

Wedding Guide

1208 Race Street

Cincinnati Ohio 45202

(513)421-0065

firstlutherancincy@gmail.com



First Lutheran Church ELCA

Revised August, 2023

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 God's 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 our sacred space.

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

If you do not have an officiant First Lutheran's pastor 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 your own musicians. We have a piano that is 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 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.

~ Are there places for the wedding parties to get ready on the wedding day?

First Lutheran has a wedding party suite on the lower level (connected to the women's restroom) and a wedding party dressing room on the main level (in proximity to an all-gender restroom).

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: FLC's Worship Arts Director is available to provide music. If you have additional instrumental needs a list of musicians can be provided for you. Fees negotiated with and paid directly to musicians.

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 \$1,500.00 (\$750 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: \$500.00 if First Lutheran's Pastor officiates wedding. This is payable to First Lutheran

Musician Fee: FLC's Worship Arts Director is available to provide music for \$250 for the wedding and an additional \$150 for the rehearsal. If you have additional instrumental needs a list of musicians can be provided for you. Fees negotiated with and paid directly to musicians.

Rental of Gallery or Lower Level for Rehearsal Dinner or

Reception: \$250, 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 see the Wedding Contract for additional details.

Typical Lutheran Wedding Ceremony

(Approximately 30 minutes)

Prelude

Processional

Greeting & Introduction

Declaration of Intent

Prayer of the Day

Scripture Readings

Message by Pastor

Marriage Vows

Exchange of Rings

Acclamation

The Kiss

Blessing of the Couple

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

Blessing and Dismissal

Introduction of the Couple

Recessional

The Wedding Party

Parent[s]:

Parent[s]:

Witnesses (to sign the wedding license):

Attendants for spouse 1:

Attendants for spouse 2:

Ushers:

Ring Bearer:

Readers & Readings

Pianist:

Musicians:

Other:

Hymns:

Appropriate Hymns for Weddings

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

- 308 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!
- 312 Jesus, Come! For We Invite You
- 436 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
- 460 Now the Silence
- 488, 489 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
- 585 Hear Us Now, Our God and Father
- 586 This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited
- 631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- 642 Ubi caritas et amor
- 644 Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue
- 648 Beloved, God's Chosen
- 816 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
- 836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
- 839, 840 Now Thank We All Our God
- 879 For the Beauty of the Earth
- 881 Let All Things Now Living

Appropriate Bible readings for Weddings

Old Testament

- Genesis 1:26-28 *Woman and man created in God's image*
- Genesis 2:18-24 *Companionship rather than loneliness*
- Proverbs 3:3-6 *Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart*
- Song of Solomon 2:10-13 *The voice of the beloved*
- Song of Solomon 8:6-7 *Many waters cannot quench love*
- Isaiah 63:7-9 *God's steadfast love lifts up the people*
- Jeremiah 31:31-34 *The new covenant of the people of God*

Old Testament Psalms

- Psalm 67 *May God be merciful to us and bless us*
- Psalm 100 *We are God's people*
- Psalm 117: *The steadfast love of the LORD*
- Psalm 121 *The LORD keeps watch over you*
- Psalm 127 *Unless the LORD builds the house*
- Psalm 128 *Happy are they who follow in God's ways*
- Psalm 150 *Let everything that has breath praise the LORD*

New Testament Epistles

- Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 *If God is for us, who is against us?*
- Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 *A living sacrifice and genuine love*
- 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13 *The greatest gift is love*
- Ephesians 3:14-19 *The greatness of Christ's love*
- Ephesians 5:1-2 *Live in love, as Christ loved us*
- Philippians 4:4-9 *Rejoice in the Lord always*
- Colossians 3:12-17 *Clothed in gifts of God*
- 1 John 3:18-24 *Let us love in truth and action*
- 1 John 4:7-16 *Let us love one another, for love is of God*

New Testament Gospels

- Matthew 5:1-10 The Beatitudes
- Matthew 5:14-16 You are the light, let your light shine
- Matthew 7:24-27 Build on the rock
- Matthew 19:3-6 What God has united must not be divided
- Matthew 22:35-40 Love, the greatest commandment
- Mark 10:6-9 They are no longer two but one
- John 2:1-11 The wedding at Cana
- John 15:9-17 Love one another as I have loved you

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 spouse/partner/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 spouse/partner/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 spouse/partner/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 spouse/partner/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.

