



# WEDDINGS

*at Good Shepherd*

*A guide for the bride and groom  
in planning your Church wedding.*



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**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**  
**4000 28th St S | Moorhead, MN 56560**  
**218.233.4980 | [GoodShep@ktgs.org](mailto:GoodShep@ktgs.org)**  
**[www.KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/weddings](http://www.KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/weddings)**

## **CONTACTS**

Congregation Engagement Director (staff):  
Linda Bartholome  
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Wedding Coordinator (volunteer):  
Sonja Teigen  
218.233.8902 (home) | 701.361.0926 (cell)

Technical Director (staff):  
Ryan Schatz  
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Pastors:

Rev. Mary Suomala Folkerds, Lead Pastor  
Rev. Taylor Wilson, Pastor of Worship & Mission  
Rev. Meggie Bjertness, Pastor of Adult Faith Formation

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday–Thursday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm  
Friday, 10:00 am–2:00pm

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# YOUR CHURCH WEDDING AT GOOD SHEPHERD

A Church wedding carries the promises and responsibilities of the Christian faith. The sacred setting of our church and the ceremony will communicate, by word and symbol, the reality that marriage is instituted by God and has the promise of God's blessing.

This is your wedding. The staff at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd wants to help you make this day both memorable and meaningful. This guide is intended to assist you in planning and to provide practical information about the procedures at Good Shepherd.

## WEDDING DATE AND TIME

Contact the church office to see if the date you have chosen is available. Pending other scheduled events on the church calendar, the time of the wedding is the choice of the bride and groom.



## PASTORS

The pastors of Good Shepherd will work with you as you plan your wedding. If you have a preference of pastors, state your preference at the time you request a date for the wedding. Your preference is taken into consideration but will depend on that pastor's availability. Also, let us know if you have a guest pastor who will officiate your wedding.

## PRE-MARRIAGE CONSULTATIONS

All couples are required to participate in a pre-marriage retreat and to meet with the pastor 1–2 times prior to your wedding. Consult with the Good Shepherd pastor who will be officiating at your wedding to make these arrangements.

For off-site weddings, additional compensation for round-trip mileage (at the current IRS guidelines per mile) to and from the site is required for both the rehearsal and wedding service.

Couples who are married by a Good Shepherd pastor are required to attend a pre-marriage retreat. The cost of the retreat is \$300.

Visit [LoveCommitSucceed.com](http://LoveCommitSucceed.com) for details regarding the dates/locations of these retreats.

## FEES

No fee is charged to congregational members for the use of the Sanctuary. Non-members are charged a fee for use of the Sanctuary—see fees below. This non-refundable rental fee should be paid at the Church Office at the time of booking in order to reserve the Sanctuary.

Reserving a time for the wedding service and/or reception and paying fees for such use does not entitle the wedding party to exclusive use of all church facilities. It is possible that other activities may take place in other parts of the facility or other times of the day.

### *Fees (required)*

### *Members and Non-members*

Sanctuary Rental	No charge (members) \$250 (non-members)
Pastor	\$250.00
Wedding Coordinator	\$150.00
Custodian	\$75.00
Audio Technician	\$100.00
Damage Deposit	\$100.00 (refundable if no damage occurs)

### *Fees (optional)*

Pre-marriage Retreat	\$300.00 (required if married by a Good Shepherd pastor)
Musicians	See options on the next page.
Video Technician	\$150.00

***If weddings are scheduled on a holiday or holiday weekend, the fees are doubled (with the exception of the Sanctuary rental).***

Outdoor weddings require two audio technicians due to extra set-up/take-down.

The bride and groom should make arrangements to pay these fees prior to the time of rehearsal. All fees should be given to the Wedding Coordinator.

## **WEDDING COORDINATOR**

For all weddings held at Good Shepherd, except for smaller or private weddings, it is required that the Good Shepherd Wedding Coordinator work with the couple in planning the details of the wedding. The Wedding Coordinator is able to advise on every aspect of the arrangements—rehearsal, behind-the-scenes coordination, etc. There is a fee for the Wedding Coordinator.

## **REHEARSAL DATE**

The rehearsal date is usually set in consultation with the officiating pastor. The rehearsal should occur a day or two prior to the wedding. It will take about 30 minutes. We encourage you to have the entire wedding party present at the rehearsal.

It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to contact the Wedding Coordinator well in advance of the wedding. See the front of this booklet for Wedding Coordinator contact information.

## **MUSICIANS**

Good Shepherd has a list of musicians available to assist with music for your wedding, including organists, pianists, soloists, and various other musicians. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to coordinate with the musicians.

We have musicians on staff at Good Shepherd who may be available to play and/or sing at your wedding. Contact these musicians directly to check their availability.

- + Rev. Taylor Wilson (Pastor of Worship & Mission), 218.233.4980
  - + Vocalist, guitar, Worship Band leader
  
- + Matt Endreson (Choir Director), 218.205.6752
  - + Choir, vocalist, piano, keyboard

If you would like the full Worship Band, fees vary. Contact Rev. Taylor Wilson to make arrangements.

## LICENSE

The bride and groom must bring (or send) the marriage license to the Church Office at least one week prior to the wedding as well as the names of the witnesses. These should be full names and printed legibly. Wedding certificates will be prepared prior to the ceremony. The witnesses will sign the marriage certificates with the pastor before or during the ceremony.

The officiating pastor is responsible for mailing the marriage certificate to the county recorder after the wedding ceremony. You will be contacted by the county once they have received the marriage certificate.



## CEREMONY

### *Suggested Order of Worship*

- † Prelude (seating of parents and grandparents)
- † Processional
- † Invocation and Opening Prayer
- † Declaration of Intent
- † Scripture Lessons and/or Other Poems or Readings
- † Sermon/Wedding Message
- † Vows
- † Exchange of Rings
- † Pronouncement of Marriage
- † Blessing of the Couple
- † Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
- † Blessing
- † Recessional
- † Postlude
- † Optional (throughout the ceremony): Holy Communion, solos, and/or special music

## READINGS

The bride and groom are urged to select one to three scripture readings to be used as part of the ceremony. Poems or other readings may also be included. Some suggested passages are the following:

### *Old Testament*

Genesis 1:26–31	Male/female made in God's image
Genesis 2:18–24	Two become one flesh
Deuteronomy 6:4–9	Love God with heart and soul
Psalms 98	Sing to the Lord a new song
Psalms 100	Make a joyful noise to God
Psalms 139:13–18	We are made by God
Proverbs 3:3–6	Trust in God with your heart
Ecclesiastes 3:9–12	Two are better than one
Song of Solomon 2:10–13	Arise, my love, and come away with me

### *Gospel Readings*

Matthew 7:24–27	Build your house on the rock
Matthew 19:4–6	Two are one flesh
Mark 10:6–9	Two become one flesh
Luke 8:22–31	Do not worry
John 2:1–11	Wedding at Cana
John 15:9–17	Abide in Love

### *New Testament Letters*

Romans 12:9–18	Let love be genuine
1 Corinthians 13	Love is patient, love is kind...
Colossians 3:12–17	Clothe yourselves with love
James 1:17–21	Every good gift is from above
1 John 4:7–12	Love is from God





## VOWS

The vows represent the promises of the bride and groom to each other before God and the guests at the wedding. Provision may be made for those who wish to write their own vows, providing they make clear the promises are a life-long commitment and they incorporate elements of complete sharing and love which marriage implies.

*Following are vows which may be chosen by the bride and groom:*

- † 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.
- † In the presence of God and this community, I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, 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.
- † 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 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.
- † I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, 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 together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.
- † \_\_\_\_\_, 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.

## MUSIC

Consult with the pastor and/or church musicians about music. A broad range of music is acceptable, as long as it is not disrespectful/offensive. A playlist of suggested songs is available on Spotify by searching, "Jon Dahl Wedding Songs."



## UNITY SYMBOL

Couples often include the mutual lighting of the unity candle, symbolizing the oneness of marriage. This is to be done following the vows. The bride and groom are to provide the candles, or other elements, like sand, used in the ceremony.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

It is encouraged that all formal pictures of the bride and groom, as well as all formal group pictures, should be completed 45 minutes before the ceremony, so it is done before guests arrive. Videos of the service may be taken using a stationary camera in the Sanctuary. No flash photographs will be permitted during the service.

## CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS AND GUESTS

All members of the wedding party are expected to conduct themselves appropriately. There is no drinking allowed at the church or in the parking lot. ***Wedding will be canceled if any participants are inebriated.***

Children in attendance at the wedding must be well-supervised. Use of the Community Life Center/Gym is not included in the wedding reservation. Children are welcome to use the outdoor playground (East Entrance) and the nursery (off the Gathering Space), as long as they are supervised by an adult.

## INVITATIONS

If you would like the pastor or musicians to attend your rehearsal dinner or reception, please send them an invitation.



## RECEPTION AT THE CHURCH

The Good Shepherd Gathering Space or Community Life Center/ Gym may be available for your wedding reception.

## DECORATIONS, FLOWERS, AND CANDLES

All floral decorations are provided by the bridal party and are available at most florists.

When decorations are attached to the pews, no pins or tacks can be used. The type of decoration selected be discussed with the Wedding Coordinator.

We permit live flame for a Unity Candle on the altar, but all other candles must be LED.



## DRESSING ROOMS

Rooms for both the bride's and groom's parties are available at the church.

## ALCOHOL

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted for any church events. No other alcoholic beverages are allowed on church property, including parking areas.

## SMOKING

Good Shepherd is a smoke-free building.

## PERSONAL ITEMS

Members of the wedding party are responsible for their personal items (purses, cameras, gifts, etc.). Good Shepherd is not responsible for lost items.

## CLEANING UP AFTER THE WEDDING/RECEPTION

Before leaving the church, please remove everything you brought. Be sure to remove the Unity Candle, flowers, bows, etc. Good Shepherd is not responsible for items left after the wedding.

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 Lutheran Church of the  
**Good Shepherd**



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