



Mt. Hope Lutheran Church

8633 West Becher Street
West Allis, WI 53227
(414) 541-9500

Marriage Booklet

Rev. 05/2009

Introduction

The pastors of Mt. Hope consider it a privilege to officiate at your wedding, as you vow before God and those assembled life-long love and faithfulness. You will work with a pastor to plan your wedding service and prepare for your life together as a married couple. This will involve several counseling sessions and may include a day-long marriage workshop. It is expected that in all ordinary cases a pastor will be consulted by the couple at least ninety days in advance of the day of the wedding. Wedding dates are confirmed only after meeting with the pastor who will conduct your marriage service, and payment of \$100 fee/member and \$250 fee/non-member (see page 6 for explanation of fees). The church office must be provided with the date and time of the wedding ceremony before the wedding is considered to be officially on the church calendar. Providing the time of the ceremony is essential to our planning in the event of two weddings taking place on the same day.

The Wedding Ceremony is a Worship Service

The marriage service is a service of worship. The church is not to be regarded as a set to "stage" a wedding. The various parts of the marriage service should reflect that it takes place in the presence of God. Special care must be taken in the selection of music, scripture and other readings, as well as other ceremonies.

Marriage is a service of worship in which the invited guests are not mere spectators but participants in the service. They are there not simply to watch but to be a congregation of God's people. All arrangements for the Marriage Liturgy, including the selection of music, shall be made in consultation with the pastor. Because of the worship nature of the service and the music that has been the expression of its worship life, it is important that the tone of the music be in harmony with and compatible to the rest of the Worship Service which is a celebration of God's presence in prayer, praise, adoration, thanksgiving and petition.

Order of Service

Weddings at Mount Hope follow the order of service provided in the church hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the official worship resource of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It begins on page 286 of the hymnal. If you plan to have a wedding bulletin (program), you may use the following outline of the service.

Gathering

- Prelude
- Processional
- Greeting
- Declaration of Intention
- Opening Prayer

Word

- Readings (*List readings you have chosen*)
- Sermon
- Hymn (*If you choose to have a congregational hymn*)

Marriage

- Exchange of Marriage Vows and Giving of Rings

- Lighting of the Unity Candle (*If you choose to have a Unity Candle*)
- Acclamation
- Marriage Blessing
- Prayers of Intercession
 - Pastor: Gracious and faithful God,
 - All: Hear our prayer.**
- Lord's Prayer

Sending

- Blessing
- Presentation of the Couple
- Recessional

The Vows

The bride and groom may write their own vows in consultation with the pastor. The vows must include the pledge of love, loyalty and faithfulness for life. See page 8 for samples of wedding vows which you may select.

The Celebration of Holy Communion

When Holy Communion may be celebrated at the service at which either bride or groom are members. All baptized Christians in attendance are invited to take part in the Holy Communion. It is not offered only to the bride and groom. If Holy Communion is celebrated, a service for the Lord's Supper is included in the bulletin.

Marriage License

The pastors of Mount Hope have a dual function at a wedding. They are pastors of the church but also function as representatives of the State of Wisconsin. **They are not permitted to conduct the service without a valid Marriage License.** You must apply for a license in your county of residence. **The license is**

valid only for a specific period of time and there is a waiting period between applying for the license and its issue. Please check with the County Clerk's office of the county where you reside for details.

Wedding Music Guidelines

Advanced preparation of at least 8-10 weeks is strongly recommended for planning appropriate music. You are responsible for contacting the organist or other musician(s) who are playing for your ceremony. Mt. Hope's organist will be glad to demonstrate music for you at a wedding music consultation. The organist has prepared CD/audio tape of wedding music to assist you with your selection(s). The use of recorded music is possible if you choose, but special arrangements must be made to use the church's sound system and a fee paid so that an audio technician can operate the system. (*See "Audio Technical Support" form*).

Music should be submitted for approval to the pastor before the counseling session dealing with the planning of the service takes place. If certain popular and/or romantic songs have special meaning to the bride and groom, they should consider having this music played at the reception. Congregational singing and participation are encouraged.

Non-Member Information

The pastors are willing to officiate at non-member weddings as schedule permits and when a Christian ceremony is appropriate. A special fee schedule is used for non-member weddings since it is appropriate that they share in the responsibility of supporting the ministry of the congregation. Holy Communion is not celebrated at non-member weddings. Couples who do not have an active church membership will be encouraged to find their spiritual home through membership at Mount Hope Lutheran Church.

Inter-Denominational and Inter-Faith Marriages

Inter-denominational and inter-faith couples contemplating marriage should consult with the pastor, priest or rabbi of both denominations represented well in advance of the marriage. Questions of faith are too important to be postponed until after the marriage. The pastor will assist couples dealing with denominational and inter-faith issues.

Pictures and Videos

Flash photography during the wedding is forbidden because it detracts from the holy nature of the service and is distracting. The photographer that the couple selects as their "official" photographer should contact the pastor before the service for special instructions. Video taping should be as unobtrusive as possible. In any case, the pastor must be consulted before the day of the wedding and the person doing the video must consult with the pastor either at the rehearsal or before the service. In order to allow time for cleaning the worship space, all photos must be completed one hour after the ceremony.

Other Guidelines

Rice, confetti, bird seed, etc. is not allowed inside or outside the building.

Please keep your personal possessions and valuables with you or a friend at all times. Do not leave anything unattended. *Wedding dresses, etc. can be left overnight (locked in the bride's room) but Mount Hope is not responsible for any items left overnight in the church building.*

Alcohol is not permitted on the church property before or after the wedding service.

Weddings are scheduled at intervals of 2½ hours to accommodate having two or more weddings a day. **The building will be open for one hour before and one hour following the ceremony.** Please inform your photographer of this policy.

Flowers and Decorations

Flowers can be delivered to the church during regular office hours: Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon **or** flowers may be delivered one hour before the time of the ceremony.

Please consult with the pastor if you plan to use decorations on pews. Bows, flowers, and other decorations should not be taped to the ends of the pews. Consider tying or using an elastic material around the outside of the pew end to hold the decorations in place. Do not use metal hangers.

If an aisle runner is desired, the church aisle is 100 feet long.

Member Wedding Fees (*subject to change*)

\$100* (\$50 Church Use/\$50 Custodian) is required to reserve a date and time for a wedding. Church Use and Custodian fees are double when scheduling your wedding on a holiday. **All other fees are to be paid at the time the marriage license is brought to the church— four days before the wedding rehearsal.** Fees are as follows:

- Church Use* (*required to reserve date*) \$ 50.00
- Pastor Honorarium (*at the discretion of the Wedding Party*)
- Custodian* (*required to reserve date*) \$ 50.00

- Church Organist \$100.00
- Church Organist (*if rehearsing with soloist*) \$150.00
- Church Soloist \$ 75.00
- Audio Tech (*for recorded music—see "Audio Tech Support" form*) \$25.00/hr. (2 hour-minimum)
- Candelabras \$ 50.00
- Pew Candles (6) \$ 18.00
- L.S.S. Pre-Marriage Workshop \$100.00

Non-Member Wedding Fees (*subject to change*)

\$250* (\$200 Church Use/\$50 Custodian) is required to reserve a date and time for a wedding. Church Use and Custodian fees are double when scheduling your wedding on a holiday. **All other fees are to be paid at the time the marriage license is brought to the church— four days before the wedding rehearsal.** Fees are as follows:

- Church Use* (*required to reserve date*) \$ 200.00
- Chapel Use (*required to reserve date*) \$100.00
- Pastor Fee \$150.00
- Custodian* (*required to reserve date*) \$ 50.00
- Church Organist \$100.00
- Church Organist (*if rehearsing with soloist*) \$150.00
- Church Soloist \$ 75.00
- Audio Tech (*for recorded music—see "Audio Tech Support" form*) \$25.00/hr. (2 hour-minimum)
- Candelabras \$ 50.00
- Pew Candles (6) \$ 18.00
- L.S.S. Pre-Marriage Workshop \$100.00

Policy Regarding Pastoral Officiants

One of the pastors of the congregation is in charge of the wedding ceremony.

Use of Other Areas of the Church Building

Classrooms, kitchen, and other assembly areas are not generally available for use. If you have a question about using a specific room or area, please speak to the pastor.

Suggested Wedding Vows

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.
2. I take you, *name*, to be my wife/husband, I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful wife/husband, 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.
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.

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.
5. In the presence of God and this community, I, *name*, take you, *name*, to be my *wife/husband*; to have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

Suggested Biblical Texts

Old Testament Readings:

Genesis 1:26-31

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." ²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:18-24

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." ²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

¹⁰My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; ¹¹for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. ¹²The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the

voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. ¹³The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

⁶Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. ⁷Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

New Testament Readings:

Romans 12:1-2

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not

rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 5:21-33

²¹Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind-yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³²This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church.

³³Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Gospel Readings:

Matthew 19:4-6

⁴He answered, "Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' ⁵and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

John 2:1-10

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

John 15:9-12

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.