



Mount Olive
Lutheran Church

Wedding Guide

CONTENTS

Before Your Wedding	3
Contact Information	3
Your Life Together	4
The Ceremony: Elements of Worship	5
The Rehearsal	7
Wedding Day Details	7
Offsite Weddings	7
Policies and Instructions	8
Agreement	8

Before Your Wedding

Review this Wedding Guide with your partner to plan for a memorable and meaningful wedding ceremony and marriage together.

Contact the Church office. When you are ready to request a date to be reserved for your wedding ceremony, contact the church office at (507) 288-1580 so that we can begin our planning process together. Please note that wedding services must begin no later than 2:00 p.m. on a Saturday.

Submit the \$150 Facility Fee. Once your date is approved and your payment is made, your wedding ceremony date will be officially reserved on the Mount Olive Lutheran Church calendar. Additional fees include:

- **\$200 Pastor's Fee** to be paid at the rehearsal (plus mileage and accommodations for offsite ceremonies).
- **Musicians' Fees**, which are variable, and are also expected to be paid at the rehearsal.
- **Additional Building Usage Fee**, which is variable based on your needs, and can be paid when you reserve the additional space (contact Bill Hollander for more information about building fees for rehearsal dinners, receptions, etc.).

Meet with the Pastor to begin making arrangements for your wedding.

Meet with the Director of Music as soon as possible following your initial meeting with the pastor to make arrangements for a principal musician and possible soloist(s) for the ceremony. The Minister of Music will work with you to select music and will review the musicians' fee structure.

Begin Pre-Marital Counseling. Pre-marital counseling is required as preparation for your wedding at Mount Olive. Pastors use *Prepare and Enrich* as a tool to guide relationship development. You as a couples will take the \$35 online pre-marital assessment (paid by credit card) and will then meet with the pastor to review and work towards a strengthened relationship. This will require three to four sessions.

Contact Information

Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson	glenn@molive.org	(507) 288-1580 Ext. 206
Director of Music Travis Beck	travis@molive.org	(507) 288-1580 Ext. 203
Director of Congregational Life Nancy Britson	nancy@molive.org	(507) 288-1580 Ext. 210
Congregational Administrator Bill Hollander	bill@molive.org	(507) 288-1580 Ext. 204

Your Life Together

Marriage takes place when you and your partner pledge yourselves to each other for a lifetime of faithfulness and companionship, providing fulfillment and joy through your mutual nurturing of one other. The wedding service is a public declaration of your marriage over which the Pastor will preside. Many contemporary wedding ceremonies take many forms in many contexts, and we rejoice that you have chosen to proclaim your wedding vows and commitments amidst the community of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, celebrating your union in the context of our Christian faith.

Those invited to the wedding are witnesses as you pledge your lives to one another, and will promise to support and honor your marriage vows as you grow in your lives together.

The Wedding Ceremony is a worship service which centers on the proclamation of the good news of God in Jesus Christ, God's faithfulness in all times and in all places, and gives us space to give thanks to God for the blessing of human relationship, especially marriage. You, your family, and your friends all participate in this worship service. Through hearing the Gospel, responding in word and song, and publicly supporting your union, your guests are not merely witnessing but are also participating in this important event. While we wish to be sensitive to your individual requests to personalize the ceremony, we ask you to respect our congregation's rich tradition of worship.

Please note that the bride or groom (or both!) must be a member of Mount Olive Lutheran Church before your wedding day. If you are not yet a member you will need to attend new member classes and formally join the congregation. Contact Nancy Britson (see contact information, above) in the church office for more information about congregational membership.

We encourage you to continue to participate in the life of the congregation to further strengthen your marriage. This might include gathering for weekly worship services, attending adult education opportunities, serving others in the community, or being part of any of the various fellowship events offered regularly.

The Ceremony: Elements of Worship

Scripture Passages are an integral part of our proclamation, and include up to three readings and possibly a Psalm set to music. Please discuss scripture options with the pastor as you plan your ceremony. Listed below are a few suggestions:

The First Reading

Genesis 1:26-31 - Creation (1)

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24 - Creation (2)

Genesis 2:18-24 - Adam's Song to Eve

Song of Solomon 2:10-13 - "Arise, my love, and come away"

Song of Solomon 8:6-7 - "Many waters cannot quench love"

Ruth 1:16-17 - Faithfulness and commitment

Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12 - "Two are better than one..."

Psalms

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

The Second Reading

Romans 12:1-2 - Our bodies are a living sacrifice to God

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 - Love is patient, love is kind...

Galatians 5:22-6:2 - The fruits of the Spirit

Ephesians 5:21-33 - Call to partners to love and respect each other

Ephesians 5:31-33 - Marriage as a great mystery

Philippians 2:1-4 - Look to the interest of others

Philippians 2:1-11 - The Christ Hymn

Philippians 4:4-9 - The Apostle Paul's advice about loving one another

Colossians 3:12-15 - Forgive each other, bear one another

Colossians 3:12-17 - Let Christ dwell in your hearts

1 John 4:7-16 - God is love, let us love one another

The Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a - The Beatitudes, i.e., "Blessed are..."

Matthew 5:13-16 - Let your light shine before others

Matthew 7: 24-29 - Jesus is the wise foundation

Matthew 19:4-6 - Jesus speaks of marriage

John 2:1-11 - Jesus blesses the wedding at Cana

John 15:4-12 - Abide in Jesus as he abides in you

John 15:11-17 - The Greatest Commandment: love one another

The Vows you make with each other are proclaimed publicly amidst the gathered assembly on your wedding day. They reflect your commitment to each other, as well as your intent for how your relationship will continue to develop over time. Options include:

I, _____, give myself to you, _____, to be your wife/husband from this day forward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

I, _____, give myself to you, _____, to be your wife/husband, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect and 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 to better understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and worst of what is to come until death parts us.

I, _____, give myself to you, _____, to be your wife/husband. I promise before God and these witnesses to be faithful, 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.

I, _____, give myself to you, _____, to be your 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.

I, _____, give myself to you, _____, to be your wedded wife/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, as long as we both shall live.

The Rehearsal

The Rehearsal, which usually takes 45-60 minutes, is led by the pastor the day before the ceremony. The wedding part and all worship leadership participants are expected to attend. Please bring the marriage license and marriage certificate to the pastor and plan to pay any remaining fees.

Wedding Day Details

Bulletins (commonly referred to as “programs”) are a guide for our worship together and also serve as wedding day mementos. Mount Olive does not print wedding bulletins. Bulletin covers may be purchased through Augsburg Fortress (www.augsburgfortress.org) or other retailers, and can be printed at any local printing service. The presiding pastor will assist you with necessary content.

Flower Stands are available for your use in the sanctuary. Flowers may not be placed on the Table.

Candles can be used in consultation with the pastor. The three oil candles on the Table will be lit for the service, and a unity candle stand is available to be used as needed.

Photographs can be taken before the ceremony, up to three hours prior, and afterwards, finishing no later than 4:00 p.m., with all equipment and personnel moved from the sanctuary so that we can prepare for our weekly Saturday evening worship service. For pre-ceremony photos, please plan to finish at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the ceremony. While we encourage photography and videography of the ceremony, please seek to respect the integrity of the worship space, and refrain from flash usage during the service.

Receiving Line: If you would like to greet your guests after the ceremony, you may form a receiving line in the hallway outside of the sanctuary.

Dressing Rooms are provided for the wedding party. The bride and bridesmaids are invited to use the library, while the groom and groomsman are invited to use Room 13. Bathrooms are conveniently located just down the hallway between the Library and Room 13.

Offsite Weddings

If your wedding ceremony is out of town, it may not be possible to have a rehearsal the night before the wedding. Check with the pastor to plan accordingly. **Please note that traveling pastors and musicians must be compensated** for overnight accommodations and should be reimbursed for mileage traveled (see current IRS rates for appropriate mileage reimbursement).

Policies and Instructions

1. **Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the grounds or premises at Mount Olive, nor may any of the wedding party appear to be intoxicated.**
2. **Smoking is not permitted in the building or on the grounds at Mount Olive.**
3. Rice, confetti, glitter, or bird seed cannot be used in or outside of the church. Rose petals may be used provided that they are cleaned up afterwards.
4. Firearms of any kind are not permitted on the grounds or in the Mount Olive facility
5. The Sanctuary holds a maximum of 300 people.
6. A wedding banner and kneelers are available upon request.
7. With the sloped floor, an aisle runner is discouraged. If you still wish to use one, please note that it is 50 feet from the beginning of the platform to the last pew.
8. You will have access to the sanctuary and specified rooms for a 3-hour period prior to the wedding. Preparations, photographs, decorating, etc. all need to be completed in this time frame.
9. The wedding party, guests, and decorations must be out of the sanctuary by no 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays at the very latest so that we can prepare for evening worship at 5:00 p.m.

Agreement

We have read this booklet and understand the obligations listed above.

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____