

Reformation Lutheran Church, Media
Wedding Service Information and Guidelines

Congratulations on your engagement! We rejoice with you in the great love that God has brought into your life. We pray that this time of wedding preparation is full of joy and learning in your relationship with each other and with God.

Marriage is an important part of the Christian life and exhibits the commitment of two people to grow together in love. Weddings held in the community of faith are the way that we ask for God's blessing on the marriage and give thanks for the love God gives people to share with their spouses.

The information in this document will help you plan your wedding at Reformation. Please read it carefully. This information is not meant to be prohibitive but rather to enhance the wedding service and provide direction to you as you plan your wedding. If you have any questions or issues with any of these guidelines, including fees, please discuss them openly and frankly with the pastor during the initial planning session.

If, in the event of illness or family emergency, the pastor or musician is unable to participate in a wedding service, they will provide a substitute or discuss options. In the unlikely event this happens, the customary fees will be payable to substitutes instead of Reformation's staff members.

It is our hope that you will discover God's blessings anew each day as you grow deeper in love preparing for your wedding.

In celebration,

Pastor Alina Gayeuski

Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan

Please note: This information has been prepared for on-site weddings held at Reformation. For weddings held at other locations, please be in conversation with the pastors about which of these items still apply.

Reserving a Wedding Date

It is highly recommended that a pastor be consulted as soon as you begin planning your wedding date to discuss appropriate time-frames, fees, special requirements, etc. Contact the church office as soon as possible to ensure that the date you wish to have your wedding is open and available. It is advisable to do this before booking a reception venue.

Premarital Counseling

Premarital Counseling is required for all those preparing to be married by the pastors of Reformation. There are multiple options for this and information will be discussed and provided for you by a pastor. Premarital counseling is intended to help you and your future spouse prepare for your life together, managing expectations, and learning how to strengthen your relationship. This is part of the pastoral care Reformation clergy provide in preparation for weddings.

Weddings in the Community of Faith

We believe that a wedding service in the Church must be understood as a service of worship. Thus, our policies are set forth in order that each wedding performed at Reformation, or by a pastor of the congregation, be conducted in accordance with our theology and reflect the Church's understanding of Christian marriage, home, and family. If you are not looking for a religious service, we recommend seeking out a qualified public official to officiate your wedding and a location other than the church building.

Officiating

Pastors under call at Reformation will officiate the wedding service. With pastoral approval, other clergy (ELCA, other Christian traditions, interfaith religious leaders), may participate in the service. Pastoral ethics preclude the participation of former pastors of Reformation in the service. Couples are responsible for paying visiting clergy fees.

Order of Service

At Reformation, the wedding liturgy follows the pattern found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Many options are available within this resource to personalize the service to any couple. You will receive a wedding planning document to help you make those personalized choices. However, the order for worship will follow the pattern found below:

- Gathering (including entrance, introduction, and prayer)

- Word (including scripture readings and a brief sermon)
- Marriage (including vows, the giving of rings, and the prayers)
- Meal (*optional* – please see details below about including communion in your wedding service)
- Sending (including blessing and dismissal)

Readings

A wedding at Reformation is a worship service, and worship always includes the reading of scripture. Suggested scripture readings are provided in this document. Other readings may be included by consulting the pastor.

Music

Musicians from the church are available to play during the service. Outside musicians can be invited, any rehearsal necessary should be organized through the church office. Music used in the service should be appropriate for the sacred setting. A list of suggested songs is provided in this document. Because of copyright, some music may not be able to be used for the service. The pastors will help make that determination.

Vows

Appropriate options are included in the wedding service found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and it is strongly encouraged that you use one of those options or a combination of them.

Holy Communion

Because the marriage liturgy is a continuation of the “...wedding feast that has no end,” many couples choose to include the sacrament of Holy Communion in their wedding service. Wedding eucharists will be celebrated by the whole community in accordance with the policies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). All are welcome at the table of our Lord Jesus Christ where God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. We believe Christ is present in the bread and wine.

After the Wedding

A receiving line may be formed in the lobby of the Church or outdoors, weather permitting. Or you can head directly to your reception location and greet your guests there. The use of rice, confetti, balloons, or birdseed is not permitted on church grounds.

Bulletins / Programs

In order for your guests to follow along with the worship liturgy, bulletins are suggested for each wedding service. The pastor will work with you to create this bulletin.

Wedding Rehearsal

During the rehearsal, all participants will be guided through their roles in the service. The officiating pastor is solely in charge of the rehearsal and the wedding. You may independently engage the services of a wedding planner, but they cannot overrule the decisions of the pastor. Prior to the wedding rehearsal, the officiating pastor will meet with the couple to review all logistics of the service. All members of the wedding party should attend the rehearsal and be on time.

Participation of Family and Friends

There are several places within the liturgy where we invite the participation of family and friends of the couple. You may invite one or two people to help read the scripture readings for the day, someone else could offer the prayers of intercession, and another one or two people could be communion assistants (if applicable to your service). These can be slightly modified. To determine where it is possible to have family and friends participate, please be in consultation with the pastor.

The involvement of young children in a wedding procession should be decided very carefully. Many young children can have negative emotional responses to large crowds, especially after a long day filled with a lot of stimulus. Remember that a child who becomes overly upset may have to be taken out of the worship space and their family member will miss the wedding service. We recommend a designated caregiver for young children. The nursery will be open and available for use by children with adult supervision. The pray ground in the back of the sanctuary is always available as well.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

The pastors and staff of Reformation Lutheran Church reserve the right to postpone or cancel a wedding service if any guest or member of the wedding party appears intoxicated. Pennsylvania Law prohibits a pastor to marry anyone who appears under the influence.

The Color of the Day

The Lutheran Church practices the use of liturgical colors corresponding to the day and/or festival being observed during the wedding service. The color of the altar cloths and pastor's vestments are the assigned ones for the day. The pastor is happy to let you know what that color will be as soon as you choose your date!

Flowers

Flowers are the responsibility of the wedding party and may be provided by any florist. It is helpful to provide the name of the florist to the church office as soon as it is confirmed. Arrangements should be made for the florist to deliver flowers and other decorations. These arrangements should be coordinated with the office staff so deliveries can be made when the office is open. Flowers are not to be placed on the altar. Real flower petals cannot be tossed on the ground, but silk petals are permitted. There should be a plan for the flowers to be taken from the church following the wedding service.

Live Stream

Reformation has the capability to live stream services in the sanctuary, as well as record. If you would like this for your wedding service, please request a tech by speaking with a pastor. This service will be provided if a tech is available for the service. The tech will be paid directly by the couple.

Photographers

Flash photography should not be used during worship. The officiating pastor is happy to stage any pictures after the service if a flash is required. Photographers may move around the sanctuary but should not obstruct any part of worship.

Videographers

The video photographer should remain in one spot during the wedding liturgy to eliminate any movement and interruption to the wedding ceremony. The balcony is the best place for the videographer to work.

Other Outside Vendors

Any other outside vendors should consult with the pastor or staff to make sure all applicable church policies are being followed.

Fees

It is customary to give honorarias to the church staff participating in leading the service. The following are the appropriate amounts:

Pastor	\$200
Musician	\$175
Live Stream Tech	\$150

There is no cost to members for use of the building. Non-members will pay a \$100 cleaning fee at the time of booking their date.

Readings and Psalms

Genesis 2:18-24 *Companionship rather than loneliness*
Proverbs 3:3-6 *Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart*
Song of Solomon 2:10-13 *The voice of the beloved*
Song of Solomon 8:6-7 *Many waters cannot quench love*
Isaiah 63:7-9 *God's steadfast love lifts up the people*
Jeremiah 31:31-34 *The new covenant of the people of God*
Psalm 67 *May God be merciful to us and bless us*
Psalm 100 *We are God's people*
Psalm 117: *The steadfast love of the LORD*
Psalm 121 *The LORD keeps watch over you*
Psalm 127 *Unless the LORD builds the house*
Psalm 128 *Happy are they who follow in God's ways*
Psalm 150 *Let everything that has breath praise the LORD*
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 *If God is for us, who is against us?*
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 *A living sacrifice and genuine love*
1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13 *The greatest gift is love*
Ephesians 3:14-19 *The greatness of Christ's love*
Ephesians 5:1-2 *Live in love, as Christ loved us*
Philippians 4:4-9 *Rejoice in the Lord always*
Colossians 3:12-17 *Clothed in gifts of God*
1 John 3:18-24 *Let us love in truth and action*
1 John 4:7-16 *Let us love one another, for love is of God*
Matthew 5:1-10 *The Beatitudes*
Matthew 5:14-16 *You are the light, let your light shine*
Matthew 7:24-27 *Build on the rock*
Matthew 19:3-6 *What God has united must not be divided*
Matthew 22:35-40 *Love, the greatest commandment*
Mark 10:6-9 *They are no longer two but one*
John 2:1-11 *The wedding at Cana*
John 15:9-17 *Love one another as I have loved you*

Hymns

ELW 502 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*
ELW 543 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*
ELW 580 *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*
ELW 308 *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!*
ELW 312 *Jesus, Come! For We Invite You*

ELW 436 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
ELW 460 Now the Silence
ELW 488, 489 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
ELW 585 Hear Us Now, Our God and Father
ELW 586 This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited
ELW 631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
ELW 642 Ubi caritas et amor
ELW 644 Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue
ELW 648 Beloved, God's Chosen
ELW 653 Where True Charity and Love Abide / Ubi caritas et amor
ELW 679 For the Fruit of All Creation
ELW 712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
ELW 757 All My Hope on God Is Founded
ELW 760 O Christ the Same
ELW 765 Lord of All Hopefulness
ELW 804 Come Down, O Love Divine
ELW 816 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
ELW 836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
ELW 839, 840 Now Thank We All Our God
ELW 861 When Long before Time
ELW 879 For the Beauty of the Earth
ELW 880 O God beyond All Praising
ELW 881 Let All Things Now Living