



Weddings at Immanuel



Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

209 North Ninth Street, Watertown, Wisconsin 53094

920.261.1663 | watertownimmanuel@gmail.com

WatertownImmanuel.org

Congratulations!

Getting married is exciting! You have given voice to your love for one another, expressed a desire to make a lifelong commitment to each other, and requested God's blessings on your union.

Marriage is a gift of God, intended for the joy and mutual strength of those who enter it and for the well-being of the whole human family. God created each of us and has blessed humankind with the gifts of companionship, the capacity to love, and the care and nurture of children. Jesus affirmed the covenant of marriage and revealed God's own self-giving love on the cross. The Holy Spirit helps those who are united in marriage to be living signs of God's grace, love, and faithfulness.

Marriage is also a human estate, with vows publicly witnessed. The church in worship surrounds these promises with the gathering of God's people, the witness of the word of God, and prayers of blessing and intercession.

– Evangelical Lutheran Worship p. 286

Whether you are engaged for the first time, were previously married, have children, or are an LGBTQ+ couple, we at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church are delighted that you have chosen to enter the covenant of marriage, and we will work with you to create an appropriate beginning to – and a firm foundation for – your life together.

This booklet has been designed to help you prepare for your wedding and for your marriage. Careful planning done well in advance will ensure that your wedding arrangements are not a burden but a joy. Beyond planning all the details for your special ceremony and celebration, we will also spend time tending to and nourishing your relationship through premarital counseling.

Before you make any permanent plans, please read this booklet carefully.

Included here you will find:

- the policies of the congregation that pertain to weddings – *page 3*
- A fee schedule – *page 4*
- a planner to help form the worship service for marriage – *pages 6 & 7*
- suggested hymns, songs, and scripture readings – *pages 9-13*
- guidance for selecting or writing vows – *page 14*
- additional information you will find helpful – *page 15-17*

Enjoy this time together as you anticipate your wedding day!

Policies of the Congregation

- Any couple may request to be married at Immanuel. Membership status at Immanuel is determined at the time the wedding reservation is made in order to determine fees. The congregation conducts marriage ceremonies for all couples who can legally marry, including LGBTQ+ couples.
- The pastor who is currently called by the congregation will preside at all weddings at Immanuel. The current Director of Music will coordinate and will serve as lead musician. Each has the right of first refusal.
- The date of a wedding is reserved on the church calendar only after the couple has met with the pastor, signed the fee agreement, and has made their deposit.
- All fees are determined by the Congregation Council. Fee amounts are determined at time of reservation.
- All fees for weddings are due three weeks prior to the date of the wedding.
- All couples married at Immanuel must complete premarital counseling.
- A marriage license is required for a marriage to take place at Immanuel.
- Photography and videography are permitted with the following limitations:
 - No furnishings are moved or stood upon
 - Flash photography is not allowed during the worship service
 - Video cameras must remain stationary
 - Proper reverence is to be observed
- The congregation's audio/visual system may only be used by a trained A/V team member.
- Pre-recorded music and video slideshows are not permitted during the ceremony.
- Weddings are not performed during Holy Week.
- Any damage to church property incurred by the wedding party or guests will be paid by the couple.
- Rice should not be thrown inside or outside the building. Bird seed and bubbles may not be used indoors.
- Alcoholic beverages are absolutely not permitted on the church premises. Anyone who is intoxicated will not be allowed to participate in the service.

Fee Schedule

The fees listed below are set by the Congregation Council of Immanuel. The deposit listed at the bottom of the table is due when you make your reservation, and your wedding date will not be reserved on the church calendar until it has been received. All remaining fees must be paid **3 weeks** prior to the date of the wedding.

Cancellation Policy:

\$50 of the member deposit or \$350 of the non-member deposit is refundable if the wedding is cancelled more than 6 months prior to the scheduled wedding date.

	Member	Non-Member
Prepare/Enrich (Premarital Materials)	\$35.00	\$35.00
Use of Worship Space	\$0.00	\$500.00
Presiding Pastor	Honorarium	Honorarium
Director of Music	<i>Rehearsal: \$100.00</i> <i>Service: \$225.00</i>	<i>Rehearsal: \$150.00</i> <i>Service: \$350.00</i>
Audio/Visual Services	\$100.00	\$250.00
Live-stream and/or Recording (<i>optional</i>)	\$250.00	\$250.00
Custodial Services	\$150.00	\$175.00
Aisle Candles (<i>optional</i>)	\$25.00	\$50.00
DEPOSIT (due on reservation date)	\$100.00	\$500.00

Last Updated: July 2022

Setting the Date

While you may already have a date in mind, **please do not formalize your reservations, invitations, or other arrangements until you have confirmed with the church office that your desired date is available.** Weddings are not celebrated at Immanuel during Holy Week or other dates/times when large events or worship services are planned.

At your first meeting with the pastor, you will discuss premarital counseling, review the fees required, and make a deposit to confirm your wedding reservation. Your wedding date is open to other couples or commitments until this meeting, so do this promptly.

Marriage Preparation

Premarital counseling is an important time for you to work on the foundation necessary for a lifelong relationship together. Immanuel requires that all people wishing to be married by its pastor complete premarital counseling sessions. We believe that premarital counseling is an important beginning to a successful marriage, and we are committed to helping you get started on the right path.

As part of your preparation, you will complete a survey called **Prepare/Enrich**. This is a tool that helps identify relationship strengths and growth areas, encourages communication, and aids in developing life goals. The results will guide the conversations you have as a couple and with the pastor.

Couples who live a distance away and are unable to do in-person sessions will make arrangements with the pastor as necessary.

Planning the Worship Service

The heart of your wedding day is the worship service itself. The pastor and Director of Music will assist you in planning the ceremony, following the pattern outlined in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Gathering

Gathered by the Holy Spirit and greeted in the name of the triune God, the assembly joins in worship. Those to be married state their intention; the assembly promises support. All are gathered into prayer.

Entrance

Music Selection(s) – See pages 9-11 for guidance and suggestions.

Greeting

Declaration of Intention

Prayer of the Day

Word

Scripture, readings, preaching, and song witness to the gift and vocation of marriage, bringing God's word of law and promise into this context of human life.

Readings

Scripture Selection(s) & Reader(s) – See pages 12 & 13 for suggestions.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day / Vocal Solo

Music Selection – See pages 9-11 for guidance and suggestions.

Marriage

The two pledge their love and faithfulness; the giving of rings is a symbol of this promise. The minister announces the marriage, and the assembly acclaims it. The prayers ask God's blessing upon this marriage and remember the needs of the whole world.

Vows – See page 14 for suggestions.

Acclamation

Marriage Blessing

Symbol of Unity (*optional*)

Prayers of Intercession

Peace (*optional*)

Meal (*Optional*)

God sets out a marriage feast for all those joined to Christ.

Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Communion

Music selection(s) during communion distribution – See pages 9-11 for suggestions.

Sending

Together with the newly married, we go out into the world with God's peace and blessing.

Blessing & Dismissal

Recessional

Music Selection – See pages 9-11 for guidance and suggestions.

Worship Leaders at Your Wedding

Pastor

The pastor currently called to serve Immanuel will officiate at your marriage service. If you would like to invite another ordained clergy person (recognized by the ELCA) to assist in your wedding, please discuss this with Immanuel's pastor, and they will extend an invitation to that person.

Director of Music

The Director of Music is responsible for the music ministry at Immanuel. Therefore, the director has the right of first refusal. If you desire another lead musician, you must obtain the approval of the Director of Music. This practice upholds the congregation's musical standards.

Additional Musicians

You may invite instrumentalists and vocalists to work with the Director of Music. Be sure to get approval for music selections and make arrangements with the Director well in advance of the wedding day.

The Wedding Party

Our worship space can comfortably accommodate up to five people on each side of the wedding couple. There are no rules for who can stand for the couple, however two legal witnesses must be 18.

Personal Attendant

Your wedding day will be busy. A personal attendant can take the stress of dealing with details and surprises off the shoulders of the couple.

Readers

Scripture can be read by one or more guests. Be sure they are comfortable speaking in front of people.

Ushers

Ushers can help people to be seated, guide the assembly to receive communion (if it is celebrated), and can dismiss people in an orderly fashion if desired. They can also attend to any circumstances that may arise during the worship service.

Children

Children are welcome to serve in any of the roles listed above. If there are children of the couple, entertain the idea of asking them forward during the marriage blessing. God will not only be creating a new relationship, but a new family in your marriage. This can be a meaningful way of involving them in your wedding and making them feel a part of what you are doing.

The Assembly

All those assembled are invited to be active participants in the worship service: speaking the spoken responses of the liturgy, joining in prayer and song, and sharing in the meal of holy communion (if it is celebrated).

Others

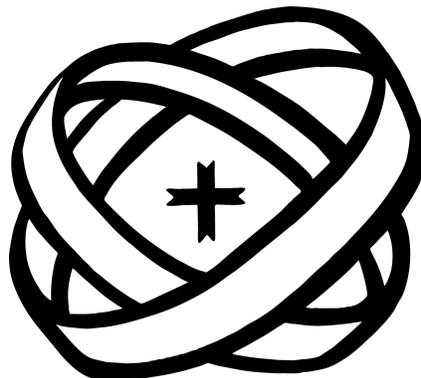
There may be additional opportunities to invite others to participate as well. Have a conversation with the pastor about any special plans you are considering.

Selecting the Music

As you plan the instrumental music, solos, and/or congregational hymns that will be included in the worship service, please be in conversation with the Director of Music. They will be able to help you make selections and may have additional suggestions and ideas.

Music that is appropriate for worship should...

1. **be musical.**
That is, the song should be singable for the soloist or the assembly.
2. **be liturgical.**
The text of the song should reflect some aspect of the relationship between God and human beings.
3. **be pastoral.**
The music must serve the needs of the worship service.
4. **reflect the diversity of the church.**
Not all music in church must be “classical.”



Congregational Hymn Suggestions

Since your marriage will take place within the context of a worship service, it is appropriate for those gathered to sing together. Assembly hymns and songs add to the sense of participation by those who are attending. You are more than welcome to select any hymns that are meaningful to you. Here are some suggested songs from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)*:

<i>All Creatures Worship God Most High</i>	ELW 835
<i>Beautiful Savior</i>	ELW 838
<i>Blest Be the Tie That Binds</i>	ELW 686
<i>Children of the Heavenly Father</i>	ELW 781
<i>Earth and All Stars!</i>	ELW 731
<i>Gather Us In</i>	ELW 532
<i>Holy God, We Praise Your Name</i>	ELW 414
<i>I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry</i>	ELW 732
<i>Jesus, Come! For We Invite You</i>	ELW 312
<i>Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee</i>	ELW 836
<i>Let All Things Now Living</i>	ELW 881
<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	ELW 631
<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	ELW 839/840
<i>O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts</i>	ELW 658
<i>On What Has Now Been Sown</i>	ELW 550
<i>Praise, My Soul, The God of Heaven</i>	ELW 864
<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	ELW 858/859
<i>Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us</i>	ELW 789
<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i>	ELW 502
<i>There's a Wideness in God's Mercy</i>	ELW 587/588
<i>We Praise You, O God</i>	ELW 870

Instrumental & Vocal Solo Suggestions

Instrumental Processional Pieces

- *Canon in D* – Pachelbel
- *Fanfare and Processional* – Blerch
- *Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring* – Bach
- *Overture (from Fireworks Music)* – Handel
- *Prelude (from Te Deum)* – Charpentier
- *Prince of Denmark's March* – Clarke

Instrumental Recessional Pieces

- *Hornpipe (from Water Music)* – Handel
- *La Marche* – Handel
- *Nun Danket Alle Gott (from Cantata 79)* – Bach
- *Psalm 19* – Marcello
- *Rigaudon* – Campra
- *Rondeau (Masterpiece Theater Theme)* – Mouret
- *Toccata (from Symphony No. 5)* – Widor
- *Trumpet Voluntary (Op. 6, No. 5)* – Stanley
- *Trumpet Tune* – Purcell
- *Wedding March* – Mendelssohn

Vocal Solo Pieces

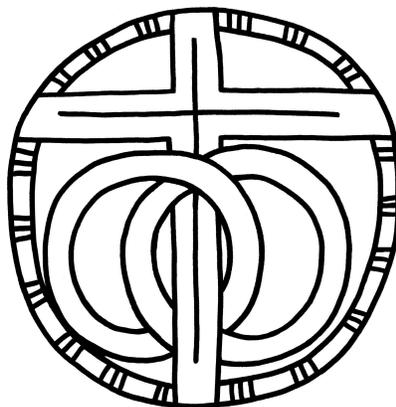
- *How Beautiful* – Pairs
- *Household of Faith* – Lamb/Rosasco
- *Love Will Be Our Home* – Chapman
- *My Heart Ever Faithful* – Bach
- *Panis Angelicus* – Franck
- *The Gift of Love* – arr. Hopson
- *The Lord's Prayer* – Malotte
- *The Prayer* – Sager & Foster
- *Wedding Prayer* – Dunlap
- *Wedding Prayer* – Hopkins

Selecting Scripture Readings

You may choose up to four readings from scripture that you feel is/are appropriate for the day. One reading should be from a gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John). If you are having trouble selecting your reading(s), these passages may be particularly appropriate to choose from:

Matthew 5:1-10	<i>The Beatitudes</i>
Matthew 5:14-16	<i>You are the light, let your light shine</i>
Matthew 7:24-27	<i>Build on the rock</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 12:22-31	<i>Do not keep worrying; God feeds and clothes</i>
John 2:1-11	<i>The wedding at Cana</i>
John 15:1-5	<i>Abide in me as branches to the Vine</i>
John 15:9-17	<i>Love one another as I have loved you</i>
John 20:19-23	<i>Jesus says, Peace be with you</i>
Genesis 1:26-31	<i>Humankind created in God's image</i>
Genesis 2:18-24	<i>Companionship rather than loneliness</i>
Ruth 1:6-9, 16-17	<i>Companionship and love</i>
Proverbs 3:3-6	<i>Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart</i>
Song of Solomon 2:10-13	<i>The voice of the beloved</i>
Song of Solomon 8:6-7	<i>Many waters cannot quench love</i>
Isaiah 55:6-11 [12-13]	<i>God's word accomplishes God's purpose</i>
Isaiah 63:7-9	<i>God's steadfast love lifts up the people</i>
Psalm 1:1-3	<i>Happy are they whose delight is in God</i>
Psalm 65	<i>Your paths overflow with plenty</i>
Psalm 67	<i>May God be merciful to us and bless us</i>
Psalm 117	<i>The faithfulness of the Lord endures forever</i>
Psalm 121	<i>The Lord watches over you and will keep your life</i>

<u>Psalm 145:1-4, 8-9, 14-18, 21</u>	<i>I will praise your name and tell your marvelous works</i>
<u>Psalm 146</u>	<i>I will sing praise to my God, who keeps promises forever</i>
<u>Romans 8:31-35, 37-39</u>	<i>If God is for us, who is against us?</i>
<u>Romans 12:1-2, 9-18</u>	<i>A living sacrifice and genuine love</i>
<u>Romans 15:5-7, 13</u>	<i>Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you</i>
<u>1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13</u>	<i>The greatest gift is love</i>
<u>Ephesians 3:14-19</u>	<i>The greatness of Christ's love</i>
<u>Ephesians 4:30-5:2</u>	<i>Live in love, as Christ loved us</i>
<u>Philippians 4:4-9</u>	<i>Rejoice in the Lord always</i>
<u>Colossians 3:12-17</u>	<i>Clothed in gifts of God</i>
<u>1 John 3:18-24</u>	<i>Let us love in truth and action</i>
<u>1 John 4:7-16</u>	<i>Let us love one another, for love is of God</i>
<u>1 John 4:16-21</u>	<i>We believe the love God has for us</i>



Your Wedding Vows

Your vows are the public promises you make before God. Two standard versions of the vows used in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are listed below. If you choose to write your own vows, please work with the pastor.

- I take you, name, to be my *wife/husband/spouse/life partner* 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, name, take you, name, to be my *wife/husband/spouse/life partner*;
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.

Vows to Children in a Blended Family (Optional)

If your marriage is creating a blended family, you may wish to include a vow to the child(ren) as part of your marriage celebration:

- I, name, promise to receive you into my life, my prayers, and my care.
I will love you and attempt to be an example of grace for you.
I will support decisions made by your *parent(s)/mother/father* on your behalf,
and I will always encourage your growth and well being.

Holy Communion *(Optional)*

Celebrating holy communion is a very appropriate part of a marriage service. Just as marriage is a sign of intimacy, unity, and communion – so, too, is the Lord’s Supper.

It is important for you to know that Immanuel celebrates open communion. This means that all present, regardless of church affiliation or lack thereof, are welcome to receive the body and blood of Christ during our celebration.

At the same time, if many of your guests belong to a faith tradition that does not allow them to receive holy communion from other congregations, celebrating communion may highlight a sense of disunity instead of unity. If this is the case, you may consider not having communion at your wedding.

Signs of Unity *(Optional)*

Unity candles, sand ceremonies, and a three-strand cord are recently invented rituals. They can symbolize the joining of two lives in marriage, yet each person remains a unique individual. If you would like to include one of these or a similar symbol of marriage, please discuss this with the pastor. The congregation does have a unity candle stand that can be used, if desired. All other necessary wedding materials relating to unity rituals will be purchased by the couple.

Decorations and Flowers

The paraments and vestments in the worship space (colorful fabrics on the altar, pulpit, lectern, and pastor’s stole) reflect the seasonal colors of the church year and will not be changed for your wedding. Please ask if you would like to know which color is set for your wedding date. Furnishings may be moved by Immanuel staff, but never removed from the worship space.

Flowers can be a beautiful addition to a marriage service. If you choose to have flowers in the chancel, be sure they will fit the space. Flowers are not to be placed on the free-standing altar table.

Worship Aids (Screens & Printed Orders of Worship)

In order for everyone present to fully and actively participate in the worship service, it is important to have some kind of worship aid that includes an order of worship and all appropriate responses.

You may choose to use the screens in our worship space with a presentation created by Immanuel's staff. The presentation will include all songs and spoken responses for the assembly.

If you would like your guests to have a printed order of worship, the church office will be able to create one for you, or you are welcome to have your own printed. When printing your own, ask the pastor for assistance with the portions that your guests will need in order to fully participate. Be sure to send a final draft to the pastor at least three weeks before the ceremony to be finalized before printing.

Photography

Flash photography is not permitted during the worship service. All photos must be taken from the side aisles, the transepts, or the balcony. In other words, no photos may be taken from the center aisle, and photographers are not permitted to enter the chancel area at any time during the worship service. While family members may take non-flash pictures from their seats at any time, it's best for the assembly to be fully present in what they are experiencing and leave the photography to the professionals.

Please ask your photographer(s) to have a conversation with the pastor prior to the worship service to briefly review photography policies.

Live-streaming and/or Video Recording

Immanuel's audio/visual team is capable of live-streaming and/or recording your wedding for those who cannot be with you, and so you can look back on your special day for years to come. Advanced notice and the associated fee are required.

Video cameras are welcome, but must remain stationary. No video cameras are permitted in aisles or anywhere that would block the assembly's view of the chancel.

Rehearsal

A wedding rehearsal is **mandatory**. Weddings are an exceptional occasion and it is essential to help everyone to know what to expect so that they can fulfill their role for you. This rehearsal is typically held on the night before the wedding, but it can be earlier in the week if you wish. **Everyone whom you have chosen for a leadership role must attend** (wedding party, readers, ushers, etc.) **and they must arrive by the appointed time of the rehearsal.**

Marriage License

A marriage license is required for Immanuel's pastor to preside at your wedding. At the time of this printing, Wisconsin residents may apply at the County Clerk's Office in any county in the State of Wisconsin. Contact your local county clerk's office for exact details regarding current requirements, necessary documents, deadlines, and fees for marriage license applications.

Jefferson County, Wisconsin

jeffersoncountywi.gov

Jefferson County Clerk's Office

Jefferson County Courthouse
311 South Center Avenue
Jefferson, WI – Room 109

920.674.8630

Dodge County, Wisconsin

co.dodge.wi.gov

Dodge County Clerk's Office

Administrative Building
127 East Oak Street
Juneau, WI – 3rd Floor

920.386.3720

Questions or Concerns

If questions or concerns arise as you plan your special day, please reach out to the pastor or the church office. Our congregation is here to help.