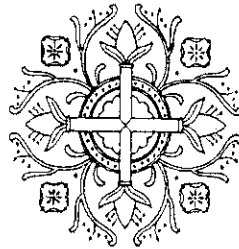


Your Wedding



Lebanon Evangelical Lutheran Church

1101 S. Mears Avenue
Whitehall, Michigan 49461
(231) 893-5745
Pastor Douglas M. Ogden

Congratulations

On your upcoming wedding!

Weddings have become complicated and, sometimes, expensive affairs in recent years, and we at Lebanon would like to help guide you through yours. First, a word about being married in a church.

Most secular weddings are like theater, but church weddings are more than that - they are worship services. Christian marriages are sustained by regular participation in a worshiping congregation. In a church wedding, your guests are a congregation of Jesus Christ. Secular weddings performed by a judge have no such expectation. That is the difference.

Through the Word of God and by prayer, you are setting apart your new home as one intended to be Christian.

If you are planning on attending another church once you are married, that church's pastor should be consulted immediately. Some preliminary decisions need to be made now.

1. Date

Check the intended date of your wedding with the Pastor before doing anything else, to avoid conflicts with the church schedule. Rehearsals are normally held the evening before the wedding, and last one hour. Everyone involved should be present. Schedule for all the time you wish to use the church, including decorating, arriving early, and use of the kitchen. **NO alcohol is permitted on the church premises

2. Consultation with the Pastor

The Pastor will meet with you at least three times, and as early as possible before the wedding.

3. Music

The Church can provide musicians who can guide you in the mysteries of Church music. Taped music and secular (pop) music are rarely used in worship, but are appropriate for a reception. Music is normally done as the party comes in, goes out, and sometimes a hymn is sung during the service. Special music might also be needed during a pause, such as lighting a unity candle.

4. Flowers

Flowers are not necessary, but, depending on how much you want to spend, arrangements and choices are up to you. We ask that you keep these guidelines in mind:

1. Nothing is to be placed on the altar, piano or organ.
2. No plastic flowers should be used in the sanctuary.
Silk and dried flowers look fine.
3. Ribbon bows may be used, ; nothing sticky may be used; no thumbtacks, nails, or pins will be permitted.
4. The church has candelabra for the aisle, if you make arrangements for them. No other candelabra are permitted. **You will need to provide 8 AA batteries.**
5. If flowers are to be delivered, you need to make sure the florist can get in. Several local florists already have keys, but please verify with them.

5. Photographs

As your wedding is a worship service, discourage guests from taking pictures during the ceremony. Your designated photographer can take pictures of the bride and groom coming down the aisle before & after the ceremony. Posed pictures in the church can be taken before and after the ceremony. Remember that guests appreciate not being kept waiting.

6. Rice

No rice or confetti, please. Bird seed may be thrown outside, if desired. Bubbles may be blown outside only.

7. Reception

Our lounge area or upstairs hall are available for receptions. **NO ALCOHOL IS PERMITTED IN THE CHURCH FACILITY**

8. Fees and License

Many members and non-members want to be married in Lebanon Lutheran Church. It is only fair that certain fees be charged for its facilities and for professional time. **All fees are due at the rehearsal.** The license will be signed at the rehearsal as well.

	Members	Non-members	Small, Private
Pastor	_____	\$200.00	\$100.00
Sanctuary		\$250.00	
Lounge		\$100.00	
Kitchen		\$100.00	
Upper Hall		\$100.00	
Basement		\$100.00	
Damages/Cleaning Deposit	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00

9. Hymns

These hymn numbers (following page) are taken from the Lutheran Book of Worship, the cranberry book in our church, & With One Voice, the blue book.

Opening Hymns or Processionals

ELW - Cranberry

- 883 "All People who on Earth Do Dwell"
- 631 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
- 502 "The King Of Love My Shepherd Is"
- 835 "All Creatures Of Our God And King"
- 842 "Oh Worship The King"

With One Voice - Blue

- 748 "Bind Us Together"
- 749 "When Love Is Found"
- 751 "As Man & Woman We Were Made"

Gather

- 631 "God, In the Planning"

Closing Hymns or Recessionals

ELW - Cranberry

- 545 "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessings"
- 537 "On Our Way Rejoicing"
- 839 "Now Thank We All Our God"
- 414 "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"
- 836 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"
- 867 "In Thee Is Gladness"
- 881 "Let all Things Now Living"

Bible readings help us understand marriage in the context of God's love.

Genesis	1:26-31	Male and female in God's image
Genesis	2:18-24	God creates male and female for each other
Song of Solomon	2:10-13	Love like the Springtime
Song of Solomon	8:7	Unquenchable Love
Isaiah	63:7-9	God's love for his people
Romans	12:1-2	A living sacrifice to God
1 Corinthians	12:31-13:13	Paul's hymn to love
Ephesians	5:21-33	Marriage reflects Christ's love
Matthew	19:4-6	They shall be one flesh
John	2:1-10	Jesus at the wedding in Cana
John	15:9-12	Love one another

Psalms are helpful for the congregation to read together, and also as readings from the Bible.

Psalms	33	A joyful song to the creator
Psalms	100	Praise to God, Creator and Shepherd
Psalms	117	A worldwide call to praise God
Psalms	127	Success depends upon God's blessings
Psalms	128	The blessings of the home
Psalms	136	A recitation of praises
Psalms	150	A grand word of God's glory

The Wedding Service

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, faithfulness.

Marriage is also a human estate, with vows publicly witnessed. The church in worship surrounds these promises with the gathering of God's people, the witness of the word of God, and prayers of blessing and intercession.

Gathering

Entrance (P = Pastor)

(The assembly minister and the assembly greet each other.)

P : The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Introduction

P: We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of _____ and _____ and surround them with our prayers, and to share in their joy.

The scriptures teach us that the bond and covenant of marriage is of God, and a holy mystery in which two become one flesh, an image of the Union of Christ and the church. And give themselves to each other today, we remember that at Cana in Galilee our Lord Jesus Christ made the wedding feast a sign of God's reign of love.

Let us enter into this celebration confident that, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now also; we pray that this couple may fulfill God's purpose for the whole of their lives.

On behalf of the parents of _____ + _____
Do you give your blessing?

"We Do".

Declaration of Intention **Couple**

_____ + _____, living in the promise of God, joined to Christ in your baptism, are you ready to give yourself to each other in love and sincerity? Will you promise to love and honor him/her in true devotion, to rejoice with him/her in times of gladness, to grieve with him/her in times of sorrow, and to be faithful to him/her as long as you both shall live?

"I will"

The minister say to the assembly:

To you, the families, friends, and all those gathered here with _____
+ _____, will you promise to support and care for them in their
life together, to sustain and pray for them in times of trouble, to give
thanks with them in times of joy, to honor the bonds of their covenant,
and to affirm the love of God reflected in their lives?

“We will”

***When pastorally appropriate, one or both of these questions
may be used when children are brought into the family of
those to be married. The minister may ask the couple:***

_____ + _____ will you be faithful and loving parents
to _____?

“ We will with the help of God”

Prayer of the Day

***The Presiding minister leads the following or another prayer of the
day.***

Let us pray. Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world
to reveal your love to all people. Enrich _____ + _____ with every
good gift, that their life together may show forth your love, and grant that
at the last we may all celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no
end; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Readings

The assembly is seated. Two or three scripture readings are proclaimed. When the service includes communion, the last is a reading from the gospels. Responses may include a psalm in response to a reading from the Old Testament, a sung acclamation preceding the reading of the gospel, or other appropriate hymns, songs, and psalms.

Sermon

A hymn of the day may be sung.

Vows

P: Beloved people of God, we have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the covenant of love and fidelity _____ and _____ are to make with each other.

The union of two persons in heart, body and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity, and that their love may be a blessing to all whom they encounter. This solemn covenant is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and with the commitment to seek God's will for their lives.

Scripture has much to teach us.

or

Beloved of God:

The union of a man and a woman in Christian marriage is brought about by God to complete us, to fulfill us, and to release us into the uncertainties ahead, with hopefulness in good times and in bad.

Marriage also makes you sensitive to the needs of others, so that you may give yourselves freely and that all of us may respond joyfully to the love God has for us, which is made visible in you.

It is Christ Jesus working through you that draws us into an assembly today that is holy, to wish you well, to promise our faithfulness to you, and to let flow like a river our joy that reflects the joy God has in your promises of faithfulness that you make today.

And thus we have come full circle into the baptismal foundations of your life as it began.

P: _____ & _____ it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all the years will bring, with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

Vows

The couple may join hands. Each promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words.

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

The Man shall take the right hand of the Woman and say after the Minister:

I, N., take you, N., to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death you do part, according to God's holy ordinance.

Then shall the Woman, in like manner, say after the Minister:

I, N., take you, N., to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death you do part, according to God's holy ordinance.

Or

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.

Or

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

Or

I take you, (name) 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

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

(Name) I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow.
With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

NUPTIAL BLESSING

The couple may kneel as the presiding minister prays for God's blessing:

A

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for in your great love you created us and all living things made the union of husband and wife an image of the covenant between you and your people. You sent Jesus Christ to come among us, making your love visible in him, to bring new life to the world.

Send your Holy Spirit to pour out the abundance of your blessing on _____ and _____ who have this day given themselves to each other in marriage.

Bless them in their work and in their companionship;
in their sleeping and in their waking;
In their sorrows and in their joys;
in their death and in their life.
Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts,
A mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads.

Bless them so that all may see in their lives together
Within the community of your people
A vision of your kingdom on earth.
And finally, in the fullness of time,
Welcome them into the glory of your presence.

Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast forever in your heavenly home, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Parents or others may speak additional words of blessing and encouragement at this time.

INTERCESSIONS

B

On this day of rejoicing,
let us bless God for divine love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

We praise you, O God,
for the joy that _____ and _____ have found in each other
and pray that the strength of their love
may reflect your gracious love and enrich their life together.
Gracious and tender God,
Hear our prayer.

From your great store of strength give them power and patience,
affection and understanding, courage,
and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world.
Gracious and tender God,
Hear our prayer.

Make them gentle and patient, ready to trust each other,
and, when they fail, willing to acknowledge their fault
and to give and receive forgiveness.
Gracious and tender God,
Hear our prayer.

Use us to support _____ and _____ in their lives together.
Give us such a sense of your constant love
That we may use all our strength in a life of praise of you.
Gracious and tender God,
Hear our prayer.

Strengthen and bless friends and family gathered here,
call to mind those separated by distance,
console those who mourn the loss of loved ones,
and be present with those for whom love is a stranger.
Gracious and tender God,
Hear our prayer.

Look graciously on the world you have made
and for which your Son gave his life.
Defend and guide all who suffer want or anxiety.
Gracious and tender God,
Hear our prayer.

For all communities everywhere;
for our nation, for all those who govern and for all in authority,
and for justice and peace throughout the world.
Gracious and tender God,
Hear our prayer.

For those we love easily, and for those with whom we struggle,
for those different from us and for those familiar to us,
that we might be instruments of God's peace.
Gracious and tender God,
Hear our prayer.

For those who suffer in any way, and those who are lonely,
for the sick, the dying, and those who are bereaved,
for those who are poor, hungry, homeless, or unemployed,
for the victims of violence, hatred, and intolerance.
Gracious and tender God,
Hear our prayer.

Creator of all,
you make us in your image and likeness and fill us with everlasting life.
Hear the prayers of your people and grant to _____ and
_____ the grace to live in unity and joy all the days of their lives.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, to whom, with you,
one God, be praise forever and ever.
Hear our prayer.

We praise you, merciful God, for the saints,
those who have died in Christ (especially _____).
Strengthen us by their example and bring us all to the marriage feast of
the Lamb. Gracious and tender God,
Hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

Most gracious God, you have made us in your image and given us over
to one another's care. Hear the prayers of your people, that unity may
overcome division, hope vanquish despair, and joy conquer sorrow,
through our gracious and tender Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those
Who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. **Amen**

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by they name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory
forever and ever. **Amen**

Blessing

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing in these or similar words.

God almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; and the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.
Amen.

ACCLAMATION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

_____ and _____, by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have joined themselves to another as husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Wedding/Engagement Announcement Policies as of 2/14/2014

**WHITE LAKE BEACON, 432 E. Spring Street, Whitehall, MI 49461
(231) 894-5356 or mindy@whitelakebeacon.com**

- There is a 1:00pm deadline on Thursday for getting information or photos for each week's publication.
- There is a \$15.00 fee for articles announcing an engagement or wedding.
- The Beacon charges \$15.00 for photos that accompany engagement or wedding stories.
- *Copyrighted photos cannot be printed without first obtaining a release notice from the photographer. Olan Mills does charge a fee for the release.
- The Beacon will accept photos and stories for both engagement and wedding.

**THE MUSKEGON CHRONICLE, 981 Third Street, P.O. Box 59,
Muskegon, MI 49443 (231) 722-3161**

- The Chronicle asks for wedding stories no later than 11 days prior to the wedding. Anything received after 12 weeks will be printed, but without the date of the wedding. Instead, the announcement will say the couple was married "recently".
- There is no charge for article or pictures run for engagements or weddings.
- The Chronicle prefers black and white, professional photos with a light background. Subjects' heads should be at least 1 inch in diameter. Photos will be returned if bride and groom put return address on the back.
- go to mlivemediagroup.com—contact us. Chose Muskegon Chronicle on menu, then choose place a celebrations ad. Follow instructions to submit online. You will need to create an on-line account to submit your form and photos online.

Both papers provide "paper" forms for the couple to fill out as well if desired.

To obtain a marriage license in Muskegon County, Michigan:
Call 231-724-6221 and follow the instructions, or on-line at
www.co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk/marriageinfo

Men and women 18 years or older do not need parental consent. Anyone 16 or 17 must have consent of one parent or guardian, who must appear at the time of application.

Application may be made 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday thru Friday at the County Clerk's office, 2nd floor of the Muskegon County building, south complex at 141 E. Apple Avenue. You may apply online at the web address listed above.

Only one party need appear for application, and provide:

Certified birth certificates or Driver's licenses

Full name of male, maiden name of female

City and State of birth of each parent

Social Security numbers for bride and groom

If previously married, you must present a judgment of divorce or a death certificate.

There is a \$20.00 fee for state residents, \$30 for out-of-state residents in the form of cash or money order made out to "Muskegon County".

Call the Clerk's office for an out-of-state marriage packet (231-724-6221) to be mailed to you.

There is a three-day waiting period. You may pick up the license three days after the date of application. The license is valid for 33 days.

There is no requirement for health counseling or a blood test.

What goes in a wedding bulletin

It is not necessary to list the whole order of service. What people need is:

- * The names of your wedding participants.
- * Your new names & addresses.
- * Thank - you's
- * Directions and times to reception
- * The Lord's Prayer.

Date for 1st pre-marital Conversations: _____

Date for 2nd pre-marital Conversations: _____

Date for 3rd pre-marital Conversations: _____