



*The Christian Wedding  
As celebrated at  
The Lutheran & Anglican Ministries of the Bruce Peninsula*

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The Anglican Church of Canada



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in Canada

**Dear friends,**

Congratulations on your engagement and your upcoming wedding. A wedding in the life of the church is a celebration in worship where God's gift of marriage and God's blessing – strengthening and sustaining marriage – is proclaimed.

A wedding is also a time for much thought and planning to make sure that the wedding day goes as planned and that your life together after the big day continues to be blessed with love, care, and happiness. It is better for couples to openly and honestly speak about their wishes for the wedding day, and the life after, before the planning and details have been established.

**The Wedding is a Religious Service**

In the Lutheran and Anglican tradition the Sacrament/Rite of Marriage is a worship service, and the focus is on God and the gifts given by God, our creator. You can personalize the service to reflect your personality and your wishes. The selection of sacred music, the readings from Holy Scripture, the choice of congregational hymns, and the selection of vows are all chosen by you, in consultation with the pastor and/or organist. However, there are boundaries for what can and cannot take place.

Because a wedding in the church is a worship service, the sentimental, the trite, the showy, and the flashy, so often seen in movie and TV weddings, are not appropriate in the church service. The focus of a church wedding is on the blessing of God and the gifts God has given us.

**Officiating Pastor**

The presiding minister at your wedding is the pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church and the priest of the Anglican Parish of the Bruce Peninsula, duly called by the congregation to Word and Sacrament and licensed by the Bishop of Huron to those ministries. After consultation with the pastor, you may include clergy from another parish or denomination as an assisting minister in your worship service.

## **The Wedding Questionnaire**

When you meet with the pastor you will be given a questionnaire about your personal status and history, about the service, and about the people who are to participate with you in the service. The personal questions are for parish records only. They are identical to the ones you will be asked for your marriage licence. Some of the questions on the form about the worship service pertain to the various options available to you, so some questions may not need to be answered. If you have questions, please contact the pastor.

## **The Worship Service**

### **Involving Others**

Family members and friends can make a real contribution to your wedding celebration and to the service. Besides serving as bride's or groom's attendants, a relative can serve as an acolyte, an assisting minister, or a reader rather than just be a spectator. The Lutheran and Anglican Ministries of the Bruce Peninsula welcomes and encourages such participation!

### **Ring bearer/Flower bearer**

Couples may wish to have a young family member or friend serve as a ring bearer or flower bearer. As cute as they may be, they may not be ready for the task of taking part in a worship service. Encourage the involvement of children in a manner that honours their gifts, abilities, and needs and that makes them comfortable, but take into account the limitations of young children.

### **Flowers and Other Decorations**

Flowers add beauty to a festive celebration. Potted or cut live flowers are the only flowers allowed to be used in the chancel area. Flowers on / beside the altar at a Saturday wedding are usually left in place for Sunday worship to remind the congregation of the wedding. The couple is remembered in our prayers.

## **Bulletins**

Most weddings at the church, and some outside the church building, provide a worship bulletin for the guests. It contains the order of worship and the hymns requested, as well as the name of who is presiding, the organist, and all the other participants in the service. If space allows, it can also include the words of the vows that are to be made. You would need to provide covers for these bulletins and arrange for their typing and printing. The pastor will gladly help you in the design of your worship bulletin or provide sample bulletins.

## **Photographer**

Photographers play an important role at your wedding. Provide a commercial photographer with all your wishes in writing, and keep a signed copy verifying that your wishes are understood. If you use a friend or family member, providing written explanations of your wishes before the rehearsal helps ensure that everything is considered and serves as a reminder throughout this important day.

Because the Lutheran and Anglican Ministries of the Bruce Peninsula views the wedding as a religious service, ask the photographer to meet with the pastor no later than 15 minutes before the service to review photography guidelines.

### **Photography in general during the worship service**

Only an official photographer using a non-flash camera may take photographs during the worship service. Your guest will be able to take photographs during the processional and recessional and during the signing of the licence. Following the worship service you are free to take as many photos in the church as you wish, and the pastor will be available to restage any part of the service, as requested.

## Bible Readings

A variety of Bible readings are appropriate for a wedding. A list of the more popular ones are found below. Reading from sources other than the Bible may enhance the wedding service as well. Please consult with the pastor for using readings other than Holy Scripture.

### First Reading

Genesis 1: 26-31	Created in God's image
Genesis 2: 18-24	Created for each other
Song of Solomon 2: 10-13	Love in the spring
Song of Solomon 8:7	Unquenchable love
Isaiah 63: 7-9	God's love for God's people

### Psalm

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

### Second Reading

Romans 12: 1-2	A living sacrifice to God
Romans 12: 9-13	Let love be genuine
1 Corinthians 12: 31-13:13	Paul's hymn to love
1 Corinthians 13: 4-8a, 13	Paul's hymn to love (short version)
Ephesians 5: 21-33	Honour one another
Philippians 4: 4-7	Rejoice and give thanks
1 John 4; 7-12	God is Love

### Holy Gospel

Matthew 5: 1-12	The Beatitudes (Blessings)
Matthew 19: 4-6	One flesh
John 2: 1-10	Jesus at the wedding at Cana
John 15: 9-12	Love one another

## Wedding Music

The marriage service is an act of worship and a sacred event! Music in Christian worship should express the worship of God. The music for the wedding should be chosen with this in mind, and it should be chosen with care so as to fit into the worship service with style.

### Wedding Vows

Your wedding vows will be very special to you. Years from now, when all else fades into a blur, your wedding vows – especially if you have chosen to commit them to memory - will come back to you. While you may write your vows, a word or two of caution: Use familiar words, use uncomplicated sentences, and keep the vows a reasonable length. Remember, you have to be able to speak them! As well, vows must meet the legal requirement that marriage reflect a life-long commitment of fidelity – i.e. “until death parts us” or “so long as we both shall live.” Here are some examples of vows:

#### Vow #1

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 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.

#### Vow #2

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.

#### Vow #3

*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.

#### Vow #4

I take you, *name*, 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.

#### **Fees and Honoraria**

The honoraria amounts reflect the time and effort that has gone into preparing for your wedding, as well as the cost of maintaining the building.

#### ***The building:***

For non-members of the congregations of the Lutheran and Anglican Ministries of the Bruce Peninsula who will celebrate their wedding here, there is a set honorarium of \$250.00. Active members (as defined by the canons/constitution) of St. Peter's Lutheran Church or the Anglican Parish of the Bruce Peninsula and their extended families do not have a set honorarium. It is assumed that you support the work of the church through your weekly tithe to the congregation.

You are, however, invited to make a donation to the congregation and its ministry in celebration of your marriage.

#### ***The organist:***

Our parish organists' involvement with your wedding is in addition to his/her normal responsibilities for the congregation. Many hours will go into selection, practice, and presentation of the music chosen for your wedding. The honorarium for the organist is \$100.00. There is an addition cost of \$50 if the organist is expected at the rehearsal and an another additional \$50 if they will be working with a soloist. If the parish organists are not available the couple may negotiate an alternative musician with the pastor.

#### ***The custodian:***

The parish custodian will ensure that the church is open for your wedding, help with whatever set-up is needed, and clean the church and narthex after the wedding. The honorarium for the custodian is \$50.00.

#### ***The Pastor/Priest:***

To reflect the time and effort that has gone into meeting with the couple, planning the worship service, and writing the homily, the Pastor's honorarium for non-members is \$200.00. For active members of the Lutheran and Anglican Ministries of the Bruce Peninsula, there is no honorarium since this is part of the call to parish ministry extended to the parish pastor.

If the local pastor is away and you use another pastor, make sure you negotiate an honorarium with him/her. Some pastors, no matter how close friends they are with the families of the wedding party, require an honorarium to preside at weddings.

#### **Other Considerations Before the Wedding Day**

#### ***Marriage Licence***

Make sure you have a valid marriage licence. They do have a time limit to them. You must bring the completed licence to the pastor at the wedding rehearsal. The pastor will then record the information in the parish register.

#### ***Marriage Licence and Previous Marriage***

If one or both parties have been previously married and divorced, a copy of the final divorce decree must be supplied at the time of applying for a new licence. If the divorce has been obtained outside Canada, special rules come into play, and you will be required to present a certified copy of the final decree from the jurisdiction in which it was obtained. This procedure can be extremely slow and cumbersome and may take as much as six to eight weeks.

The Lutheran and Anglican Ministries of the Bruce Peninsula  
wishes to extend our congratulations  
on your upcoming wedding.

May the blessing of God be with the two of you  
as you plan this special day and in your continued life together.

*Marriage Questionnaire*  
About the Wedding Party

GROOM: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE/PLACE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

RELIGIOUS DENOM.: \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S NAME (in full): \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S BIRTHPLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S NAME  
(in full including maiden): \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S BIRTHPLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIDE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE/PLACE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

RELIGIOUS DENOM.: \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S NAME (in full): \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S BIRTHPLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S NAME  
(in full including maiden): \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S BIRTHPLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

BEST MAN: \_\_\_\_\_

WOMAN OF HONOUR: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIDESMAIDS: \_\_\_\_\_

USHERS: \_\_\_\_\_

RING BEARER: \_\_\_\_\_

FLOWER GIRL: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER ATTENDANTS: \_\_\_\_\_

About the wedding itself

DATE & TIME OF WEDDING: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE & TIME OF REHEARSAL: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF WEDDING: \_\_\_\_\_

WEDDING LICENCE #: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST LESSON: \_\_\_\_\_

SECOND LESSON: \_\_\_\_\_

GOSPEL: \_\_\_\_\_

HYMNS: \_\_\_\_\_

READER(S): \_\_\_\_\_

VOWS: #1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_ #3 \_\_\_\_\_ #4 \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ OWN \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTAL BLESSING: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

WORSHIP ASSISTANT: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIST: \_\_\_\_\_

PRELUDE/POSTLUDE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER MUSICIAN(S): \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL MUSIC: \_\_\_\_\_