

# Welcome

We at Canton Lutheran Church rejoice with you as you anticipate your wedding. We look forward to meeting with you and assisting you in all of the arrangements for the Christian service of marriage.

By your promises before God and in the presence of the gathered community, you bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife. You do so in the presence of the pastor, who represents both church and state in this ceremony and who is the principal witness to your action. You make your promises in the presence of God, trusting that God will bless and support you both as you work to fulfill them.

This booklet is designed to help you prepare for your wedding at Canton Lutheran Church. It provides information on all the steps necessary to make your wedding a wonderful milestone of life and faith. Kindly review the booklet in advance of your meeting with the wedding coordinator.

The pastors, staff and congregation consider it a joy to participate with you in this most exciting time of your life. May God be glorified in all the preparations for your wedding and new life together.

The Pastors of Canton Lutheran

# Table of Contents

**The First Few Steps - Reservations – pages 3-4** Reserving the location, date and time, pastor, rehearsal date and time, musicians, and pre-marriage counseling sessions

**Planning the Service – page 5**  
Wedding coordinator duties and The Order of Service

**Music – pages 6-9**  
Guidelines in selecting music, and examples of appropriate music: vocal solos and duets; preludes, processional, recessional, and postludes; and congregational hymns

**Suggested Scripture Readings – pages 10-11**

**Wedding Vows – page 12**

**Additional Wedding Details – pages 13-15**  
Guidelines and helpful information regarding decorations, bulletins, dressing rooms, unity candle, pictures, ushers, acolytes, guest book, sound, the wedding license, and conduct of guests and participants

**Reception – pages 16-17**  
Guidelines and helpful information regarding receptions held at Canton Lutheran Church

**Fees and deposit – page 18**

**Inserts:**           **Reservation Form**  
                          **Planning a Sacred Wedding**

## The First Few Steps - Reservations

**The following arrangements should be completed before making further plans for the wedding.**

### Place

Our main Sanctuary accommodates 300 guests comfortably on the main floor. Additional seating (200+) is available in the balcony.

The Bethlehem Chapel is available for smaller groups and more informal ceremonies. The chapel can accommodate up to 80 guests.

Location \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Date and Time

Our office secretary is familiar with the calendar of events. She can tell you if your preferred date is available. Get your reservation in as far in advance of the date as possible. During the school year, weddings held in the Sanctuary on Saturdays must begin no later than 4:00 PM. The chapel is not available late Saturday afternoons because of 5:00 PM worship. A wedding date and time will be reserved only when the required deposit is received in the church office and after you have confirmed the date and time with the officiating pastor.

Ceremony Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Pastor

Either of the pastors may preside at your wedding depending upon their schedules. If you have a preference for officiating pastor, please speak with that pastor to confirm the date on his/her calendar. If you have no preference, our pastors will decide who will preside at your service. If you wish a guest pastor to preside, he/she must be either ELCA clergy or clergy from a denomination that is in fellowship with the ELCA. If the guest pastor does not meet either of those requirements, one of our pastors will need to preside and the guest pastor may be invited to preach. One of our pastors must be consulted regarding these arrangements.

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Rehearsal

If the wedding party consists of more than six people, a rehearsal is necessary. Rehearsals, which take about an hour, are usually held a day or two before the wedding. All participants in the service—bride, groom, bridesmaids and groomsmen, ushers, flower girls, ring bearers, musicians, and parents—should be at the rehearsal, when details are discussed and the wedding party will walk through the ceremony from beginning to end.

Rehearsal Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Musicians

The Canton Lutheran pipe organ, Opus VIII, was built by John F. Nordlie and must be played by someone who has been trained to play a pipe organ. We have two organists that play regularly and will be most happy to help with your service. You must contact them at least two months in advance, so they can begin practicing the music. Our church secretary can give you their names and numbers. If one of our organists is not available or you would like to have a guest organist, our organists must be contacted to grant permission and/or offer training, again, because of the complexity of the instrument. A training fee will apply.

Before arrangements are made with the soloist or other instrumentalists, please read the section regarding music and discuss your plans with the organist. Music decisions should be made two months in advance and solo accompaniments provided at that time. Pianos are available in both the sanctuary and chapel.

Organist/Musician: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pre-Marriage Preparation

All couples being married at Canton Lutheran by a CLC pastor should plan to participate in marriage preparation/counseling sessions with the officiating pastor. Prepare/Enrich materials will be used in a series of 3-4 sessions. A service fee of \$35.00 will be collected at your first meeting to cover the cost of processing the questionnaires. Contact the pastor 3-6 months before the wedding to begin pre-marriage preparation.

Date to begin pre-marriage preparation: \_\_\_\_\_

## Planning the Service

### Wedding Coordinator

You will meet with our wedding coordinator to plan and discuss the technical aspects of your wedding service. Our secretary will give you the name and phone number so you can arrange a meeting. To that meeting bring the Planning a Sacred Wedding worksheet with as much filled out as you have planned. The coordinator will help you with your questions regarding placement of things, details, and planning the service.

You are encouraged to personalize your wedding service. However, you should recognize that because the wedding ceremony is set within the context of Christian worship, what is done at the service must be appropriate to a worship service and in keeping with the church's understanding of marriage. If there are questions the officiating pastor will make the final decisions as to what is appropriate.

Meeting Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Order of Service

The customary order for the wedding service is:

Prelude

Seating of Honored Guests\*

Lighting of Candles\*

Processional

Invocation and Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading\*

Wedding Message

Exchange of Marriage Vows and Rings

Declaration of Marriage

Lighting of Unity Candle\*

Pastoral Blessing

Wedding Prayer and Lord's Prayer\*

Benediction

Presentation of Couple

Recessional

Postlude

\* places where musical selections could be included

You are welcome to discuss any variations in the wedding service when you meet with the wedding coordinator.

# Music

Because the wedding service is a service of worship, the music you select should contribute to the spirit of worship. It should express God's love and your response in praise and thanksgiving. Secular love songs must be approved by the pastor. We also invite you to consider congregational singing so that your family and friends can actively participate in this joyous occasion. Depending on the time of year, a hymn fitting the season of the church year can also be used. Our Canton Lutheran organists will assist you in the selection of music.

## Vocal solos or duets

Some examples of appropriate vocal solos or duets include:

*If You Could See what I See*, Moore/Chapman

*In This Very Room*, Harris

*In Your Power*

*I've Thought It Through*

*I've Waited a Lifetime*

*Make Us One*

*Make Us One, Father*, Johnson

*Morning Has Broken*

*Nature of Love*

*O Perfect Love*, White

*Ode to Joy*, Beethoven

*On Eagle's Wings*, Joncas

*Only God Could Love You More*, Borop/Lilies

*Only the Beginning*

*Our Sacred Pledge*

*Parent's Prayer*, Davis

*Saviour Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

*Song of Community*

*The Father Says "I Do"*

*The Gift of Love*, White

*The Lord's Prayer*, Malotte

*The Rose*, McBroom

*There is Love*

*This Day*

*This is Where the Candle Glows*, Koch/Wilcox

*Time for Joy*

*To Me*, David/Reid

*Today We Pledge*

*Together*

*Two Candles, Salsbury*

*You Decorated My Life*

*You Needed Me, Goodrum*

*We Are One*

*Wedding Song (There is Love), Stukey*

*Wedding Prayer, Rice*

*Wedding Prayer, Ault*

*What a Difference You Have Made in My Life*

*Wind Beneath My Wings*

*When Love is Found, Hopson*

**Preludes, Processionals (P), Recessionals (R), and Postludes**

*Air from Water Music, Handel*

*Air from Suite in D, Bach*

*Aria-Bist Du Bei Mir (If Thou Are With Me), Stolzel*

*Aria in F Major, Handel (P)*

*Angel Eyes, Brickman*

*Canon in D, Pachelbel (P)*

*Fanfare and Trumpeting (R)*

*Festal March, Handel (P)*

*Hornpipe, Handel*

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, Bach (P)*

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee, Beethoven (R)*

*Largo, Vivaldi (P)*

*March Nuptiale, Haydn*

*Prince of Denmark's March, Clarke*

*Psalm XIX(The Heavens Declare), Marcello (R)*

*Rejoice This Day (R)*

*Spring "Four Seasons", Vivaldi*

*The Bridal Chorus*

*Toccata in C, Bach (R)*

*Trumpet Tune, Clarke*

*Trumpet Tune, Purcell (P)*

*Trumpet Voluntary, Purcell (R)*

*Wedding March, Wagner*

*Wedding March, Mendellsohn (P)*

*Wedding Processional*

*With Trumpets and Horn, Handel*

## Congregational Hymns

At the beginning of the service:

*We Praise You, O God*, LBW 241  
*Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now*, LBW 253  
*Praise and Thanksgiving*, LBW 409  
*Holy God, We Praise Your Name*, LBW 535  
*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*, LBW 543  
*Here in This Place*, WOV 718  
*God is Here*, WOV 719

**During the service:**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*, LBW 124  
*O Perfect Love*, LBW 287  
*Hear Us Now, Our God and Father*, LBW 288  
*I Will Sing the Story of Your Love*, LBW 16  
*Heavenly Father, Hear our Prayer*, LBW 289  
*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, LBW 315  
*Jesus, Still Lead On*, LBW 341  
*Blest Be the Tie that Binds*, LBW 370  
*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*, LBW 456  
*Let us Ever Walk with Jesus*, LBW 487  
*O, Blest the House*, LBW 512,  
*Beautiful Savior*, LBW 518  
*When Love is Found*, WOV 749  
*I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*, WOV 770  
*O Christ the Same*, WOV 778  
*Children of the Heavenly Father*, LBW 474  
*O Sing to the Lord*, WOV 795  
*Bind us Together*, WOV 748  
*As Man and Woman We Were Made*, WOV 751

**At the end of the service:**

*Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus*, LBW 219  
*Lord of All Hopefulness*, LBW 469  
*All Creatures of Our God and King*, LBW 527  
*Now Thank We All Our God*, LBW 534  
*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*, LBW 549  
*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*, LBW 551  
*Let All Things Now Living*, LBW 557  
*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*, WOV 721  
*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*, LBW 221

*Here is Now, Our God and Father, LBW 288*  
*Let All Things Now Living, LBW 557*

Other hymn selections may be presented to the pastor.

Your Musical Choices

Processional: \_\_\_\_\_

Solos/Duets (if  
desired): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Congregational Hymn (if desired):

\_\_\_\_\_

Recessional: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Instruments or  
groups: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes:

## Suggested Scripture Readings

We believe that marriage needs to reflect the love and faithfulness that God has revealed to us in his Word and in Jesus Christ, our Savior. You are encouraged to select Scripture readings to be read during the service which express the themes you want to emphasize. One, two, or three passages, with or without a psalm, are appropriate.

### *From the Old Testament:*

Genesis 1:26-31		Male and female created by God
Genesis 2:18-2	4	God's purpose in creating man and woman
Ruth 1: 16-17		Committed love described
Song of Solomon 2: 10-13		Love in the spring
Song of Solomon 8:7		Unquenchable love
Isaiah 43:1-3a		God keeps and protects
Isaiah 63:7-9		The steadfast love of God
Jeremiah 32: 38-41		God's faithfulness
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8		A time for every matter under heaven
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12		A cord of three is stronger than two
Psalms:	19, 33, 100, 117, 127, 128, 136, 148, 150	

### *From the New Testament:*

1 John 3:18-24		Love in action
1 John 4:7-12		God's love is perfected in us
1 John 4:16-21		We love because God first loved us
1 John 5:1-5		The victory that conquers the world
Romans 12:1-2		A living offering
1 Corinthians 13		Love is the greatest gift of God
Ephesians 1:16-19		That God may give you a spirit of wisdom
Ephesians 3:16-19		That Christ may dwell in your hearts
Ephesians 5:21-33		Marriage and the church
Philippians 1:9-11		That your love may overflow
Philippians 2:1-5		Share a Christ-like love
Colossians 2:6-7		Build your lives on Christ
Philippians 4:4-9		Rejoice in the Lord always
Colossians 3:12-17		Live in love and thanksgiving

*From the Gospels*

Matthew 7:24-29	Build your house on the rock of God
Matthew 19:4-6	Faithfulness in marriage
John 2:1-10	Jesus at the wedding in Cana
John 13:33-35	Disciples are known by their love
John 15:9-12 (13-17)	Love one another

Your Scripture Selection(s)

---

---

Reader(s)

---

---

## Wedding Vows

The following vows, each expressing your promise to be faithful to each other until you are parted by death, are appropriate for use in your wedding:

1. I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, 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.
2. I, \_\_\_\_\_, choose you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband. I promise to honor and respect you, and to provide for you to the best of my ability. I promise to make our home a haven, where trust, love and laughter are abundant. I make these promises lovingly, and freely, and vow to honor them all the days of my life.
3. I, \_\_\_\_\_, take thee, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my 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, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge thee my faithfulness.
4. I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_ 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 strive with you better to understand ourselves, the world, and God, through the best and the worst of what is to come as long as we live.
5. I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband; to live with you according to God's purpose from this day on; whether there are good days or bad, whether we are in sickness or health. I give you my love and my loyalty until we are parted by death. This is my promise to you.

Selected Wedding Vows: \_\_\_\_\_

# Sanctuary Weddings Additional Details

## Decorations

- The color of the paraments (the hangings on the altar) are determined by the church-year calendar and may not be changed for weddings.
- The communion rail and altar candelabra **cannot** be moved.
- The pulpit will be moved off to the side.
- The Christ candle must be placed near the unity candle stand (if the unity candle is being lit).
- We have available for your use the following:
  - Unity candle stand
  - Unity candles (nominal charge)
  - Wedding candelabra (2) (nominal charge)
  - Aisle cloth (nominal charge)
  - Flower stands of varying heights (6)
  - Gift table inside the southeast entrance door
  - Guest book table also at the southeast door
- Floral decorations are not necessary, but if desired, must be provided by the couple.
- For fire safety, only votive candles may be used in the windows and candelabra.
- Flower arrangements may be attached with ribbon to the pew ends. Do not use wire or tape.
- Setting up and removing rented equipment from the sanctuary is the responsibility of the couple.
- All decorations must be removed **immediately** after the service so that preparations can be made for upcoming worship services.

## Bulletins

It is helpful, but not necessary to have a printed bulletin to inform guests of the order of service and the names of the participants in the wedding party. The wedding coordinator may have samples for you and an order of service is printed elsewhere in this booklet. You should discuss the bulletin with the pastor or wedding coordinator, but you are responsible for designing and printing the bulletin.

## Dressing Rooms

Cost for dressing rooms is included in the building use fee.

- The bride and her attendants usually dress in the library.
- The groom and his attendants dress in the youth room.

## Unity Candle

Many couples choose to include the lighting of a unity candle to symbolize the joining of two into one. We have a unity candle stand and candles available for your use. You may furnish your own candles. At the appointed time in the service, parents or other significant persons in your lives may light your individual candles from the Christ candle and hand them to you or you may light them yourselves. Then the two of you will light the large unity candle from your two smaller candles. You may extinguish the individual candles or leave them lit.

## Pictures

Most couples contract with a professional photographer to photograph or videotape the ceremony. Flash photography is permitted only during the processional and recessional. Pictures may be taken at any time during the service as long as the photographer does not disturb the wedding service (**no flash!**). Video equipment may be placed in the back or side of the sanctuary or balcony.

We recommend that formal pictures be taken before the wedding ceremony. Please allow adequate time for your photographs (3-4 hours before wedding) to avoid any delay with your ceremony.

Photographer: \_\_\_\_\_

Videographer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ushers, Acolytes, and Guest Book

A minimum of four ushers is recommended to seat guests as they arrive, light the candles, and seat the honored guests at the beginning of the ceremony. More may be needed if you will have in excess of 150 guests. They will receive instructions at the rehearsal.

If you are having acolytes light the candles instead of ushers, we recommend they be at least 12 years old or 54" tall.

If you are having many guests it is advisable to have individual guest book sheets so that there is less bottleneck at the guest book table.

## Sound

We will provide a trained person to run the sound board. If you wish to use recorded music or have unique amplification requirements for your wedding, speak with the wedding coordinator so that arrangements can be made. Instructions need to be written out and given to the sound person along with the CD or tape. It is recommended that soloists practice with our sound equipment ahead of time.

## The License

South Dakota law requires couples to secure a license to marry. It can be secured at any Register of Deeds Office in the State. Both individuals must be present with valid Driver's Licenses and Social Security numbers. The license to marry is valid for 20 days. **The license must be brought to the church office at least two full working days before the ceremony.** The license will be signed by your witnesses and the pastor after the wedding.

## Conduct of Guests & Participants

As the wedding is set within the context of worship, participants and guest should conduct themselves accordingly.

- **The use of alcoholic beverages on or near church property is prohibited.**
- Our building is smoke free.
- No food or beverage should be consumed in the sanctuary or chapel.
- Should you choose to provide guests a trinket to remember the day, bells are fun and can be rung as the couple leaves the church or at the reception to request that the couple kiss. If you choose something to shower on the newlyweds, it must be **bird seed or bubbles** and should only be given to guests when they leave the church. No bird seed should be thrown or bubbles blown inside the church buildings. Rice, confetti, etc. should not be used on church property. Balloon bouquets can be used in the church but balloons cannot be released outside.

## Reception

Receptions can be scheduled in the Fellowship Hall located in the church basement or in the Library. The Fellowship Hall can comfortably accommodate 200 guests plus a head table and the Library can seat 40. Our reception coordinator will assist you with any arrangements for a reception at Canton Lutheran. Our church secretary can give you her phone number.

Your reception may be catered by professionals or served by members of our Canton Lutheran WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) organization. If WELCA does not serve the reception the reception coordinator will be present during the reception to answer questions and help with coordination.

If WELCA serves the reception, they will prepare sandwiches, make the punch and coffee, and clean up after the reception.

### We provide:

- Arrangements of tables and chairs as needed
- Table linens (lace or formal cloths) and care for them after the reception
- Cake knives (2)
- Silver Service (2)
- Dishes, Silverware, Spoon/Fork holders
- Punch bowl, ladle, and ice rings
- Serving plates for cake, sandwiches, nuts and mints
- Candle holders for serving tables

**You provide:** (and must be brought to Fellowship Hall before the rehearsal)

- Punch ingredients, recipe, and cups
- All food (nuts, mints, half and half, salads, sandwiches ingredients, etc.)
- Cake with cutting instructions (day of reception is okay)
- Coffee (3 lbs. serves 200 guests)
- Napkins (punch and dinner)
- Disposable drink cups, bride and groom punch glasses

## Helpers that you will need to provide

- Cake Cutters (2)
- Coffee Servers (2)
- Punch Servers (2)
- Waiters/Waitresses (4-6 if 200 guests, 2-3 if fewer than 100 guests) - usually 12 yrs. or older to work through the reception, gathering cups, plates, and pouring extra coffee.
- Guest Book Attendant
- Gift Carriers – Scotch tape, a large envelope for cards, and big boxes are helpful. Please arrange to have gifts removed from the narthex immediately following the ceremony by a friend that is not required to be at the beginning of the reception.
- Dining Room Hosts/Hostesses (often 2 couples, one from each side of the family) Their responsibilities include:
  - Directing guests to guest book, punch table, and
  - servicing table, locating rest rooms for guests,
  - enforcing church policy of no alcoholic beverages
  - on or near church property, and enforcing church
  - policy of no smoking in the church.

## Reminder:

**All decorations, leftover food, etc. must be removed immediately following the reception.**

## Notes:

## Fees and deposit

Care has been taken to insure that costs are kept to a minimum for you. At the same time, fees cover the basic expenses incurred by the church, such as custodial fee, sound technician, set-up and take-down in both the sanctuary and dressing rooms. Members are given discounts of approximately 50% for building use.

**A deposit of half of the total fee is required to secure the wedding date on the church calendar.** Deposits will be refunded if a wedding is canceled more than 120 days prior to the scheduled wedding. If canceled within 120 days of the wedding, the deposit may be refunded at the discretion of the Senior Pastor.

The deposit must be paid in order to reserve the church and date. **The remaining balance and other fees must be paid, in cash or separate checks made out to the appropriate person a minimum of 30 days in advance of the wedding date.**

<u>Fees</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
<i>Building Use Fees:</i>		
Ceremony in Sanctuary-includes custodial fee and wedding coordinator fee	\$225	\$400
Ceremony in Chapel	\$75	\$150
Catered Reception in Fellowship Hall-includes reception Coordinator and custodial fee	\$175	\$375
Reception in Fellowship Hall Served by WELCA	\$275	\$475
Catered Reception in Library	\$50	\$125
Reception in Library served by WELCA	\$75	\$175
<i>Additional rentals:</i>		
Unity Candles	\$5	\$5
Wedding candelabra	\$8	\$8
<i>Additional Fees:</i>		
Clergy Fee (paid directly) \$200	Suggested gift \$75-100	
Prepare/Enrich Questionnaire	\$35	\$35
CLC Organist (paid directly)	\$150	\$150

## Questions I Have

## Phones Numbers

Pastor:

Organist:

Wedding Coordinator:

Reception Coordinator:

Others:

## Thank you!

We consider it an honor to assist you in preparing for this milestone in your life. We believe in the sanctity and importance of marriage, as well as the importance of supporting you, not only on your wedding day, but throughout your married life.

We pray that your wedding day, and the part we play in it, will be a joyful experience for you. We will appreciate any feedback you are willing to share with us, so that we can continue to make Canton Lutheran a wonderful place for couples to prepare for marriage, to be married, and to be supported in their life together.

God's richest blessings to you in your life together.

The Pastors and Staff of Canton Lutheran Church

**Canton Lutheran Church**  
**124 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.**  
**Canton, SD 57013**

**Phone Number: 605.764.2429**

**Fax: 605.764.2430**

**Email – [cantonluth@iw.net](mailto:cantonluth@iw.net)**

Revised September, 2007