

NOTES:

*Handbook*  
*For*  
*Engaged Couples*

*Planning a Christian*  
*Wedding*

Mindoro and Lewis Valley  
Lutheran Churches ELCA

608-857-3474

**PEOPLE TO CONTACT**

PASTOR:

Rev. Alyssa Mitchell - 605-216-8299

CHURCH OFFICE:

Mona Van Riper - 608-857-3474

Office E-mail - min.lv.elca@gmail.com

ORGANISTS:

Sharon Pfaff - 608-857-3346

Barb Anderson - 608-526-4421

Faith Johnson - 608-488-2177

CUSTODIANS:

Mindoro - Cheri Timm - 608-857-3993

Lewis Valley - Jo Ann Nelson - 608-526-4417

**ADDRESSES**

MAILING FOR BOTH CHURCHES - PO Box 167, Mindoro, WI 54644

PHYSICAL FOR MINDORO - W3879 County Road DE  
Mindoro, WI 54644

PHYSICAL FOR LEWIS VALLEY - W5402 County Road V  
Holmen, WI 54636  
608-526-4709

**READINGS**

*You may consider the following suggestions as you select readings for your wedding, or choose other favorites. You may speak with pastor about choices.*

Psalm 33, 100, 117, 127, 128, 136, 150

Genesis 1:26-31 *Male & female made in God's image*

Genesis 2:18-24 *God creates male & female for each other*

Song of Solomon 2:10-13 *Love is like spring*

Song of Solomon 8:7 *Love is unquenchable*

Isaiah 63:7-9 *God's love for people*

Hosea 2:16-20 *The betrothal of God and Israel*

Romans 12:1-2 *A living sacrifice to God*

I Corinthians 12:31-13:13 *The greatest love*

Ephesians 5:1-2,25-33 *The great mystery of marriage*

Matthew 19:4-6 *The bonding of marriage*

John 2:1-10 *Jesus at a wedding in Cana*

John 15:9-12 *Love one another*

I John 4:7-12 *The love of God*

Revelation 19:1,5-9a *The marriage feast of the lamb*

18. Toccata in the Style of Scarlatti, G. Young, *Organ Solos for the Worship Service and Recital, Shawnee Press, Inc.*
19. Cathedrale Fanfare, G. Young, *Preludes for Worship, Volume II, Fred Bock Music Company*
20. Recessional, G. Young, *Nine Pieces for Organ, Oxford University Press*
21. Paen, G. Young, *Nine Pieces for Organ, Oxford University Press*
22. Trumpet Tune, Antonio Vivaldi, *Baroque Music for Manuals, Volume I, Concordia Publishing Company*
23. Two Trumpet Tunes, Henry Purcell, Trumpet Voluntary in D Major
24. March Pontifical, Charles Gounod, \_\_\_\_\_

**SUGGESTIONS FOR HYMNS IN THE CRANBERRY HYMNAL**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| # 585      | <i>Hear Us Now, Our God and Father</i>  |
| # 533      | <i>Open Now Thy Gate of Beauty</i>      |
| # 839, 840 | <i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>         |
| # 858, 859 | <i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i> |
| # 836      | <i>Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee</i>     |
| # 881      | <i>Let All Things Now Living</i>        |
| # 879      | <i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i>      |

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

You have decided to get married! Marriage is a special relationship unlike any other. The commitment to life-long faithfulness that you will make together will put a sacred boundary around the two of you. It is a boundary that will enable you to work towards a unique and special kind of love and intimacy that can endure life's twists and turns.

As you begin this journey, the Christian Church wishes to join with you in celebration of this deep life transition. The Christian Church also wishes to surround you with prayer and well-wishes as you begin this journey.

The Christian way of life has many resources that you will need in the difficult, frustrating, fulfilling, fearful, joyful days and years ahead. Christ promises to be with you and to give you His strength and grace. Forgiveness will give you the peace that sustains you in this life, and will also sustain your Christian marriage so that each day begins totally new.

It is important, then, that you participate in regular worship and Holy Communion. The benefits of love, forgiveness, healing, and peace are found in the worship of Christ. He promises to be present in the gathered community to meet each one with His grace and love. Jesus' encounters with you will lay a solid foundation for your marriage. As you worship together and pray together, the kind of love and faithfulness that God displays toward you will be nurtured in your relationship together. It is also important that you not neglect your private prayers and reading of Scripture, and also add to that a time for family prayers and devotions.

These are some of the issues that you will be discussing with your pastor in the days ahead. It is expected that during the months of planning you will be faithful in worship, and open to God's leading.

This booklet is to help you with the details of planning the wedding service. It will list some of the items to be considered from a Christian perspective as you move towards your wedding service.

## YOUR WEDDING DATE

**Weddings are arranged through the pastor. Please speak with her before making other arrangements (banquet hall, food, and photography).**

The pastor will expect that this be done whenever possible in person, rather than over the phone, so that the potential bride and groom can be part of all the planning together.

The rehearsal usually takes place the evening before the wedding. Set the date and time of the rehearsal with the pastor when you arrange the date of your wedding. The rehearsal includes the pastor, the wedding party, the parents, the organist, any other musicians, and the ushers. The starting time should take into account work schedules plus meal plans.

It is not the practice of the Church to encourage quick or sudden decisions about a life-long commitment. Therefore a minimum of three months planning time is expected before a wedding date.

**Please remember that the *church* is not a hall, nor a public auditorium, but rather a place of worship dedicated to God. As such, all things which take place in it must be in keeping with the purpose to which it is dedicated.**

## PRELIMINARY PLANS: SUGGESTED PLANNING TIME LINE

### SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING SERVICE:

- Contact the pastor and the church to check their availability.
- Read through the Wedding Guidelines from the church.
- Contact the organist and soloists to schedule the date.
- Contact members in the wedding party: bridesmaids, groomsmen, acolytes, readers, ushers, etc.

### FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING SERVICE:

- Begin Pre-Marital Counseling with the pastor (or approved alternate).
- Meet with the pastor to walk through the wedding service.
- Begin work on your genogram (flowchart of your family).

### TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING SERVICE:

- Discuss wedding vows for the ceremony.

## RECESSIONAL

*Publication source for numbers 1, 2, &5: Wedding Music, Volume II, Augsburg Publishing Company*

1. Prince of Denmark's March, Jeremiah Clarke
2. Hornpipe, G.F. Handel
3. Air, Gordon Young, *Preludes for Worship, Volume I, Fred Bock Music Company*
4. Psalm 19 (also know as Psalm 18), Benedetto Marcello, *several sources*
5. Finale from Concerto #5, G.F. Handel
6. Festival Toccata, Percy E. Fletcher, *H.W. Gray Publishing Company*
7. Baroque Suite, G. Young, *Harold Flammer Publishing Company*
8. Toccata #3, Pachelbel, *Selected Organ Works, Volume I, Belwin Mills Publishing Company*
9. Toccata #5, Pachelbel, *Selected Organ Works, Volume I, Belwin Mills Publishing Company*
10. Toccata #7, Pachelbel, *Selected Organ Works, Volume I, Belwin Mills Publishing Company*
11. Prelude and Fugue in C Major, J.S. Bach, *Eight Little Preludes & Fugues, Schirmer Publications*
12. Prelude and Fugue in D Minor, J.S. Bach, *Eight Little Preludes & Fugues, Schirmer Publications*
13. Prelude and Fugue in F Major, J.S. Bach, *Eight Little Preludes & Fugues, Schirmer Publications*
14. Prelude and Fugue in A Minor, J.S. Bach, *Eight Little Preludes & Fugues, Schirmer Publications*
15. Suite Gothique, Leon Boellmann, *Wedding Music, Volume I, Concordia Publishing Company*
16. Prelude in Classic Style, G. Young, *a single sheet not in a collection*
17. Passacaglia, G. Young, *Organ Solos for the Worship Service and Recital, Shawnee Press, Inc.*

## **PROCESSIONAL**

*Publication source for numbers 1-5: Wedding Music, Volume II, Augsburg Publishing Company*

1. Processional in Eb Major, David N. Johnson
2. Trumpet Tune, Jeremiah Clarke
3. Prince of Denmark's March, Jeremiah Clarke
4. Hornpipe, G.F. Handel
5. O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High, David N. Nelson
6. Aria in F Major with "Air", the wind movement form "Water Music", G.F. Handel, *Wedding Music, Volume I, Concordia Publishing Company*
7. C'ele'bre Canon, Pachelbel, *several sources*
8. Air, Gordon Young, *Preludes for Worship, Volume I, Fred Bock Music Company*
9. Allegro Vivace, the first movement form "Water Music", G.F. Handel, *several sources*
10. Cathedrale Fanfare, G. Young, *Preludes for Worship, Volume II, Fred Bock Music Company*
11. Rigaudon, G. Young, *Preludes for Worship, Volume II, Fred Bock Music Company*
12. Trumpet March, Jeremiah Clarke, *Baroque Music for Manuals, Volume I, Concordia Publishing Company*
13. Arioso (also known as Thanks Be to Thee), G.F. Handel, *several sources*
14. Psalm 19 (also know as Psalm 18), Benedetto Marcello, *several sources*
15. Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, J.S. Bach, *several sources*
16. God of Grace and God of Glory, Paul Manz
17. Two Marches, Marche Nuptiale and Marche Triumphant, Walter Sassmannshausen

- Discuss Bible verses to be read (suggestions on page 15).
- Discuss hymns or special music to be sung.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE WEDDING SERVICE:

- Have bulletin printed.
- Apply for marriage license. Deliver to church office the Monday before a Saturday or Sunday wedding.
- Make sure church has arrival times for flowers, decorators, the wedding party, and when the janitor can clean up.

Follow guidelines for meeting with the pastor.

TO DO:

Set dates with pastor:

Wedding Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Set Pre-marriage pastoral appointments (allow 1 1/2 hours):

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

## **WEDDING MUSIC**

Please keep in mind that the wedding is a service of worship. The music therefore, must be in keeping with the sacred character of the service.

*PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE PASTOR HAS FINAL APPROVAL OF ALL MUSIC.*

It is up to you to contact one of the church organists and arrange for them to play at your wedding. *Select your organist immediately and clear the rehearsal and wedding date early.* You will need to meet with the organist well in advance to select music. If you are using a guest organist, please inform the pastor at the initial meeting.

Be sure to select singers who are capable and will dignify the worship service. We ask that soloists learn and rehearse the music prior to time of the rehearsal. Arrangements should be made for times with the

organist at least one month prior to the wedding.

If you would like to use any hymns, the congregation gathered for your wedding will become an important part of your wedding. See page 14 for suggestions.

Also, please see the listed suggestions on pages 12-14 of this booklet for processional/recessional music. The pastor can also help you select music.

### **WEDDING OFFICIANTS**

It is the usual practice in the ELCA that the pastor of the congregation is the presiding minister at all weddings within the parish. Other pastors may be invited to be a part of the service along with the congregation pastor. You will need to discuss this with the pastor as soon as possible and keep in mind that final decisions about other clergy involvement is up to this congregation's pastor. When thinking about the involvement of other clergy, keep in mind that you will also need to provide visiting clergy with an honorarium and transportation costs.

### **DECORATIONS**

Vases, aisle runners (48-50' long), and additional candelabra are available from your florist. They are an extra expense for you and not a necessary part of the marriage rite... but it is up to you to decide and arrange for these and other extra decorations. Your flowers may be left for the Sunday morning service if you wish. Please let the pastor know if you will be doing this and we will note that in the bulletin for the Sunday after the wedding. Any other decorations must be removed after the service.

Any decorations mounted on pews or other wood should be done in such a manner so as to avoid any damage. ***Do not use tape of any kind.***

The altar and organs are not for flower arrangements. Use the flower stands at each church.

### **ALTAR PARAMENTS**

The cloths on the altar, pulpit, and lectern represent the season of the church year. All weddings take place within the church's liturgical calendar, and the paraments are not changed for weddings. Other

### **MARRIAGE VOWS**

There are other forms which you may want to consider; the Ministers Edition of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship provides these two suggestions:

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.

Or:

In the presence of God and this community, I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, 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.

Other possibilities are:

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.

Or:

\_\_\_\_\_, 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, 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.

Or:

You may wish to write your own promises. They should be consistent with the Biblical understanding of marriage, and also make clear that the promises are a lifelong commitment. The pastor must approve the wording you choose if it is not a form found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship. The same words must be used by each person.

## WEDDING FEE SCHEDULE

**All fees are to be paid no later than the Monday before the wedding.**

Please make individual checks out to each appropriate party: Church Fees and bulletins: Mindoro Lutheran Church or Lewis Valley Lutheran Church; Pastor: Rev. Alyssa Mitchell; Organist: Sharon Pfaff; Custodian at Mindoro: Cheri Timm; Custodian at Lewis Valley: JoAnn Nelson.

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
<b>Pastor<sup>1</sup></b>	\$100.00	\$150.00
<b>Use of Sanctuary<sup>2</sup></b>	\$0.00	\$200.00
<b>Use of Basement/Kitchen<sup>3</sup></b>	\$100.00	\$200.00
<b>Security Deposit<sup>4</sup></b>	\$0.00	\$200.00 (Deposit is refundable.)
<b>Bulletins</b> plus any special paper	\$30.00	\$45.00 plus any special paper
<b>Organist/Accompanist</b>	\$120.00	\$120.00
<b>Vocalist</b>	\$100 suggested; discuss with the vocalist	
<b>Custodian<sup>5</sup></b> plus \$10 if a holiday weekend	\$75.00	\$100.00 plus \$10 if a holiday weekend

<sup>1</sup> for counseling, wedding service planning, rehearsal, and wedding service

<sup>2</sup> for the wedding ceremony (basement may be used to prepare/get dressed)

<sup>3</sup> for the reception/food prep, served

<sup>4</sup> \$200 will be returned to rental party if there is no damage. If damage exceeds the \$200 security deposit, the rental party will be held responsible.

<sup>5</sup> for checking over the church to be sure it is ready for Sunday worship.

General/wedding/reception clean-up is the responsibility of the couple/family. All couples will be billed for any special carpet cleaning needed after the wedding.

worship events or materials may be evident in the sanctuary also; talk with the pastor before moving or changing any. If you wish to know the color of the altar hangings in advance, simply ask the pastor.

## SEATING

Mindoro can seat just under 200, if chairs are put next to the walls at the end of each row and the balcony is filled. A few more chairs can be set up in the overflow area at the back landing. A more comfortable seating goal is about 180 or less.

Lewis Valley can seat up to 270 when side chairs are filled and a few more chairs are set up on the north side.

## BULLETINS

The pastor will furnish an order of service after you have met to plan the service. You may include Holy Communion in your wedding worship service.

Bulletins may be purchased at a Christian bookstore, Augsburg-Fortress Publishing House, Miller Quik Print, La Crosse Church Supplies, etc. Check delivery time when you order. Please bring a sample of your bulletin to the office before you place an order.

If you wish, the church will print your wedding bulletins. If you are having the church type and print your bulletins, you need to call the church office ahead of time to let them know and then have the information to the office no later than two weeks before the service. There is a charge of \$30 for members and \$45 for non-members for this service.

## PICTURES AND VIDEOS

Because this is a special day, you will probably have pictures taken of the service. Usually, photographers prefer to take formal shots before the service and that is fine. Pictures during the service, after the processional and before the recessional, are requested to be done without using a flash. Professional photographers are asked to remain at the back of the sanctuary. This is to avoid distractions from the worship setting.

The more pictures you take before the service, the easier time you will

have making the day flow more smoothly. With pictures done before hand, you can concentrate on you guests who have come to celebrate with you.

Many couples also have their wedding video-recorded. This is fine, as long as it is understood that the person taping may not walk around the sanctuary during the service. Taping may be done from the balcony at Mindoro and the side aisle or rear at Lewis Valley. A tripod may be set up to hold the recorder during the service. *NO recording or photographing will be done in the front altar area.*

#### **SERVING OF ALCOHOL/SMOKING**

While wine has been a symbol of joy and celebration through the ages, it is policy of this parish that alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the church premises except for sacramental purposes (Holy Communion).

In order to assure a good day for all, we ask that the wedding party not drink alcohol before arriving at the church for the ceremony or rehearsal. This shows respect for the couple and their day. *Alcohol is not permitted on the church property (including the parking areas) before or after the wedding.*

*There is no smoking in the church building or in areas adjacent to the doors and windows.*

#### **MORE RULES/REGULATIONS**

Please do not prop any church door open at any time. Temperatures are automatically regulated. If you would like the building to be cooler or warmer, let pastor or custodian know.

If you wish to hand out any items for use at your exit, please do so *after* the worship. Rice, confetti, bird seed, flower petals, or silly string are not allowed. (Please inform family and wedding party.) Bubbles may be used outside the building.

#### **YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE**

It is recommended that the application for a marriage license be made between 10 and 20 days before the ceremony. Wisconsin residents apply in the county they live in and may marry anywhere in the state. *If you are from out of state, you need to get the license from the county you are getting married in.*

The following information is given for your convenience, but you should contact the La Crosse County Clerk at 608-785-9581 or online to double check for any changed policies so that you have everything you need when you go to the courthouse:

The wedding license is good for 30 days after a five day waiting period. The present fee for a marriage license is \$90 cash (no checks or credit cards are accepted). You should bring a certified copy of your birth certificates along with you to the County Clerk at the time of application. You will also need to bring proof of residency - your driver's license or a piece of canceled mail with your name and address on it. If you have been married before, you must bring a copy of your final divorce judgment (and have been divorced for at least six months) or a certified death certificate if your former spouse died. If you are between the ages of 16 and 18, you must have your parents' or guardian's written consent.

Witnesses who will be signing the marriage certificate must be at least 18 years of age. **The marriage license should be brought to the church office no later than the Monday prior to the wedding rehearsal.**

Immediately following the recessional the couple and their witnesses need to sign the marriage license. This must be done before pictures or anything else!