



IN THE BEGINNING . . .

God tells us in His Word that it was He who first instituted marriage as He formed Eve from Adam's rib to be a help-mate for him. He further tells us that He will bless all those who enter into marriage trusting in His Word for the power to live their lives together. (*Psalm 128, Proverbs 5:18, Mark 10:7, and 1 Corinthians 7:11*)

Our Lord tells us that He should be at the center of our lives and if we regard Him in this way His power will be the very bond that

gives marriage its meaning, strength and longevity (*Mark 10:9*). In the Bible, God tells us of what marriage should and should not consist. In marriage, God by His miraculous power and grace, makes two separate people one... one forever (*Genesis 2:23, Deuteronomy 24:5*). In His Word, God tells us that there are only three reasons for any marriage to be ended. The first, is the death of one or both of the marriage parties. The other two reasons, fornication and desertion, are the results of disregarding God's Word. Fornication (adultery, unfaithfulness), is the act of sexual sin with a partner outside of marriage.

Scriptural desertion is the act of leaving your marriage relationship and refusing to participate any longer as a husband or wife to your partner. This can also mean living an ungodly life bearing the fruits of an unbeliever in such a way that it becomes dangerous or extremely offensive for your spouse and family to remain in the same home with you (*1 Corinthians 7:10-11*). As Lutheran Christians, we believe if the marriage partners both revere and heed God's holy Word, regularly hearing it, worshipping and participating in the sacraments, the power of God's Holy Spirit will live in them and all the powers of hell and earth will not be able to break up their marriage.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church has been given the privilege, by God and the United States Constitution, to sanctify and solemnize marriages through its called and ordained pastors. Mount Olive, as a Lutheran, Christian congregation, is joyfully committed to following God's Word as it pertains to marriage as well as it pertains to any other aspect of our lives. Therefore, Mount Olive's pastors are unable to solemnize the marriages of those who are unrepentant for having disregarded God's Word by ending a previous marriage apart from scriptural reasons; or of those who are unable to agree to live their married lives as Christians in the admonition of God's holy Word, shaping their lives by its rule and looking to it as its source of life and power.

It is for these reasons that we have limited our church weddings to those partners of whom at least one is already our communicant member and after consultation with the pastor, both are committed to walking together in life under God's Word; or to those who have given our pastors a commitment to attend an Adult Information and Instruction class and exhibit a good probability for future membership at Mount Olive by their already stated commitment to God's Word in their lives.

Because Mount Olive takes its commitment to following God's Word seriously, it does not involve itself in **unionistic worship practices** with clergy of other denominations. These practices are unscriptural (*Romans 16:17, 2 Corinthians 6:14*) and confusing to the Christian community. For these reasons, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in several national conventions has continued to reaffirm the only position it has ever taken on this matter, namely that its congregations should walk together in fellowship and ministry; building a mutual trust based upon a clear, predictable and above all, a scriptural altar and pulpit fellowship. This fellowship consists of lay and clergy communicant members in good standing within the synod, or its synodically recognized sister congregations whose doctrine has been determined to be the same as ours.

It is our intent mainly to serve our members, otherwise we could have several weddings here nearly every weekend. As it is, it is not unusual to have conflicts over wedding and rehearsal dates and times. Resolving these, along with scheduling and performing the regular pre-marriage counseling sessions all consume a great deal of the time and energy of our staff already. The Mount Olive sanctuary was not dedicated to be a community wedding chapel, this would be contrary to Lutheran doctrine. Our sanctuary is what its name implies, a sanctified holy place, dedicated (set apart) to the glory of God and to provide our members with a truly worshipful atmosphere for all its services conducted here; services, including marriages in which they may glorify and praise God within the confines of their own scriptural rubrics and liturgical practices as confessional Lutherans.

Here, committed Christians promise their love and faithfulness to God and to each other in a joyful manner, following His Word and trusting Him alone for the power to fulfill their promises. Within the bonds of membership in our Christian congregation also lays the responsibility of pastoral counseling and even Church discipline to help and to guide those who later may have marital problems.

As we, the people of Mount Olive, walk together under God's Word, we realize that we are not an entity unto ourselves; we are a part of Christ's Church on earth. In order to glorify God, we respond to His love, gladly working with others in this life, always building up each other in Christ, as we ourselves need building by

others working in His love. To this end, we have banded together with over 6,000 other scripturally faithful congregations to form The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod so that together, we might more effectively and efficiently honor God and carry out His will on earth.

Together, and throughout the world, we worship and praise Him. We establish worship and teaching stations in mission fields, Christian day schools, hospitals and other health care institutions for the deaf, blind and mentally retarded; colleges and seminaries for the education of youngsters, and the preparation of professionals to teach and preach in our facilities as we carry out the task Jesus has given us to preach the Gospel to all the world.

Whenever an organization is formed, for the sake of decency, order and sheer effectiveness, there must be a clear set of rules, or guidelines that all must agree to follow. Every decent, orderly and effective company, state, city, village, or home, has certain guidelines that must be followed if all are to live and work happily and effectively together. For these same reasons, we have set down the following guidelines for weddings in our sanctuary. We ask that you read them and explain them to others in your wedding party.

These guidelines are not meant to function as a total rule for your conduct toward God or His Church, nor for God's relationship with you. The Holy Scriptures fulfill that purpose. These guidelines are intended simply to serve you as a helpful "rule of thumb" as you begin to plan and carry out your plans and commitments that will finally lead to a God-pleasing marriage in Mount Olive's beautiful, worshipful House of God.

PRE-ENGAGEMENT

1. First, realize what engagement means to God. Engagement is a true commitment on your part that at a date in the near future you will stand before God's altar and promise to be faithful to one another. It means that you are now ready to love, cherish, sacrifice for, honor, uphold, and in the case of a woman, even obey your God-given partner and head, for the rest of your life. God does not count as valid such excuses as irreconcilable differences or incompatibility. He wants you to be faithful to your promise to Him and your partner. Engagement is not the answer for keeping up with a fad or getting a new sparkling ring. It is serious business—a commitment to marry for "life" in the near future and then to spending that "life" together. Great and lasting hurts have come as a result of wishy-washy engagements.

2. Are you ready to become engaged? How old are you? Do you really just want to get away from your parents or your present home life? Are you making this commitment to run away from another? Are you ready to commit yourself totally, as a wife or husband, to one person at this time? Are you possibly replacing one father or mother with another—your spouse? Are you sure this person is the only one God has given for you, or are you still looking for someone else from the corner of your mind's eye? Do you feel that no one else may take you, so you had better accept, or make your "move" now? These are questions that must be pondered and finally prayerfully answered in a Christian way by each person planning engagement.

3. How do you feel about children? Talk over your ideas with your prospective mate. One fact to consider is that birth control devices are not always foolproof. Some are dangerous to the health of the mother and her child if she conceives while under their influence. Many individuals simply cannot use oral contraceptives because they may cause dangerous side effects. What does God's Word say about birth control and the reasons for using it? Scripture clearly condemns abortion unless the mother's life is extremely endangered by her pregnancy. If you and your prospective mate are of different faiths, in which faith are you planning to raise your children? Are you agreed? Past experiences show that this prior agreement is essential, or your children become a source of great problems instead of joy. Often this one problem of "what to do about the kids" keeps families from worshiping in God's house altogether because bringing up one's own religious preference only causes friction. So further talk of God and worship is ultimately avoided.

4. How about your faith? How much does it mean to you? If you are a confirmed Lutheran, at the time of confirmation you promised yourself, your parents, the congregation, and most of all God, that you would rather suffer death than to fall away from your faith. Couples often find it easy to talk about all sorts of topics before marriage, topics that may include everything from personal family background and relationships to sexual behavior. However, they often find it difficult to express themselves regarding their faith. This subject is the most important topic for discussion possible.

Non-church related statistics show that people who are honest about their faith, who pray together in their homes, who do not hold back or keep secret feelings from each other, have a much better chance of staying married than those who are dishonest and hold feelings inside to pent up and finally burst in the pressures of disappointment and frustration. For the best spiritual, mental, physical, and engagement/marriage health, take the time to honestly talk about what your faith in Jesus means to you. This has to be done by both partners. While speaking, don't give the answer you think the other wants to hear. Always be honest in your total relationship with each other, even about your faith and subscription to God's Word. It will set the pace for your future relationship of total honesty and trust. It will also lift your spirits individually as you will deliberately be speaking to each other what the Holy Spirit, working through the Word of God and your Baptism has been wanting you to say all along.

An example of how God's Word and faith in it will keep you together is in order. We pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." This means we are telling God, "Lord, if I don't forgive someone, don't You forgive me." If God can forgive us, for Jesus' sake, in spite of all of our vast sins against His perfect holiness, is there any sin that we can commit against each other, as human beings, that is unforgivable by us? If both partners agree to the meaning of this sentence in the Lord's Prayer and both are able honestly to pray it, wanting the forgiveness of Jesus, then the precedent has been set to always be forgiving in your home. Do you both believe God's Word totally? If you both trust God's Word, you have a good basis for ironing out any problems that may arise. In your marriage then, you will not have to deal with either's opinions as the source of direction, but God's truths.

In Ephesians 4:26 we read, "Be ye angry and sin not, let not the sun go down upon thy wrath." In other words, don't go to bed angry with each other (or anyone else). As an engaged or married couple, stay up late if you must, but honestly talk out your problems. In love, strive to make up with each other. Forgive one another. "If you do not forgive . . .neither will your Father in heaven forgive you." (*Mark 11:26*) If you both honestly believe God's Word, then you will

know that He expects us to follow it by quickly forgiving each other and doing all that we can to reestablish a loving relationship.

Through our Baptism, God's Spirit gives us the very power to say that we are sorry. He also fills us with the power to forgive, as we remember that God, in His love for us sacrificed His Son, Jesus Christ, who died that we might be forgiven. As God's Holy Spirit continues to build our faith in Jesus through the Word of God and His sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, He assures us that it is He who will furnish the power to ask for forgiveness and also the ability for each of us to forgive one another. God doesn't simply tell us what He would have us do and then leave us to find a way to do it. Through continual use of His Word and sacraments, He blesses us with the motivation, means and power to carry out that which He has called us to perform. He is faithful!

Another question that needs to be asked individually and of each other is, "Are we willing to sacrifice for each other?" We need to sacrifice for each other daily as we drop our pride, hurt, past prejudices and are willing to simply forgive. It is never too early in your relationship to begin practicing this Christian principle of putting the other person first. How many engagements are "on again-off again" because the sun was allowed to set upon anger and hurt? If God's Word is followed faithfully, even to the point of sacrifice, there is nothing in this world that can break up a couple who truly loves each other for Jesus' sake, "Husbands, love your wife as Christ loved the Church and gave himself for it (real sacrifice)... wife, revere your husband (putting him first, except for God)."

UPON ENGAGEMENT

1. First of all, be joyous. Thank and praise God for bringing both of you together by His providence, mercy and grace. He has given you to each other because He wants only the best for both of you. This engagement is another way of God showing you His great love.

2. It is still the proper, respectful and honorable thing, in God's eyes and in the eyes of our society, for the future son-in-law to ask for the hand of their daughter from her parents. Parents give a great deal of themselves in love and sacrifice for their children and are especially protective of their daughters and want only the best for them. Remember all the good that God wants for us? Christian parents want the same good for their children. Afford them this honor and respect. When you are parents you will understand their feelings even to a greater extent than you do now. This act of consideration will also go a long way in welding a good, healthy and trusting relationship with all involved.

3. Take time to talk about your wedding day—the date. Engagements are not meant to be open-ended. Set a date in the not-so-distant future. You are now engaged. What is really keeping you from being married? Look honestly at the reasons you give. By setting your marriage date as soon as possible, you are lessening the chances of being tempted to engage in things that are reserved for marriage alone.

Do you know the size of wedding you both wish to have? Are you in agreement? Have you discussed who is going to pay the various expenses? Are you possibly placing a burden upon people who cannot afford such a burden (including yourselves)? Have you talked about “the things of what a wedding should consist and not consist?” As plans progress, couples often get the feeling that their wedding plans are for other peoples' benefit and not their own. For many couples a smaller, more intimate, less flamboyant wedding is more meaningful. These are things to honestly think about and openly discuss together.

4. Making your promises before God's altar, in His holy House, is a privilege and a very meaningful act of Christian commitment linked with your own worship and praise. Where in all the world is there a better place for Christians to start a life together? Would you rather vow before a judge and state witnesses, or go to God Himself and your fellow believers with your solemn covenant and promises to Him and each other? Your answer to this question has to reflect your honest priorities and Christian commitment. When mutually deciding in favor of a church wedding, it is important to realize that for reasons of decency, order and thoughtfulness, that the guidelines of the church be followed. The guidelines have

been established according to God's Word so that the church may best serve all of its membership.

As soon as you have agreed together upon the date of your wedding you should contact the church office to make sure that the date and time is open on the church calendar and then scheduled for you (sometimes we conduct three weddings on the same day). At this time, you may request by name one of our staff pastors as the officiant for your marriage and to act as pre-marriage counselor for you. He will want to set a date and time when you both can meet with him for the first pre-marital counseling session. The Board of Elders of Mount Olive has asked the pastors to meet with each couple at least once before performing their marriage ceremony. Normally, our pastors meet at least twice with each couple in relaxed and informal sessions that last for about one hour each. At these sessions the pastor may want to discuss with the engaged couple many of the items listed in these guidelines.

5. Engagement can become a hectic period in the lives of a couple unless they systematically make mutually-agreed-upon plans and carry them out early in their engagement. In this way, they do not feel the great pressure crunch of getting everything done in the last week or two. Some of the many mundane things that need to be dealt with (preferably by making your own check-off list) are the following:

A. Since money is one of the largest factors that causes problems in the lives of married couples, the first item on this list should help you at least get an idea of what you may have to be using it for. How much will your combined income be—and how much of it will you mutually agree to budget in these various areas? (Spending must be less than combined income.)

- 1) Church contribution (10%—tithes?)
- 2) Rent/mortgage/down payment?
- 3) Savings (paying yourself)?
- 4) Food
- 5) Clothing
- 6) Auto expense
- 7) Utilities (gas, electricity, water, phone)
- 8) Medical expenses/insurance
- 9) Payment of other loans?
- 10) Miscellaneous

The following guideline might be helpful:

- 10% Church
- 25% Food
- 25% Housing/utilities
- 10% Savings
- 15% Transportation
- 15% Clothes, entertainment, miscellaneous

- B. How will the above be changed if the wife becomes pregnant?
- C. Where will we be living? Secure a place to live where both will be happy.
- 1) Is it affordable (does it meet our budget)?
 - 2) Apartment (lease, deposit, pets, children)?
 - 3) House (rent/purchase/option to purchase)?
 - 4) Mobile home (if we buy used where can we park it? Can it stay on present site?)
 - 5) Live with parents for a time (compatibility)?
- D. The rings (engagement and wedding)
- 1) What is the significance of rings to us?
 - 2) What are we able to afford?
 - 3) Colors/styles, etc.
 - 4) Double ring ceremony?
 - 5) Where will we buy them?
- E. Decide on size of wedding
- 1) Work out finances—make list of expenses
 - 2) How many people?
 - 3) Reception—where?
 - a) dinner
 - b) light lunch
 - c) orchestra
- F. Decide on attendants: (Best man, Maid/Matron of honor, groomsmen, bridesmaids, flower girl, ring bearer)
- 1) How many of the above categories do we want to fill?
 - 2) Who do we want to fill these positions of honor?
 - 3) Contact them. Can they serve?
 - 4) Who are our second choices if one cannot serve?

- G. Decide, in consultation with the pastor, on the type of wedding worship service at church.
- 1) Simple/elaborate (somewhere in between)?
 - a. Candlelight?
 - b. Printed program?
 - c. Church organist: see page 21 for a list of organists at Mount Olive. If a special organist is requested, he/she must be named at the time when the arrangements for the marriage are made, and cleared by the head organist.
 - d. Soloist/congregation hymn singing, both?
 - e. Favorite or preferred hymns?
 - 2) At least one month in advance of the wedding, set a date and time with the pastor for the wedding rehearsal.
 - a. Inform your wedding party of the time and date. Ask them to be prompt (often more than one rehearsal is scheduled in an evening).
 - b. Prepare post-rehearsal lunch/party?
- H. Contact marriage license bureau:
- Milwaukee County Register of Deeds
Room 101, Courthouse, 901 N. 9th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233
phone: (414) 278-4070
- Note: License must be applied for no sooner than 30 days and no later than 8 days before the wedding date.*
- I. Decide on flowers:
- 1) Bouquets: bridal, maid/matron of honor, bridesmaids, flower girl
 - 2) Boutonniere: groom, best man, groomsmen, ring bearer, fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, others?
 - 3) Corsages: mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, others?
 - 4) For altar (see #7, page 13)
 - 5) For banquet hall (see #7, page 13)
 - 6) White runner for church aisle (most florists handle the decoration of the church at the time they deliver the flowers). The church aisle is 100 feet in length.
 - 7) Colors of flowers often vary, in honor of the church seasons and other reasons. You may wish to contact your florist for suggestions.

*SOME PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES
FOR WEDDINGS
AT
MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH*

- J. Decide on bridal gowns and colors
- 1) Bride
 - 2) Maid/Matron of honor
 - 3) Bridesmaids
 - 4) Perhaps the mothers, grandmothers or godmothers will want to coordinate their dresses
 - 5) Flower girl
- K. Decide on the groom's party's attire (Tuxedos) and colors.
- 1) Groom
 - 2) Best man
 - 3) Groomsmen
 - 4) Fathers, grandfathers, godfathers
 - 5) Ring bearer
 - 6) Ushers
- L. Discuss and/or decide on transportation for all in the wedding party (including parents, grandparents, Godparents) to and from the church and reception.
- M. Decide on photographs
- 1) Do we want them?
 - 2) Professional? Whom?
 - 3) Friend or member of family? Whom?
 - 4) How many?
 - 5) What kind? (Still, motion pictures, VHS?)
 - 6) See #3, page 12

The following set of guidelines has been printed to be used as a reference aid by the engaged couple contemplating a marriage service in our sanctuary. It discusses the basic procedures and practices of Mount Olive Congregation for church weddings. It is meant to be of help in instructing and answering the questions of the wedding party, thus helping them as they function in our church on their wedding day.

1. The chief usher of your choice normally directs your ushers (of which there should be at least two) in the activities of leading guests in an orderly fashion into the church pews.
2. The chief usher normally directs the activities in a quiet and respectful manner in the narthex (entrance) of the church and sees to it that the various procedures of the preservice period are carried out smoothly. He can be in close contact with the pastor via the intercom telephone located in the southeast corner of the narthex.
3. The photographer(s) should be instructed that photos using flash equipment may be taken before the marriage service and while the members of the bridal party are processing down the aisle. However, after the Invocation by the pastor, at the beginning of the Service, no flashes or continuous flood lights are to be used. He may take existing light photos from the rear of the church or balcony where he does not impose upon the worshipful atmosphere of the service. Videos may be taken in the same manner. Usually the West balcony serves best for this. One half-hour only is reserved after the service for posed photos in the chancel area of the church. You should supply your photographer(s) with a copy of our photograph policy which is included with this booklet.
4. Arrangements may be made for the tape recording of the audio portion of the service by contacting the pastor.
5. Because weddings are additions to the normal working schedules of our staff and often several hours of consultation, preparation and cleanup are involved, it is proper for the engaged couple to personally reimburse the congregation and the following people with at least these suggested minimum rates:

Officiating Pastor	\$150.00
Organist	\$100.00
Custodian	\$80.00
Aisle Candles (if used)	\$35.00
Church Deposit & Fee	\$150.00*

*\$75.00 will be returned to marriage couple if after their wedding there is minimal litter and no church damage.

This should be done by preparing separate envelopes for each fee and on the night of the rehearsal, giving them to the pastor for distribution.

If the pastors' secretary is asked to handle the typesetting and printing of the Order of Service for the wedding, the engaged couple should choose, pick up and deliver to the church office a sufficient number of preprinted wedding bulletin covers. These are available in several local religious bookstores. The pastors' secretary can suggest local stores if you need help. The entire order of service must be approved by the officiating pastor and at least two weeks must be allowed for the work to be completed in the church office. The secretary's charge for preparing and printing up to 400 folders is \$35.00 (payable personally to the secretary upon completion).

6. Because of the great amount of work involved in cleanup and because our church building should be respected and regarded as God's Holy House, no rice or other materials are to be thrown in or near the church.

7. It is the engaged couple's responsibility to assign someone to handle the removal of the wedding flowers from the chancel of the church after the wedding ceremony. Often florists create bouquets that may be used at the church and later at the banquet hall.

Flowers are never placed on the altar, but are placed on the small rise above, called the retable—one at each end. No other flowers are placed in the chancel. If greens are desired, they are placed behind the candelabra. If you wish to have more flowers, a standard is placed in front of the pulpit and lectern. If notified we will have the stands available for you.

Our altar flowers are available for your use—providing the colors do not conflict with the current donor. If you wish some of the flowers to remain for Sunday services, please contact the Altar Guild. (Dorothy Keuper, (262) 377-1559). Bows and other decorations are not permitted on the candelabra. This is a fire hazard. If you wish to have pew bows, they must be provided by you. They are hung over the pew top with like ribbon. Please remove after the wedding and take with you.

8. Coat and hat racks may be found in the church parlors (the lower level of the church). The ushers may direct any guests wishing to utilize them to this area. The washrooms are located on the north side of the parlors.

9. The parlors are normally used by the wedding party to pin on boutonniere and check over garments, etc. before the service begins. Tables, chairs, and a water fountain are provided for your convenience. However, Mount Olive congregation cannot be responsible for the security of any items left unattended on the premises.

10. Immediately after the wedding ceremony, while the Bride and Groom are greeting their guests, the Best Man and the Maid/Matron of Honor should meet the Pastor in his study to sign the marriage certificate.

11. Other procedures will be discussed at the time of the wedding rehearsal. Please feel free to ask any questions that come to your mind at that time. If you have questions that need immediate attention, please call the church office, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

It is our hope here at Mount Olive that these guidelines serve a useful purpose for the wedding couple and their wedding party. May God richly bless you as you walk together under His Word and by His Grace.

The Rev. John W. M. Struve
Administrative Pastor

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS

No lay readers, please.

Romans 12:1-3 (*A Living Sacrifice—Gifts of Grace*)

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Romans 12:9-14 (*Marks of the True Christian*)

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

1 John 4:7-12 (*God Is Love*)

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Ephesians 5:22-33 (*Wives and Husbands*)

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his

own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (*The Way of Love*)

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

*CHECKLIST FOR BRIDE & GROOM
AND
CHURCH RECORDS*

Please complete as soon as possible and send photocopy to church office.

DATE OF MARRIAGE _____ TIME OF MARRIAGE _____
DATE OF REHEARSAL _____ TIME OF REHEARSAL _____

Officiant: _____

Place of Wedding: Mount Olive Sanctuary _____
Other: _____

BRIDE'S FULL NAME: _____

Present Address _____

Home Phone: _____

Occupation: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Where? _____

Present Age: _____

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Full Maiden Name: _____

Your Church Denomination: _____

Your Parish Name: _____

Your Parish Location: _____

Are You an Active Member? Yes ___ No ___

Is Your Name Still on Church Roster? Yes ___ No ___

Married Before? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, how many times and cause of termination(s): _____

GROOM'S FULL NAME: _____

Present Address _____

Home Phone: _____

Occupation: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Where? _____

Present Age: _____

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Full Maiden Name: _____

Your Church Denomination: _____

Your Parish Name: _____

Your Parish Location: _____

Are You an Active Member? Yes ___ No ___

Is Your Name Still on Church Roster? Yes ___ No ___

Married Before? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, how many times and cause of termination(s): _____

Music: Organ ___ Piano ___ Other _____

Organist: _____

Other Musicians: _____

Soloist: _____

Florist: _____

Aisle Runner? Yes ___ No ___ (100 ft. long)

Wedding Flowers to Remain for Sunday Services? (Saturday weddings only)

Yes ___ No ___

Wedding Candle ceremony? Yes ___ No ___

Use Church Aisle Candles? Yes ___ No ___ (\$35.00 rental fee)

Photographer(s) _____

Still photos ___ Video ___

MARRIAGE LICENSE must be in officiating pastor's hands five days before the wedding. It will be signed by bride, groom, and witnesses in the pastor's study immediately following the ceremony before photos are taken.

TOTAL NUMBER EXPECTED AT WEDDING SERVICE: _____

[Do not include flower girl and ring bearer in these numbers]

Total number of people in chancel? _____

Number of Women? _____ Men? _____

Flower girl? Yes ___ (Age ___) No ___

Ring bearer? Yes ___ (Age ___) No ___

Number of rings to be exchanged in marriage service? _____

Receiving line in Narthex Yes ___ No ___

Wedding audio to be recorded? Yes ___ No ___

Equipment: Yours? Yes ___ No ___ Church? Yes ___ No ___

First meeting with pastor on _____ time _____

Your address (after marriage): _____

Have you spoken to your wedding party about their proper attire, attitude and conduct in the rehearsal and wedding service in God's house? Yes ___ No ___

Selections of music made in cooperation with the organist: _____

Hymns to be sung during wedding: _____

Scripture Lessons for wedding service: _____

Church needs to be open on wedding day at (time): _____

PARTICIPANTS:

Maid/Matron of Honor: _____

Bridesmaids: _____

Best Man: _____

Groomsmen: _____

Ushers: (at least two are normally needed)

Which parents and others will be honored guests sitting in front pews? (Please clearly list step-parents, etc.)

*MUSIC AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE
CHRISTIAN WEDDING*

Since the marriage ceremony is a service of worship, the music used throughout the wedding is to be religious, glorifying God's name. This quite naturally eliminates such songs as "I Love You Truly," "Because," "O Promise Me," and the traditional "Wedding March," "Annie's Song," etc. There is, however, an abundance of appropriate organ, vocal, and folk music available, and just a beginning of this list of available music is suggested here. Our organists will be happy to help you select acceptable religious music for your wedding. Contact an organist from the list on page 21 as soon as possible to reserve the date and to make arrangements to meet.

PROCESSIONALS AND RECESSIONALS (*Organ*)

Dunstable, J.	Agincourt Hymn
Marcello, B.	Psalm XIX
Pachelbel, J.	Toccata in E Minor Fantasia If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee
Bach, J. S.	Jesu, Priceless Treasure, Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring
Handel, G.F.	Solemn Processional
Purcell, H.	Trumpet Voluntary in D Major Trumpet Tune in D Major
Armsdorf, A.	Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord
Buszin, W.	Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
Karg-Elert, S.	Now Thank We all Our God
Buxtehude, D.	We Thank Thee, Jesus, Dearest Friend

VOCAL MUSIC

Williams, H.	O Perfect Love
Dunlap	Wedding Prayer
Diggle	A Wedding Prayer
Holler	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Sassmannshausen	Whither Thou Goest
Gore, T.	Entreat Me Not to Leave Thee
Jacob, G.	Brother James' Air
Dvorak, A.	God is My Shepherd
Bunjes, P.	Wedding Blessings Jesus, Shepherd, Be Thou Near Me Love Divine, All Love Excelling Come Follow Me, The Lord Bless You

HYMNS FOR CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

Alleluia! Let Praises Ring	822 [LSB]
All Glory Be to God on High	947 [LSB]
Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord	497 [LSB]
Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now	902 [LSB]
O Holy Spirit, Enter In	913 [LSB]
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	733 [LSB]
Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer	918 [LSB]
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus	685 [LSB]
Blest Be the Tie That Binds	649 [LSB]
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	790 [LSB]
Now Thank We All Our God	895 [LSB]
<i>Lutheran Service Book</i> Marriage Section	858-860 [LSB]

FOLK MUSIC

Stookey	Wedding Song
Stevens	Morning Has Broken

ORGANISTS AT MOUNT OLIVE

- Russell Kopitzke, (414) 476-5683
- Ruth Lange, (414) 442-6031
- Pamela Peters, (414) 461-7024
- Geraldine Stone, (414) 727-3821

GENERAL FORMAT FOR WEDDING FOLDER

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
for
THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE
bride
and
groom

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
day, date, time

- Preservice Music
- Prelude
- Processional
- Invocation
- Matrimony Address

- Scripture Reading(s)
- Wedding Message
- Rite of Holy Matrimony
 - Declaration of Intent
 - Giving of Parental Consent (or Presentation of the Bride)
 - The Vows
 - Blessing of the Rings
 - (Lighting of the Unity Candle)
 - Pronouncement of Marriage
 - Blessing of the Newly Married
- Prayers
- Benediction
- Introduction to the Congregation
- Recessional
- Postlude

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

- The Officiant
- The Organist
- The Wedding Party:
 - Parents of the bride
 - Parents of the groom
 - Maid of Honor
 - Bridesmaids
 - Best Man
 - Groomsmen
 - Ushers

Welcome to Mount Olive Lutheran Church—We are pleased that you have come to celebrate the marriage of _____ & _____. A Christian wedding is a worship service to the glory and honor of our gracious God. We ask that our guests do not take photographs during this service so that worship is not disturbed. Thank you for your cooperation.

*PHOTOGRAPH POLICY
FOR WEDDINGS
AT
MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH*

1. A copy of this policy should be given to the photographer by the marriage couple before the wedding service.
2. A copy of this policy should be included in the Wedding Application booklet given to the marriage couple in advance of their premarital counseling.
3. Each marriage bulletin should contain a section stating: "Welcome to Mount Olive Lutheran Church—We are pleased that you have come to celebrate the marriage of _____ & _____. A Christian wedding is a worship service to the glory and honor of our gracious God. We ask that our guests do not take photographs during this service so that worship is not disturbed. Thank you for your cooperation."

PHOTOGRAPH & VIDEOTAPE PROCEDURE:

1. No flash photographs are to be taken during the worship service by professional photographers or worshipers.
2. No flood lights are to be used during the processional, the wedding service, or the recessional.
3. Existing light photographs may be taken from the rear of the church, behind the last pews, and from the west balcony during the worship service as long as the worship of the congregation is not disturbed in any way.
4. During the processional and recessional a professional photographer may stand in the center aisle and use a hand-held camera with flash, but he/she may not stand farther toward the front of the church than the south pillars.
5. Videotaping of the processional, wedding service and recessional may be done only from the west balcony, using existing light exclusively. The videographer should never interrupt the worshipful atmosphere of the congregation.

6. At no time is a photographer or videographer to be in the north balcony reserved for musicians.
7. Remote microphones that attach to video equipment should be placed only with the permission of the pastor. They should never be taped to furnishings or walls.
8. After the recessional and the worshiper have left the nave of the church, the photographers have one-half (½) hour to complete their videos and photos in the sanctuary and chancel. (The white aisle runner should be removed so that no one trips during the set-up of the various poses.)
9. Language and behavior befitting the atmosphere of God's house should always be used during photo sessions.
10. Photographs or videos will be permitted of the bridal party of groomsmen preparing for the wedding service up until fifteen (15) minutes before the service begins.
11. The name of any photographer or videographer who violates these guidelines will be placed on a list and not allowed to participate again at Mount Olive for two (2) years.

Adopted, Board of Elders: November 19, 1990