



*We wish your wedding to be a
memorable and joyful event,
filled with God's blessings
and the blessing of
family and friends.
God Bless you in
this new beginning.*

The Pastors and Staff of St. Matthew's

Congratulations . . . We Rejoice with You

Since you are about to make one of the most important decisions of your life, we say with shared excitement and joy, “Congratulations!” Because it is such an important step, we, as representatives of the believing Christian community, want to help with your preparations and plans. This means that we will require certain things from you. Most important of all is that we get to know who you are so that the celebration of your marriage can be as meaningful as we can make it. You will meet with one of our pastors for conversation and planning. Together we will shape a service that reflects your needs as well as the Christian context in which it takes place. Careful consideration will be given to selections of music, scripture, readings, vows and other components of the worship time together. We want to assist you in this new beginning!

Meeting with the Pastor

In selecting a date, call the church office to check the availability of the church sanctuary. The first party to select a particular date has the first preference for time of the service. Please note that no weddings will be scheduled for Holy Week, the week before Easter each year.

You must meet with one of the pastors to confirm the wedding date. You will meet again with the pastor two months prior to the wedding to discuss some matters as to your relationship, faith, expectations, and feelings about marriage.

During the session with the pastor, you will also discuss the plans for the wedding, the service of worship, the fees and expectations. The pastor will work closely with members to facilitate wedding plans. Participation in weddings of non-members is at the discretion of the pastors.

Pastors reserve the right to cancel or postpone a wedding if they feel the couple to be married is not ready.

Wedding To-Do Lists and Schedules

6 months before the Wedding date:

Arrange a time to come to church and take the Pre-Marriage Inventory Exam. It takes approximately 1 hour to complete. There is a \$35 cost to have it scored, and it takes two weeks to be scored and returned to us. Please make check payable to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church; online payments available in some cases.

5 months before the Wedding date:

After the results of the Pre-Marriage Inventory are returned to St. Matthew's, schedule a time to meet with Lee Beitzel who is acting as St. Matthew's Pre-Marriage Counselor. He can be reached at (414) 899-9947. He meets with you for about an hour. The cost is \$100 for his time, paid directly to him.

3 months before the Wedding date:

Schedule an appointment to meet with John Paradowski, our organist, unless other musical arrangements have been approved by the pastor. He can be reached at St. Matthew's at (414) 774-0441 or at JRPmuzik@sbcglobal.net. Please come to this meeting prepared to share what music you would like to have in your ceremony. Please listen to the organ wedding music selections found on our website or our Soundcloud site prior to this meeting. See Music Selection pages further in this booklet to help with this planning.

2 months before the Wedding date:

Schedule a time to meet with the pastor performing the ceremony. This meeting should be scheduled during normal business hours of 9:00am –5:00pm according to pastors' availability. This is a 60-minute session where the details of the wedding service will be discussed.

2 weeks before the Wedding date:

Give the pastor a copy of the Wedding Bulletin for a final review and approval. This can be dropped in the church office or e-mailed to office@stmattslutheran.org.

Usually the Evening before the Wedding date:

Have a Wedding Rehearsal with family and friends led by the pastor. The couple may meet privately with the Pastor thirty minutes before the rehearsal in order to go over details one more time. The typical rehearsal lasts about one hour.

The Wedding Service of Worship

For most services the wedding service structure in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) on page 286 is followed. From there we can expand on the service. The wedding worship service involves the whole congregation, who will also promise to support you. Together we ask God's blessings, not just on your wedding, but also throughout your life together, that you would share in God's goodness and love. It is a celebration with God and the gathered Christian community.

The dignity of the sanctuary and the religious significance of the service should be reflected in the music used. We are open to adding appropriate parts to the service that are especially meaningful to the couple and the gathered people in the context of the worship service.

We are also open to couples writing portions of the service and liturgy and for the family and friends to participate in reading lessons, poems or making statements. This is a helpful way to involve family in your wedding. Please, look for ways to involve family members, including carrying out family traditions, a family blessing, parents reading the lessons, presentation of flowers to parents, etc.

Many suggestions for the service can be discussed when meeting with the pastor. This includes the entrance of the wedding party, lighting a unity candle, where to receive people, and special ways to involve the congregation.

To offer assistance in your planning, a general wedding order of service can be seen on the following pages. Please note that this is to serve as a guideline, and that there are many ways to alter this order of service to personalize it for you and your wedding party.

Possible Wedding Scripture Passages

Colossians 3:12-17
1 Corinthians 13
Ecclesiastes 3:1-9a
Jeremiah 31:31-34
1 John 4:7-16
John 2:1-11
John 4:7-16
John 15:9-12
Luke 24:13-32
Luke 6:37-38

Mark 12:28-31
Matthew 5:1-10
Matthew 7:24-27
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39
Romans 12:9-12
Ruth 1:12-18
Song of Solomon 8:6-7
Song of Solomon 2:10-13
Song of Songs 2:10-13

**The Wedding Ceremony Uniting
Name of Couple**
St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
Date and Time

Prelude Music	
Family Processional	Title, Composer
Wedding Party Processional	Title, Composer
Processional	Title, Composer
Welcome/Announcements	
Invocation	
Prayer	
Optional Place for Music/Hymn	Title, Composer
First Reading	Scripture Reference
Second Reading	Scripture Reference
Scripture Reference	
(Optional) Gospel Reading	
Wedding Message (Sermon)	
Optional Musical Selection	Title, Composer
Explanation of Marriage	
Exchange of Vows	
Exchange of Rings	
Blessing of Rings	
Blessing of Couple	
Unity Candle (optional)	
Optional Musical Selection	Title, Composer
Prayers	
The Lord's Prayer	
Benediction	
Presentation of the Couple	
Recessional	Title, Composer

Bulletin/Program Example

The Wedding Party

Parents of the Bride	John & Jane Smith
Parents of the Groom	Bob & Susan Jones
Grandparents of the Bride	Fred & Esther Smith
Grandparents of the Groom	Al & Eileen Jones
Maid of Honor	Susan Smith, sister of the bride
Bridesmaids	Allison Johnson, friend of the bride Jenny Moore, friend of the bride
Best Man	James Jones, brother of the groom
Groomsmen	Jeff Edwards, friend of the groom Scott Allen, friend of the groom
Flower Girl	Elizabeth Wallace, cousin of the groom
Readers	Rob Thomas, friend of the bride and groom Tina White, friend of the bride and groom
Ushers	Rob Thomas, friend of the bride and groom Tom Miller, uncle of the groom Richard Taylor, friend of the bride and groom Michael Brown, friend of the bride and groom
Greeter	Mary Miller, friend of the couple
Officiant	Pastor
Organist/Pianist	Name
Soloist	Name

Selection of Music

The dignity of the sanctuary and the religious significance of the service should be reflected in the music used for your wedding. The music and texts should be selected with the underlying thought of glorifying God and should be suitable for a church service. Therefore, the couple's "favorite" popular song is most appropriately shared at the reception.

A wedding is a communal celebration, and the guests are there as worshippers. They should be drawn into active participation through prayers and song. One of the best ways to involve the assembly is through the singing of a hymn. We recommend the use of a hymn during the ceremony. All music is to be presented live. No pre-recorded music will be allowed.

Prelude Music: The prelude music is performed to greet the arrival of your guests and begins 15-20 minutes before the start of the processional. The organist/pianist will play a set of prelude music representing a variety of styles.

Processional: The processional music accompanies the entry of the wedding party. You may select one processional for all, or multiple pieces for the family, the attendants, and for the couple.

Hymn: You may select a hymn to be sung at your wedding. The hymn should be familiar as your guests most likely come from a variety of denominations. Everyone should feel comfortable as a participant in the wedding ceremony.

Solos: You may select one or two solos to be sung during the wedding liturgy. Solo pieces would need to be selected with the soloist and music given to the accompanist no later than 3 weeks prior to the wedding.

Recessional: The recessional music is played as the wedding party walks out of the sanctuary at the ceremony's conclusion. You may want more than one selection depending on the number in your wedding party and the number in attendance.

Wedding Music Selection

Listed on the following page are titles of wedding organ music selections. You can also find samples of each piece on our website, Stmattslutheran.org (Worship & Music – Weddings & Funerals – Wedding Organ Music Samples) or directly at <https://soundcloud.com/st-matthews-music>.

You will hear only part of most pieces, just to give you a feel for the piece. You may wish to listen to all of the pieces to get as many different ideas as possible. Many of the organ selections can serve as a processional or recessional; the choice is yours. While this site offers many different choices of music for your wedding, it does not include every piece that can be used. It is offered to give you some ideas.

Wedding Consultation:

After you have listened to the wedding selections from St. Matthew's Soundcloud account, you should meet with the organist/pianist to work out details and go over your ideas. Arrangements can also be made for soloists and rehearsals at that time.

Additional Musicians:

You may choose to have additional musicians perform at your wedding. For example, you may choose violin, flute, trumpet, vocalists, string ensemble, or other instrumentalists. Information for these additional musicians need to be communicated to the organist/pianist.

Payment of Fees to Additional Musicians:

Fees and payment procedures for engaging additional vocalists and/or instrumentalist(s) for your wedding ceremony will be handled by the wedding couple directly with the extra musicians. Payment in full must be prior to the wedding ceremony.

Recommended Hymns for Weddings

(ELW stands for Evangelical Lutheran Worship – the red hymnal)

To hear examples: <https://soundcloud.com/st-matthews-music>

ELW #585	Hear Us Now, Our God and Father
ELW #836	Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
ELW #839, #840	Now Thank We All Our God
ELW #858	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
ELW #884	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Organ Music Selections

To hear examples: <https://soundcloud.com/st-matthews-music>

1. <i>Bridal Chorus [Processional]</i>	Richard Wagner
2. <i>Wedding March [Recessional]</i>	Felix Mendelssohn
3. <i>Trumpet Tune</i>	H. Purcell/J. Clarke
4. <i>Trumpet Voluntary</i>	H. Purcell/J. Clarke
5. <i>Canon in D</i>	Johann Pachelbel
6. <i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	J. S. Bach
7. <i>Rondeau</i>	Jean J. Mouret
8. <i>Allegro Maestoso</i>	G. F. Handel
9. <i>Festive Trumpet Tune</i>	David German
10. <i>CWM Rhondda [God of Grace]</i>	Paul Manz
11. <i>Trumpet Tune</i>	Marko Hakanpää
12. <i>Processional of Joy</i>	Beethoven/Hopson
13. <i>Ferland's March</i>	William Rowen
14. <i>Prelude in Classic Style</i>	Gordon Young
15. <i>A Festive Intrada</i>	Walter Pelz
16. <i>The Rejoicing</i>	Charles Callahan
17. <i>Processional in C</i>	Hal Hopson
18. <i>Trumpet Tune in D Major</i>	David Johnson
19. <i>Psalm XIX [19]</i>	Benedetto Marcello
20. <i>Air Gracieux</i>	Jan Mulder
21. <i>Air from Suite in D</i>	J. S. Bach
22. <i>Intermezzo</i>	Pietro Mascagni
23. <i>Bist Du Bei Mir</i>	J. S. Bach
24. <i>Elegy</i>	Edward Elgar
25. <i>St. Anthony Chorale</i>	Haydn/J. Brahms
26. <i>Summer Fanfare</i>	Marko Hakanpää
27. <i>Toccata from Symphony #5</i>	Ch. M. Widor

Expectations and Rules

There is a small chapel off the commons and nave area that provides an excellent space to dress and prepare for the wedding. Most men arrive dressed and may wait in the Upper Room.

Decorating the church can usually be done, depending upon the use of the church for other functions the day prior to the ceremony. Please do not use any type of tape or adhesive. Flowers for the church should be arranged to be delivered one hour prior to the service.

There is to be no flash photography taken during the service. Videography is permissible, provided the camera operator is not in a highly visible place.

No Alcohol is to be consumed on the church property, including the parking lot and dressing rooms.

All fees should be paid one week before the wedding day.

It is necessary to keep purses/valuables secured at all times you are in the building. **There is not a locked, secure area provided by the church.** Have a family member, friend or member of the bridal party watch purses/valuables during the ceremony. Do not leave valuables unattended.

Schedule of Fees and Expenses

All fees should be paid one week before the day of the Wedding. These can be discussed when meeting with the pastor. Fees are subject to change without notice or warning.

Building Use Fee	\$250	is for use of the Church (check payable to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church). A non-refundable \$100 deposit is required to reserve the wedding date. This deposit will reduce the amount owed in the end to \$150
Runner Fee	\$90	is for cleaning of cloth runner (check payable to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church)
Clergy Fee	\$250	(check payable to individual pastor)
Organist Fee	\$250	is the fee for playing the wedding service and consultation with the couple (check payable to organist, John Paradowski)
Custodial Fee	\$100	(check payable to custodian, John Swenson)
Bulletin	\$50	is for typing and printing; wedding party provides the bulletin stock 2-4 weeks prior to the wedding. (Check payable to the secretary, Sonja Mohr)
Soloist Fees		Varies according to music chosen

All fees are due one week prior to rehearsal.

Soloists and Instrumentalists for Weddings

(Contact John Paradowski for additional names of instrumentalists)

John Paradowski	Organist	(414) 774-0441 (church) jrpmuzik@sbcglobal.net
David Mohr	Baritone	(414) 774-1775 davemohr@me.com