

To those considering marriage,

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! The Christian marriage service is a meaningful celebration, and we are delighted to assist you in planning yours. I encourage you to contact us so that we may hear your story and discuss possible next steps in a face-to-face conversation.

This document is a way of giving you helpful information about what to expect when planning a wedding here. It contains our policy as well as some resources for selecting your vows, scripture, and music. Be assured that St. Martin's Lutheran Church values the sanctity of your marriage and the vows you will speak.

As you prepare for your wedding and, most importantly, for your marriage, please know that you will be in our thoughts and prayers. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Pastor, the Office Manager, or the church's Wedding Coordinator. We will be happy to assist you in any way we are able.

Contact Information for St. Martin's Lutheran Church

Interim Pastor

Rev. Tim Marquez

Email: pastor@stmartinslc.org

Church Office: 281.980.0695

Office Manager

Mary Rowell

Email: officemanager@stmartinlc.org

Church Office: 281.980.0695

Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday

9 AM - 2 PM

Church Musician

Jenny Salyers

Email: jenny_salyers@yahoo.com

Cell: 713.591.3312

Wedding Coordinator

Jackie Carlisto

Email: beachdaze67@gmail.com

Cell: 281.886.9178

Church Information

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

Address: 1123 Burney Road, Sugar Land, TX. 77498

Phone: 281.980.0695

Website: www.stmartinslc.org



Scheduling Your Wedding

Congratulations! You have decided to get married and you would like to have your wedding at St. Martin's Lutheran Church. To ensure that you get the date and time that best suits your needs, please contact us.

- **Schedule an initial meeting with the pastor.** Besides getting to know one another better, we will discuss the opportunity for counseling sessions, the wedding ceremony, and necessary logistics. Next steps will then be determined, which can include arranging for contact with the Church Musician, AV Technician, and Wedding Coordinator.
- **Choose a date AS WELL AS an alternate date.** We will do our best to meet your needs, but there are certain dates and times where the pastor's schedule or other events in the church make hosting a wedding impractical. We ask for your understanding.
- **Contact the Office Manager to ascertain if your date and time are available.** The Office Manager will consult the church calendar and help you find a time to schedule your special day. You can reach the Office Manager during her office hours (Tuesday - Thursday, 9 AM - 2 PM) at 281.980.0695 or via email at officemanager@stmartinslc.org.
- **Pay the \$100 wedding deposit.** Remember, confirming date availability is *not* the same as reserving that date. A deposit ensures that your wedding date and time are set and not given to anyone else. In the event that someone else requests the same time before we have received your deposit, we will contact you and let you know so that you can take appropriate action. However, it is best to wait to order invitations until after your deposit is made.
- **Follow through with needed contacts.** If needed, make sure you meet with the Church Musician, Wedding Coordinator, AV Technician. Besides ensuring that calendar dates are cleared, this allows time to plan appropriately.
- **Communicate any questions, needs, or ideas that might arise.**



Fees

The following is a breakdown of various fees to be considered. The type of ceremony or unusual circumstances can affect them. This is handled in conversation with the pastor. You do not need to pay each component separately, but instead issue total payment to the church. St. Martin's will then render individual payments to all necessary parties via its usual payroll. We expect payment of fees before or on the wedding date.

Pastor: An honorarium is given to the pastor for the services provided (premarital counseling when applicable, wedding preparation, and ceremony). There is a fee of **\$300**.

Fees (when appropriate): Though consideration will be given to the size and complexity of the wedding, these fees are customary:

Building

- **Non-Member Building Use Fee** **\$250**

If desired, members can also pay this.

Planning

- **Wedding Coordinator Fee** **\$200**

*- assists with logistics during rehearsal and service
- opens and closes building, handles HVAC and lights*

Service

- **Audio/Visual Technician** **\$150**

*- support sound and, if desired, insert media
- selected from church's list of authorized people*

- **Bulletins (optional)** **\$100**

*- preparation and printing (does not include paper)
- coordinated with Office Manager*

Music

- **Church Musician (ceremony only, no vocalists)** **\$250**

*- plays piano or organ for wedding ceremony
- extra: rehearsal (\$50), accompany soloist (\$25)*

- **Church-Provided Vocal Soloist** **\$150**

Church Musician can direct you to trained voices.

Decorating the Sanctuary

- **Flowers:** Flower arrangements of almost any size can be used to decorate the area around the altar. The church has a few pedestals that can be used to display these arrangements. No flowers will be placed on the altar, nor can they be placed anywhere they would interfere with necessary traffic flow. Flower girls/boys may only use artificial flower petals. Natural petals could stain and be ground into the carpet if stepped on.
- **Other Decorations:** Bows or ribbons may be attached to the ends of pews by pinning them to the upholstered backs of the seats. Carpet runners are not allowed as they cannot be secured and are a trip hazard. An appropriate
- **Candles:** You will be responsible for purchasing your own Unity Candle and accompanying tapers, as well as a candle stand. You can usually rent candle stands from a florist. All taper candles must be placed in appropriate candle holders.

The Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal is typically scheduled the evening before the ceremony and prior to the rehearsal dinner. The rehearsal usually lasts less than an hour. Please help us keep on schedule by making sure all parties are on time for the rehearsal.

The wedding rehearsal is essentially a full run-through of the ceremony. The bridal party, family, and ushers will rehearse entering and exiting the sanctuary in time to selected music. Those reading scripture will practice movements and check sound levels. Some music, such as hymns, may be omitted from the rehearsal. It is important that all participants attend the rehearsal.

Photography and Videography

Photos and video may be taken during the service, but the photographer/videographer must remain at the rear or sides of the sanctuary. Only the ambient light in the room may be used; no additional lighting may be brought in, and no flash photography will be permitted during the service other than the processional and recessional. Before and after the service, photos may be taken from anywhere and flashes may be used.

The Day of the Wedding

The big day is finally here. There will be a lot going on, but the following will help organize your comings and goings:

- **Rooms:** The church office, which has a non-public bathroom, is normally the dressing area for the bride and the bridesmaids. The groom and groomsmen normally wait for the service to begin in our large adult classroom. It is recommended that the wedding party (except the bride) arrive at the church dressed in their wedding attire as there is no non-public changing area.
- **Housekeeping Items:** Although you most likely will be paying a clean-up fee, we ask that you practice basic courtesy by placing garbage in the garbage bins and removing and disposing of any food or beverages you brought to the church. Please respect our sanctuary by not eating and drinking there.

The wedding party should also double check their rooms to ensure that all personal items are removed from the building either prior to or following the service. If items are left, we will hold on to them until they can be retrieved, but we will not hold them indefinitely.

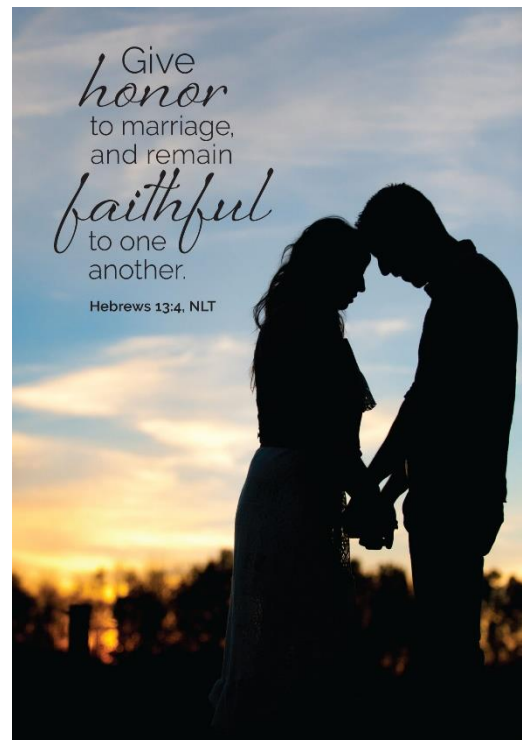
The Marriage License

The bride and groom must obtain their own marriage license from the Fort Bend County Clerk's office:

Official Public Records/Vital Statistics
301 Jackson Street
Richmond, TX 77469

The marriage license cannot be used for 72 hours after it is granted. Once issued and the 72 hour no-use window has passed, the license is good for 30 days. If the marriage ceremony is not performed in those 30 days, the license becomes void, and you must apply for a new license.

After the ceremony, we will mail the certificate to the County Clerk, who will then mail you the original document after its information has been filed with the County and State.



Hymns

All the hymns listed here are found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal. Other hymns may also be appropriate. You are not limited to this list. If a hymn is to be used during the ceremony, please discuss it with the pastor and the Church Musician.

659	Will You Let Me Be Your Servant
397	Loving Spirit
585	Hear Us Now, Our God and Father
586	This Is a day, Lord, Gladly Awaited
648	Beloved, God's Chosen
816	Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
312	Jesus, Come! For We Invite You
836	Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
839, 840	Now Thank We All Our God
308	O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!
488, 489	Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
653	Ubi Caritas et Amor / Where True Charity and Love Abide
631	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
502	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
804	Come Down, O Love Divine

Hymns appropriate for a wedding when communion is celebrated:

460	Now the Silence
471	Let Us Break Bread Together
358	Great God, Your Love Has Called Us
487	What Feast of Love
496	One Bread, One Body
462	Now We Join in Celebration

Scripture Suggestions

Old Testament and Psalm

Song of Songs 2:18-24

"My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The 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 Songs 8:6-7

"Set 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. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned."

Isaiah 43:1-2

"But now thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, the One who formed you. O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before our God with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is the Creator who made us, and we are the Creator's beloved;

God's very own sheep of the pasture.

Psalm 117

Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol the Holy One, all you peoples.

For great is God's love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Psalm 139:13-14

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works that I know very well.

New Testament

Colossians 3:12-14

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13

"Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

1 John 4:7-12, 16b

"Beloved let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. Not one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-10

The beatitudes

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

A wise person builds upon the rock

Matthew 22:35-40

Love, the greatest commandment

John 2:1-11

The wedding at Cana

John 13:1-16

Love and serve each other as Christ loves us

John 15:9-12

Abide in my love...this is my commandment that you love one another

Wedding Vow Options

1. ___(Name)___, 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 and trust, help and care for you, I will share my life with you. I will forgive you as we have been forgiven. I will try with you to better understand ourselves, the world and God, through the best and worst of what is to come as long as we both shall live.

2. ___(Name)___, I take you to be my wife/husband from this time onward, to join with you and 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 all my being until death parts us.

3. In the name of God, I ___(Name)___, take you ___(Name)___, to be my 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.