this

principle: **All music**

**selected for the wedding**

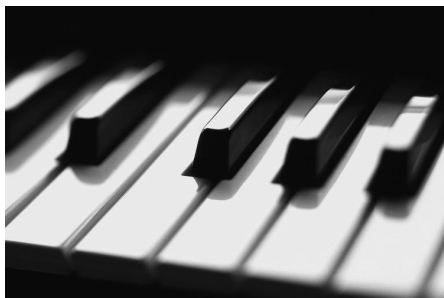
**service must speak of God and**

**God's love.** Songs and

readings that focus solely on

human love are best enjoyed at

the reception.



Gethsemane follows the policy laid out in *The Lutheran Book of Worship: Minister's Desk Edition*:

1. 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 for marriage, and the asking of God's presence and blessing.
2. A number of musical options are possible before the entrance processional: solo, ensemble or choral pieces, organ or other instrumental music, music using a combination of these selections.

# Choosing Music

Our organist would be happy to work with you in selecting music for your wedding. The following is a list of places in the worship service where music is usually played:

**Prelude:** music while guests are seated and waiting for the service to begin, instrumental music is recommended

**Processional:** music for when the wedding party and bride walk down the aisle. More than one processional piece may be chosen.

**General Service Music:** usually one to two hymns or songs during the service. You can choose to have the congregation sing from the red ELW hymnals provided or from the printed bulletin. Consider having at least one hymn sung by the congregation. This encourages the congregation to be involved in the worship experience and helps to keep the marriage service from being a “show” that is observed by the gathered people. Soloists, duets, and special instrumental music are all good choices for times when movement or symbolic acts are happening (see next).

**Symbolic Acts:** If the couple chooses to light a unity candle or participate in another symbolic act of unity or appreciation (sand mixing, building a cross, handing flowers to parents, grandparents), a *brief*, appropriate piece of music should be chosen to accompany the act.

**Recessional:** music for when the wedding party and newly married couple exit the sanctuary

**Postlude:** music played as guests exit the sanctuary

*\*All music must be reviewed with the pastor and participating organist/pianist to make sure it is part of the organist's/pianist's ability and/or repertoire.*

## Music Suggestions

**Hymns:** Congregational singing of hymns is one way to actively involve those gathered in a wedding worship service. Here are a few suggestions from the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)* and the blue *With One Voice (WOV)*.

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"	ELW 547
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"	ELW 631
"Children of the Heavenly Father"	ELW 781
"Now Thank We All Our God"	ELW 839/840
"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"	ELW 836
"I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry"	ELW 732
"Soul Adorn Yourself With Gladness"	ELW 488/489
"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"	ELW 308
"Jesus, Come! For We Invite You"	ELW 312
"Beloved, God's Chosen"	ELW 648
"When Love Is Found"	WOV 749
"As Man and Woman We Were Made"	WOV 751
"Bind Us Together"	WOV 748

### Processionals & Recessionals—Instrumental

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| - Trumpet Voluntary (Purcell)           | - Air in D (Bach)        |
| - Rigaudon (Campra)                     | - Arioso (Bach)          |
| - Canon in D (Pachelbel)                | - Trumpet Tune (Purcell) |
| - Air (Handel)                          | - Doxology (Piet Post)   |
| - Ode to Joy (Beethoven)                | - Allegro (Handel)       |
| - Toccata in F (Widor)                  | - Fanfare in C (Purcell) |
| - Wedding March (Loherin)               |                          |
| - St. Anthony Choral (Brahms-Haydn)     |                          |
| - Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)     |                          |
| - Trumpet Voluntary in C (Handel)       |                          |
| - Now Thank We All Our God (Karg-Elert) |                          |
| - Wedding March (Mendelssohn)           |                          |
| - Hornpipe from "Water Music" (Handel)  |                          |
| - Westminster Abbey Hymn (Purcell)      |                          |

## Vocal Solos

- Lord's Prayer (Malotte)
- Wedding Prayer (Dunlap)
- Wither Thou Goest (Schutz)
- Wedding Hymn (Handel)
- Song of Ruth (Gounod)
- Bridal Prayer (Copeland)
- There is Love (Stookey)
- A Wedding Blessing (Hayes)
- El Shaddai (Thompson)
- Ode to Joy (Beethoven)
- On Eagle's Wings (Jonas)
- O Perfect Love (Barnby)
- Oh, Promise Me (DeKoven)
- Time for Joy (Limpic)
- Bind Us Together Lord (Gillman)
- O Lord Most Holy (Franck)
- As Man and Woman We Were Made (Wren)
- The Greatest of These is Love (Bitgood)
- God, a Woman, and a Man (Green)
- Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Temple)

“There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage.”

- Martin Luther





As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 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. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

- Colossians 3:12-

14