

Wedding Guide

1208 Race Street

Cincinnati Ohio 45202 (513)421-0065

firstlutherancincy@gmail.com



First Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

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This guide and wedding contract is available on our website

www.firstlutherancincy.org

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY?



For human beings, faithfulness and love need not go together. In God the two are joined, and it is in his steadfast love that we seek to root our covenant of fidelity as well as our emotions of love. In the flux of experience, one thing holds true ~ the vows of fidelity grounded in the love of God which abides forever.

Thus it is not the minister who performs the marriage but the wedding couple. Both church and state have an interest in marriage, and marriage is done in the presence of a representative of one or the other. But the marriage is concluded by the two partners. The couple marry each other, and the minister is the principal witness to their action. If the marriage is at its heart basically an exchange of vows of faithfulness and commitment, this is something that the minister cannot do for someone else. Nonetheless, the couple is not left on their own to fulfill the promises, for God's blessing and support are asked.

Frequently Asked Questions

~ Do I have to be a member of First?

No, you do not have to be a member. We are excited that you want to celebrate your marriage in a Sacred Space!

~ Does First Lutheran's minister have to officiate the ceremony?

If you do not have an officiant First Lutheran's minister is more than happy to officiate your ceremony. If you have a personal connection with someone who is a licensed officiant they are most certainly welcome and encouraged to lead your ceremony and continue to build their relationship with you.

~ Does First Lutheran have a musician who can play for our wedding?

First Lutheran has a musician who can play for your ceremony. You are also welcome to invite in your own musicians. We have a piano and organ that are available for use. We also have connections with many musicians, such as brass and string instrumentalists.

~ Does First Lutheran allow same gender weddings?

Yes, we do. All people are welcome to be married at First Lutheran.

~ Is there parking at First?

First Lutheran does not have parking. Washington Park Garage and several surface lots provide off street parking within a two blocks. Metered street parking is also available. The Washington Park Streetcar Platform is directly in front of the church and provides another transportation option. Rideshare services can easily drop off and pick up guests in front of First's main entrance on Race Street.

~ Is First Lutheran Handicap Accessible?

First Lutheran is not handicap accessible. We do have a stair glide which provides service to the main level. Wedding guests need to be able to climb two steps and transfer into the glide chair.

~ Is there place for the bridal party to get ready on the wedding day?

First Lutheran has a bridal suite on the Lower Level. There are rooms available for Groomsmen to dress if needed.

Wedding Fees

MEMBER OF FIRST LUTHERAN:

Facility No fee. \$100.00 deposit refunded wedding day.

Facility Host: \$25/hr. First Lutheran will provide a person to act as on-site property manager during any period of time occupied by any member of or associated with the wedding party, including flower deliveries, decorating, photographer etc.

Musician Fee: Fee negotiated directly with and paid directly to musicians. First Lutheran can provide contact information for musicians if needed.

Rental of Gallery or Lower Level for Rehearsal Dinner or Reception: \$50, includes set up and cleanup. (Note that the Lower Level, including kitchen, is not available Friday evenings 4:30-7:30)

Sanctuary votive candles: \$25 (approximately 30)

NON- MEMBER OF FIRST LUTHERAN:

Facility \$1,000.00 (\$500 deposit due when reservation is made)

Facility Host: \$25/hour. First Lutheran to provide a person to act as on-site property manager during any period of time occupied by any member of or associated with the wedding party, including flower deliveries, decorating, etc.

Officiant: \$400.00 if First Lutheran's Pastor officiates wedding. This is payable to First Lutheran

Musician Fee: Fee negotiated directly with and paid directly to musician. First Lutheran can provide contact information for musician if needed.

Rental of Gallery or Lower Level for Rehearsal Dinner or Reception: \$150, includes set up and cleanup. (Note that the Lower Level, including kitchen, is not available Friday evenings 4:30-7:30)

Sanctuary votive candles: \$25 (approximately 30)

***** Facility deposit fee is due on the date the reservation is made and will be refundable up to 6 months before the wedding date. Please visit firstlutherancincy.org for additional wedding details.***

Typical Wedding Ceremony

(Approximately 30 minutes)

Prelude

Processional

Greeting & Prayer

Scripture Readings

Questions of Intent

Message by Officiant

Marriage Vows

Exchange of Rings

Unity Candle

Greeting of the Parents

Blessing of the Couple

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Kiss

Introduction of the Couple

Recessional

The Wedding Party

Parent[s]:

Parent[s]:

Witnesses

[Maid/Matron of Honor/Best Man:

Attendants:

Groomsmen:

Ushers:

Ring Bearer:

Flower Girl:

Readers & Readings

Soloist[s]:

Pianist/Organist:

Instrumentalist[s]

Other:

Hymns:

Need Ideas for a Hymn?

Hymns are taken out of the Red ELW Hymnal which is located in First's pew racks.

- *"We Praise You, O God"* Hymn 870
- *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"* Hymn 858
- *"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"* Hymn 414
- *"Love Divine, All Love Excelling"* Hymn 631
- *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"* Hymn 502
- *"On What Has Now Been Sown"* Hymn 550
- *"Now Thank We All Our God"* Hymn 840
- *"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"* Hymn 836
- *"Let All Things Now Living"* Hymn 881
- *"Earth and All Stars"* Hymn 731
- *"O God Beyond all Praising"* Hymn 880
- *"Boring Cry"* Hymn 732
- *"On Eagle's Wings"* Hymn 787

Possible Scripture Readings

- **Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67** (*Marriage of Isaac & Rebekah*)
- **Ruth 1:16-17** (*Do not press me to leave you*)
- **Song of Solomon 2:10-13** (*Love in the Spring*)
- **Song of Solomon 5:16** (*What my lover is like*)
- **Song of Solomon 8:7** (*Unquenchable love*)
- **Isaiah 61: 10- 11** (*I will greatly rejoice in the Lord*)
- **Isaiah 63: 7-9** (*The steadfast love of God*)
- **Jeremiah 32:38-41** (*God's faithfulness*)
- **Jeremiah 33:11** (*The voice ...of gladness*)
- **Psalms: 29,33,34,63,100,117,127,128,136,150**
- **Hosea 2:19-20** (*And I will take you for my wife forever*)
- **Romans 12:1-2** (*A living offering*)
- **1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13** (*The song of God's love*)
- **Colossians 3:12-17** (*Live in love and thanksgiving*)
- **Philippians 2:5-11** (*Attitudes to build a marriage*)
- **I John 3:16; 4:7-19** (*Teaching on love*)
- **Matthew 19:4-6** (*Faithfulness in marriage*)
- **John 2:1-10** (*The Wedding at Cana*)
- **John 15:9-12** (*Love one another*)
- **John 17:22-23** (*Christ's prayer for love and unity*)

Sample Marriage Vows

You may wish to use one of the following examples or you may choose to write vows of your own.

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 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 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 worst of what is to come until death parts us.

3. 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.

4. _____, 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.

