



Weddings at St. Olaf Lutheran Church

306 2nd Street NW Austin, MN 55912 507 433 8857 solc@stolafchurch.org

Congratulations!

We celebrate with you as you plan your wedding with us at St. Olaf Lutheran Church!

Jesus affirmed the covenant of marriage and revealed God's self-giving love on the cross. The Holy Spirit helps us to be living signs of God's grace, love, and faithfulness. Marriage is a gift of God intended for mutual joy and strength, and for the well-being of the whole family and community. You have been created in God's image, and God blesses the gift of companionship, the capacity to love, and if you so choose, the care and nurture of children.

Thank you for choosing to marry in a Christian church. By doing so you are inviting God to be a part of your relationship, and your wedding day will be a worship service with its primary focus on God. The congregation in worship surrounds these promises with the gathering of God's people, the witness of God's Word, and the prayers of blessing and intercession.

The pastors, organist, wedding coordinator and other members of the St. Olaf community will assist you in preparing your wedding service.

We hope this information will guide you through planning your wedding at St. Olaf. We look forward to connecting with you in person! After you have looked through this information, please contact our wedding coordinator:

Sara Steinhoff
507 434 4053
saralousteinhoff@hotmail.com

Scheduling

Please call or stop by the Church to request and complete the wedding information form. The wedding coordinator will contact you to reserve your date. Once your **\$100 deposit** is made, the date will be officially reserved. This fee will be applied toward the wedding and is non-refundable.

Pastors

Pastor Ron Barnett
507 433 8857
rbarnett@stolafchurch.org

Pastor Kristi Koppel
507 433 8857
kkoppel@stolafchurch.org

If, for personal reasons, you wish a minister or priest in addition to a pastor of St. Olaf Lutheran Church to participate in your wedding service, please discuss this with the St. Olaf pastor who will officiate.

Premarital Counseling

All couples being married at St. Olaf are required to take part in at least 12 hours of premarital counseling. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet with other couples and your pastor to grow deeper in your relationship. Here's how it works: The City of Austin has a \$110 marriage license fee. However, when you complete **12 hours** of premarital counseling, the license fee is reduced to \$40.

Eight of the 12 hours is completed by participating in a Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Preparation Workshop, with a cost of \$80. You would also schedule 2-3 visits with your pastor to complete the 12 hours.

Director of Music Ministry

It is also the responsibility of the couple to contact Neal Erickson, Director of Music Ministry in order to discuss the music and the service.

Neal Erickson
507 433 8857
nerickso@stolafchurch.org

It is important that this be done early in the planning process, so that the couple is aware of guidelines for wedding music at St. Olaf. (See page 4, Music)

The Marriage Ceremony

The following is a service order for weddings.

Prelude

Processional Hymn/Processional

Greeting and Prayer

Music (optional)

Reading(s)

Message

Music (optional)

The Rite of Marriage

Exchange of Vows

Exchange of Rings

Declaration of Marriage

Unity Candle (optional)

Music (optional)

Blessing

Prayers

Eucharist/Communion (optional)

The Lord's Prayer (vocal solo or spoken)

Benediction

Presentation of the Couple

Recessional Hymn/Recessional

Postlude

Congregation as Participants

The congregation attending the worship celebration should be encouraged to be active participants in the service through prayer, word, and music. Congregational singing of hymns is recommended.

Hymn texts reinforce what is stated through scripture, prayers, and the message, inviting congregational members to respond in affirmation. A congregational hymn sung as the "Processional" and/or "Recessional" makes for an outstanding statement of faith and also gives the congregation a chance to actively participate, rather than passively witness the service.

Shaping the Service with Music and Scripture

The music and scripture chosen for the wedding service should be selected with these thoughts in mind. The wedding service is a worship service of the congregation, open to the public, in which a loving couple make public profession of their life long commitment to each other. Christian tradition provides the setting of the service: the language, architecture, symbolism, and music combine to express the faith, not simply of the couple being married, but also of the Christian community which is the church.

Music selections for processional, recessional, solos and hymns are made in consultation with the Music Ministry Director. Scripture and other liturgy (vows, prayers) choices are made in consultation with the pastor. The following pages give some possible music, scripture, and liturgy choices.

Music

The music should reflect and enhance the overall themes of the service. Music selected should embody high standards of quality and reflect the praise of God, God's steadfast love in Christ as the foundation of our model for marriage, and the asking of God's presence and blessing. Secular music, popular love songs, and show tunes are not regarded as suitable musical expressions for use prior to or during the marriage ceremony. These songs may be reserved for use during the wedding reception. Pre-recorded music and taped accompaniments are also not suitable for sanctuary or chapel services but may be used at the reception. One convenient guide is to ask yourself if the music would seem appropriate for a service of worship in the Lutheran Church.

The following is a brief list of hymns that are especially suited to the wedding service and are fairly familiar. They are found in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. In choosing hymns, keep in mind the different seasons of the church year. For example, the hymn "Joy to the World", ELW 267 is especially beautiful for use during the Christmas season. This list is simply a guide, not a conclusive list.

585 *Hear Us Now, Our God and Father*; send your Spirit from above
On this Christian man and woman who
here make their vows of love!
Bind their hearts in true devotion
endless as the seashore's sands,
Boundless as the deepest ocean, blest
and sealed by your own hands.

586 *This is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited*, (Tune: Morning Has Broken)
thankful our hearts, Lord, joyous our praise.
See here before you two whom we cherish;
keep them beside you all of their days.

- 631 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* joy of heav'n to earth come down!
 Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
 Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art;
 Visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.
- 836 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*, God of glory, Lord of love!
 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
 (vs. 3) Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
 Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!
- 840 *Now Thank We All our God* with hearts and hands and voices,
 who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 who, from our mother's arms, has blest us on our way
 with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
- 858 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*, the king of Creation!
 O my soul praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
 Let all who hear now to his temple draw near, joining in glad
 adoration!
- 881 *Let All Things Now Living* a song of thanksgiving
 to God the creator triumphantly raise,
 Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
 Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
- 883 *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (tune of the Doxology)
 Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
 Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
 Come ye before him and rejoice.

Soloist

Some couples may choose not have a soloist but if a soloist is desired the church can suggest a soloist, if you wish, provided you make your request well in advance. These musicians will be familiar with the musical standards practiced at St. Olaf Lutheran Church and are accustomed to the special demands made upon anyone singing in St. Olaf's large sanctuary. Often friends are asked to sing and feel uncomfortable doing so, yet they are reluctant to say so.

If the couple is choosing the soloist, it is the soloist's responsibility to schedule one rehearsal with the Director of Music Ministry. Additional rehearsal time can be arranged at an additional cost of \$25.00 per rehearsal. It is expected that the soloist will provide music in the appropriate key at least one month in advance and have already learned the piece before rehearsing with the Director of Music Ministry. Photocopies are not acceptable unless music is out of print. The couple shall make the soloist aware of these guidelines. The church assumes no responsibility for payment of the soloists' fees.

Possible Vows

#1 I give myself to you/I take you, _____, to be your 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 give myself to you/I take you, _____, to be your 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.

#3 I give myself to you/I take you, _____, to be your 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 that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.

#4 _____, I give myself to you/I take you to be your wife/husband from this time forward, 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.

Scripture Ideas

Old Testament	New Testament
<p><i>Genesis 1.26-31</i> Humankind is created by God <i>Genesis 2.18-24</i> Created for relationship <i>Ruth 1:16-17</i> Where you go, I will go <i>Proverbs 3.3-6</i> Loyalty & faithfulness written on heart <i>Ecclesiastes 4:9-12</i> Two are better than one <i>Song of Solomon 2.10-13</i> The voice of the beloved; Song of two lovers <i>Isaiah 63.7-9</i> God’s steadfast love lifts up the people <i>Jeremiah 31.31-34</i> New covenant of the people of God <i>Psalms 33</i> The Lord is our help and our shield (33.20) Let your loving kindness be upon us, as we have put our trust in you (33:22) <i>Psalms 67</i> May God be merciful to us and bless us <i>Psalms 100</i> We are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture (100.2), Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving (100.3) <i>Psalms 117</i> The steadfast love of the Lord <i>Psalms 121</i> The Lord keeps watch over you <i>Psalms 127</i> Unless the Lord builds the house Children are a heritage from the LORD (127.4) <i>Psalms 128</i> Happy are they who follow in the ways of the LORD (128.1) <i>Psalms 136</i> God’s mercy endures forever (136.1b) <i>Psalms 150</i> Let everything that has breath praise the LORD (150.6)</p>	<p><i>Romans 8.31-35, 37-39</i> If God is for us, who is against us <i>Romans 12.1-2, 9-18</i> A living sacrifice and genuine love <i>I Corinthians 12.31 - 13.13</i> The greatest gift is love <i>Ephesians 3.14-19</i> The breadth, length, height and depth of Christ’s love <i>Philippians 4.4-9</i> Rejoice in the Lord always <i>Colossians 3.12-17</i> Clothed in compassion, kindness, meekness and patience <i>1 John 3.18-24</i> Let us love in truth and action <i>1 John 4.7-16</i> Let us love one another for love is of God <i>Hebrews 13:1-6</i> Let mutual love continue</p> <p>From the Gospels <i>Matthew 5.1-10</i> The beatitudes <i>Matthew 5.14-16</i> You are the light, let your light shine <i>Matthew 7.21, 24-29</i> A wise person builds upon the rock <i>Matthew 19.3-6</i> What God has united must not be divided <i>Matthew 22.35-40</i> Love, the greatest commandment <i>Mark 10.6-9</i> They are no longer two but one <i>Luke 6:46-49</i> building on a rock foundation <i>Luke 8:4-15</i> sowing seed on good soil <i>John 2.1-11</i> The wedding at Cana <i>John 15.9-17</i> Love one another as I have loved you</p>

Other Policies

Rehearsal

Informal weddings may be rehearsed shortly before the service in the church. Weddings involving a number of attendants should be rehearsed beforehand, ordinarily late afternoon or early evening the day before the wedding. It is important that everyone in the wedding party be present. If the pastor is available, he/she will be at the rehearsal. If not, the rehearsal will be conducted by the wedding coordinator. The organist does not attend the wedding rehearsals. Instead, a recording of the appropriate processional & rehearsal is used. Please be prompt. If you are using bulletins, please bring several to the rehearsal. The rehearsal normally takes up to an hour.

Photography, Recording and Video Equipment

The wedding service is one of dignity and beauty. Flash photography may not be taken during the service. Group pictures may be taken either before or after the service, and any poses from the ceremony may be recreated at that time. Please inform your photographer that nothing may be moved without permission from the officiating pastor. It is recommended that all video and audio taping will be done from the rear balcony. The only exception would be a stationary video camera, preset in the front balcony, unattended during the ceremony. If desired, the church will audio tape record your wedding. It is the couple's responsibility to provide the cassette tape.

Building and Grounds

You can help us keep our buildings and grounds attractive and clean. If you need a place for refreshments, please arrange this with the wedding coordinator. Please keep food and beverages in the fellowship hall or kitchenette area. Please leave the dressing rooms as you found them--clean and orderly. For the wedding ceremony, an aisle runner is acceptable for use; however, it is not provided or necessary. During the ceremony, silk flower petals are permitted to be tossed down the aisle, please plan on picking them up after the ceremony. Outside after the wedding ceremony, blowing bubbles is permitted, however, it is not permissible to throw rice, birdseed, flower petals, confetti etc. in the building or on the church grounds. If you plan on affixing decorations to church furniture, you must received prior approval to do so. Please inform your family and friends.

Be sure to discuss with the wedding coordinator which rooms you will need in preparation for your wedding. Other programs may be in session during your wedding. Please do not assume that the entire building will be available to you, for either the rehearsal or the day of the wedding.

Smoking/Alcohol/Drugs

There will be no smoking and no drinking of alcohol or use of illegal drugs by at anytime or by anyone in the building or on the church grounds. ***If any member of the wedding party shows evidence of drunkenness or drug usage, the marriage service will be postponed.*** It is the couple's responsibility to see that the wedding guests abides by this policy.

Miscellaneous

If you would like to invite Pastor Barnett or Pastor Koppel to your rehearsal dinner or wedding reception, please invite them with a formal invitation so they can plan accordingly.

If a rehearsal dinner or wedding reception dinner is desired at St. Olaf, please complete a Building Usage Request form available at the church office.

Room Capacities & Measurements

Sanctuary Seating	440
Chapel Seating	75
Fellowship Hall Seating	272 without serving tables
	240 with serving tables
Rows of pews in Sanctuary	13
Length of Aisle Runner	60 feet

Fee Schedule

Marriage Preparation Workshop	\$90 / couple
Lutheran Social Services (LSS)	<i>pay LSS directly</i>
Fee goes toward wedding license fee	
\$40 with 12 hours premarital counseling. \$110 with out	
Deposit	\$100
<i>Deposits are non-refundable & will be applied to the total cost of your wedding</i>	
Sanctuary Wedding	\$500
Chapel Wedding	\$400

Payment of Fees

All fees need to be submitted two weeks before the day of the wedding at the church office. Please make checks payable to St. Olaf Lutheran Church. The wedding coordinator will take care of checks to the church staff involved in the service and its preparation.

Any exceptions to the above policy will need approval by the St. Olaf Lutheran Church Council. All fees are subject to change by the Church Council.