

*The following information is specific to weddings conducted by Pastor Rohlfs. The information about suggested donations as found on page two applies to all weddings conducted at Christ Lutheran.

Wedding Services at Christ Lutheran Church, Orland Park As Conducted by Pastor Raymond Rohlfs

Weddings are a time to publicly share marital promises. Wedding *services* are more. In a wedding service, the couple seeks to praise God for the gift of their relationship, seek God's blessing upon their relationship, and join with family and friends to pray for God's blessing upon them in their marital life. Wedding services have their root in God's gift of marriage found in Genesis 2, especially verse 24: *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.* Because God gave marriage, the wedding service is a time of worship and joy. As a result, the elements of the service reflect this sense of worship. Additionally, weddings celebrate the unity which God provides in the closest of relationships. All the elements of the service should emphasize both giftedness and unity.

Weddings need to be scheduled with Pastor Rohlfs well in advance of date (708-349-0431).

The Order of Service is usually as follows:

Pre-service Music and Lighting of Candles

Carillon Bells

Seating of the Family/Parents

Attendants and Bridal Processionals

Invocation, Welcome to the Wedding, and Prayer

Scripture Lessons (One Old Testament and one Epistle lesson need to be chosen by the couple. The couple may designate up to two readers. Possible **Old Testament readings** are Genesis 2: 18-25; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Psalm 100, and Psalm 121; **Epistle readings** may be taken from I Corinthians 13; Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 3:12-17, and I John 4: 7-16.) These lessons are usually read by volunteer readers.

Gospel Matthew 19: 4-6 (read by Pastor Rohlfs)

Music

Message

Giving of Bride and/or Blessing by Parents

The **"I do" promise:** *Name*, do you take *name* to be your wife/husband? Do you promise to live with her in holy marriage according to the Word of God and to love her, comfort her, honor her, and keep her in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be husband to her as long as you both shall live?

The **Repeated Vow:** I, *full name*, take you, *full name*, to be my wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death parts us, and I pledge you my faithfulness

Exchange of Rings (next page)

Pronouncement of Wedding
Unity Candle/Sand/Other (Presentation of Maternal Roses?)
Music
Prayers
Blessing, Kiss (with peal of bells), and Introduction of Couple
Recessional

The officiating pastor is Pastor Raymond Rohlfs, 708-349-0431, c341-0431 and rrohlf@christlutheranorland.com. Premarital discussions include three or four sessions that are designed to review the relationship in light of God's word and to plan the ceremony. All couples are encouraged to attend worship at Christ prior to the wedding service. On the Sunday prior to the wedding a special altar prayer will be offered for the couple.

Rehearsals are normally scheduled for the eve of the wedding at about 6:30 p.m.

Music is arranged through Music Director Sandra Knopp at 349-0431. The couple must phone Sandy at least 3 months prior to the wedding. Music in the service should be sacred/Christian in character. Guest instrumentalists and soloists are very welcome but must be coordinated through our Music Director. Sandy's fee is \$175 and should be remitted directly to her.

The Marriage License is secured through Cook County Clerk and brought to the church office by the Wednesday prior to the wedding. Licenses are valid for 60 days after issuance.

The couple is to provide their own Unity Candle with matching side candles. If an aisle runner is desired, it may be rented from the church for \$35.

The sanctuary suggested donation for *non-members* is \$300 payable to Christ Lutheran Church. There is no sanctuary donation for members of the congregation. A \$75 cleaning fee is required for all weddings. Gratuities for all other worship servants should be arranged with them. No alcohol is allowed on church property.

A bulletin can be printed for the couple. The couple is to provide their own bulletin paper and coordinate information with Pastor Rohlfs. Blank graphic bulletins are available through Concordia Publishing House at **cph.org**.

Additions to the service that are sometimes included are: memorial candles/flowers, roses presented to the mothers and recessional ushering by the couple. Often mothers are asked to light the side candles of the unity candles. Fresh rose petals stain the carpet, so they may not be scattered by flower girls. Alternatives include dried or artificial petals. Welcoming ushers should be designated. At the door, **rice or seed may not be thrown**; alternatives include bubbles, balloons, and petals.

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