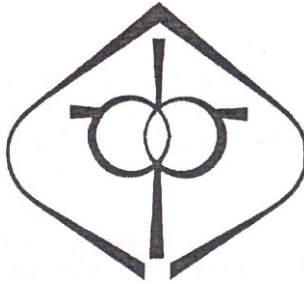


**Christ Our Savior
Lutheran Church
Elizabeth, Colorado**

Marriage Policies and Preparation
of
Rev. Geoffrey A. Wagner



303/927 6237 [home]
303/656 3430 [cell]
303/646 1378 [office]
pastor@cos-lutheran.org

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Marriage Policies & Guidelines

1. The pastor will perform marriages for congregational members in good standing (including a member marrying a non-member), only. If you wish to be married by Pastor Wagner, you must be a member of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church.
2. Couples who are cohabiting (living together before marriage) must make this arrangement known to the pastor. *The pastor will inquire about this.* The wedding ceremony is the making and blessing of the union between a man and his wife; the pastor and the church do not want to give the impression that they bless any such union that already exists outside of a marriage without confession and absolution. Any confession made to the pastor will **always** be held in the strictest confidence; there are options to working with such a situation, and the Gospel will **always** prevail!
3. The Rite of Marriage will follow the prescribed church orders. Music used in the Marriage Service is subject to pastoral approval, and will be reviewed in preparation for the wedding. Music must be suitable for a Christian ceremony, and not lean heavily on romantic notions or current sentiments about love; it should give glory to the Lord Jesus Christ. Pastor Wagner will provide direction in the choice of musicians, normally beginning with the Church Musician(s).
4. The couple is strongly encouraged to be wed on church property.
 - a) In very rare circumstances, Pastor Wagner will perform marriage ceremonies off of church property, and he may object to a location based on its suitability to a Christian wedding ceremony or in which a legal issue could arise. The couple is responsible for making the arrangements after gaining approval from Pastor Wagner.
 - b) The church nave and sanctuary is consecrated to worship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Decoration of the chancel and altar area is limited to appropriate candelabra, unity candles (if used), and appropriate floral arrangements, not normally to be placed on the altar. Any additional decoration of the nave should be appropriate for such worship. No modification of the structure, wall hangings, or attachments to the seats that may damage them will be permitted. In every case, **the decision of Pastor Wagner is final.** The parament color is determined by the season of the church year or if the wedding date falls on a commemoration, observance, or saint's day.

5. The church and state are not in fellowship over the meaning of the word *marriage*, nor have they been for some time. As an overseer in Christ's Church, Pastor Wagner cannot, in good conscience, officiate weddings as an agent of the state; he will no longer solemnize marriages for the state. The couple is responsible for handling **ALL** arrangements (licensing, solemnizing, witnesses, returning license to county clerk, etc.) if they wish to have their marriage recognized by the state; Pastor Wagner will not sign a marriage license in any official capacity. Pastor Wagner does not encourage you to seek nor discourage you from seeking a state-recognized marriage.
6. Premarital instruction is at the pastor's discretion, and will cover the basic Christological understanding of Christian marriage.
7. Service folders will be prepared upon request. Although the folders may be ordered through the church, payment is the responsibility of the couple. There *may* also be a nominal charge for preparation if any additional paper is needed for this preparation, as supplied by the church.
8. Costs relating to candelabra, Unity Candles, floral arrangements are the responsibility of the couple. The church does not supply such items, although the pastor may direct the couple to various sources for them.
9. The use of rice, birdseed, or other items to shower the couple is not in the best taste. If such items are used, it is the responsibility of the couple to assign someone to clean up. Couples should also assign someone to assure that bows, floral arrangements, and personal belongings are removed from the Church after the ceremony.
10. Payment for services is not expected, though it is accepted practice to honor the officiant and musicians with a gift in appreciation of the services rendered. Pastoral honorariums generally begin at \$150, and musicians should receive a minimum of \$100 (or the equivalent in both cases).
13. All facilities used must be kept clean and neat. Cleanup is the responsibility of the couple. Pastor Wagner suggests assigning willing parties to make sure that all locations that are used are returned to a state the same or better than when you arrived there.
 - a) If the wedding is at a location other than the church, be aware of their policies for use and clean up, but it is still

good practice to clean up after yourselves as much as possible.

- b) If the church facilities required cleanup after your use, the church will bill the couple \$50 for the work that needs to be done. Additional charges may apply for equipment rental or repair of facilities, if necessary.

Scripture Lessons

- *The Marriage Rite will have from one to three lessons (sometimes four) from Scripture.*
- *Generally, when two lessons are used, they are Old Testament and Gospel.*
- *These quotations are from the English Standard Version. These are the lessons that are generally used. Others may be used and should meet with the pastor's approval. Other standard translations may also be used and should meet with the pastor's approval.*
- *Texts marked with a * are given special consideration due to long-standing usage.*

* **Genesis 1:26-31**

[26] Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

[27] So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

[28] And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." [29] And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. [30] And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. [31] And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

* **Genesis 2:(7) 18-25**

([7] Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.)

[18] Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." [19] So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. [20] The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. [21] So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. [22] And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. [23] Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones

and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man."
[24] Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to
his wife, and they shall become one flesh. [25] And the man and his wife
were both naked and were not ashamed.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

[9] Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their
toil. [10] For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is
alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! [11] Again, if two
lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? [12] And
though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand
him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

[10] My beloved speaks and says to me:
"Arise, my love, my beautiful one,
and come away,
[11] for behold, the winter is past;
the rain is over and gone.
[12] The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.
[13] The fig tree ripens its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my beautiful one,
and come away.

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

[6] Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death,
jealousy is fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
the very flame of the Lord.
[7] Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
If a man offered for love
all the wealth of his house,
he would be utterly despised.

Isaiah 61:7-11

[7] Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion;
instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;
they shall have everlasting joy.

[8] For I the Lord love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

[9] Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.

[10] I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful
headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

[11] For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

Isaiah 63:7-9

[7] I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord,
the praises of the Lord,
according to all that the Lord has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

[8] For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely."
And he became their Savior.

[9] In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Romans 12:1-2

[1] I 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. [2] Do 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.

*** Ephesians 5:(1-2) 22-33**

([1] Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. [2] And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.)

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

[25] Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, [26] that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, [27] so 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. [28] In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. [29] For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, [30] because 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." [32] This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. [33] However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

*** St. Matthew 19:4-6**

[4] He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, [5] and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh'? [6] So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

*** St. Mark 10:6-9**

[6] But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' [7] 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, [8] and they shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. [9] What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

St. John 2:1-10

[1] On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. [2] Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. [3] When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." [4] And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." [5] His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

[6] Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. [7] Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. [8] And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. [9] When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom [10] and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now."

Wedding Hymns

- *The following are suggestions for wedding hymns. Other hymns may also be appropriate. It is a good practice to coordinate the hymns with the lessons to form a thematic service. Any other hymns should meet with the pastor's approval.*
- *Should copies of hymns need to be made for the congregation, either text or music, the couple is responsible for arranging all necessary copyright grants to copy. Anything copyrighted to Concordia Publishing House (†) can be copied legally by the congregation. Hymns below marked with an asterisk (*) are copyrighted and require permission to copy.*
- *The numbers following the hymns are the hymn numbers in Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) / Lutheran Service Book (LSB).*

| | | |
|---------|---|-----------|
| TLH 14 | "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" | 245 / 791 |
| TLH 15 | "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" | 550 / 816 |
| TLH 17 | "Oh, Worship the King" | 548 / 804 |
| TLH 21 | "Jehovah, Let Me Now Adore Thee" | |
| TLH 23 | "Hallelujah! Let Praises Ring" | xxx / 822 |
| TLH 25 | "I Will Sing My Maker's Praises" | xxx / 977 |
| TLH 26 | "Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him" | 539 / 797 |
| TLH 30 | "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" | 560 / 811 |
| TLH 36 | "Now Thank We All Our God" | 533 / 895 |
| TLH 38 | "The Lord, My God, Be Praised" | xxx / 794 |
| TLH 39 | "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" | 543 / 790 |
| TLH 224 | "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord" | 163 / 497 |
| TLH 235 | "O Holy Spirit, Enter In" | 459 / 913 |
| TLH 236 | "Creator Spirit, By Whose Aid" | 164 / 500 |
| TLH 237 | "All Glory Be to God on High" | 166 / 947 |
| TLH 238 | "All Glory Be to God Alone" | xxx / 948 |
| TLH 239 | "Come, Thou Almighty King" | 522 / 905 |
| TLH 240 | "Father, Most Holy, Merciful" | 169 / 504 |
| TLH 243 | "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" | |
| TLH 244 | "Glory Be to God the Father" | 167 / 506 |
| TLH 250 | "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" | 535 / 940 |
| TLH 251 | "We All Believe in One True God" | 374 / 954 |
| TLH 252 | "We All Believe in One True God" | xxx / 953 |
| TLH 262 | "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" | 228 / 656 |
| | | 229 / 657 |
| TLH 305 | "Deck Thyself with Joy and Gladness" | 224 / xxx |
| TLH 341 | "Crown Him with Many Crowns" | 170 / 525 |
| TLH 344 | "Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs" | 254 / 812 |
| TLH 351 | "Love Divine, All Love Excelling" | 315 / 700 |
| TLH 360 | "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" | 559 / 528 |
| TLH 395 | "O God, Thou Faithful God" | 504 / xxx |
| TLH 412 | "May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill" | 353 / 698 |
| TLH 417 | "How Can I Thank Thee Lord" | xxx / 703 |
| TLH 425 | "All Depends on Our Possessing" | 447 / 732 |

| | | | |
|----------|---|--|-----------|
| TLH 429 | | "Lord, Thee I Love with All my Heart" | 325 / 708 |
| TLH 431 | | "The King of Love my Shepherd is" | 456 / 709 |
| TLH 500 | | "May God bestow on Us His Grace" | 335/ |
| 823,824 | | | |
| TLH 518 | | "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" | 453 / 750 |
| TLH 540 | | "With the Lord Begin Thy Task" | 444 / 869 |
| TLH 620 | | "Lord, Who at Cana's Wedding Feast" | xxx / 859 |
| TLH 621 | | "O Father, All Creating" | xxx / 858 |
| TLH 622 | | "The Voice that Breathed O'er Eden" | |
| TLH 623 | | "O Perfect Love" | 287 / xxx |
| TLH 624 | | "O Blessed Home Where Man and Wife" | |
| TLH 625 | | "Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall" | 512 / 862 |
| TLH 626 | | "O Happy Home Where Thou art Loved Most Dearly" | |
| TLH 644 | | "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" | 564 / 805 |
| LW 73 | * | "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" | 76 / 395 |
| LW 78 | † | "Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure" | xxx / 533 |
| LW 155 | * | "To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray" | 317 / 768 |
| LW 156 | | "Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove" | 284 / xxx |
| LW 158 | † | "Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire" | 472 / 499 |
| LW 161 | | "Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove" | 475 / xxx |
| LW 179 | | "Rejoice, the Lord is King" | 171 / xxx |
| LW 205 | * | "Oh, Sing Jubilee to the Lord" | 256 / xxx |
| LW 252 | † | "Lord, When You Came as Welcome Guest" | xxx / 859 |
| LW 287 | | "Abide with Us, Our Savior" | 263 / xxx |
| LW 311 | * | "Lift High the Cross" | 377 / 837 |
| LW 376 | † | "Love in Christ is Strong and Living" | xxx / 706 |
| LW 387 | * | "Praise and Thanks and Adoration" | 470 / 692 |
| LW 403 | * | "Praise and Thanksgiving" | 409 / 789 |
| LW 417 | * | "The Lord's My Shepherd, Leading Me" | |
| LW 419 | * | "Evening and Morning" | 465 / 726 |
| LW 436 | * | "All Creatures of Our God and King" | 527 / xxx |
| LW 442 | † | "In You is Gladness" | 552 / 818 |
| LW 451 | † | "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" | 526 / 802 |
| LW 452 | | "Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good" | 542 / 819 |
| LW 456 | † | "God Brought Me to This Time and Place" | |
| LW 459 | * | "Forth in the Peace of Christ" | xxx / 920 |
| HS98 817 | * | "Come, Join in Cana's Feast" | xxx / 408 |
| HS98 859 | * | "When I Behold Jesus Christ" | xxx / 542 |
| HS98 860 | * | "What Wondrous Love is This" | 385 / 543 |
| HS98 865 | | "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" | 367 / 909 |
| HS98 866 | * | "Be Strong in the Lord" | xxx / 665 |
| HS98 876 | | "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" | 499 / 686 |
| HS98 879 | * | "How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord" | xxx / 853 |
| HS98 887 | * | "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" | xxx / 922 |
| HS98 888 | * | "Children of the Heavenly Father" | 474 / 725 |
| HS98 909 | * | "Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord" | xxx / 935 |

Declaration of Intent & Vows

- *The following are some sample declarations of intent and vows which you may wish to take. They all say pretty much the same thing, but in different fashions.*
- *Penning your own vows is akin to getting married on your own terms. The terms by which you are getting married are God's, and these vows are based on those terms as they are found in scripture. Adding things to them as they are found in Scripture should meet with the Pastor's approval.*

Declaration of Intent

Groom, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony as God ordained it? Will you nourish and cherish her as Christ loved His body the Church and, if necessary, give your life up for her as Christ gave Himself up for the Church? Will you love, honor, and keep her in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, remain united to her alone, as long as you both shall live? Then say: I will.

Bride, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony as God ordained it? Will you submit to him as the Church submits to Christ? Will you love, honor, obey, and keep him in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, remain united to him alone, as long as you both shall live? Then say: I will.

Declaration of Intent

Groom, will you have this woman to be your wife, to live with her in holy marriage according to the Word of God? Will you 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? Then say: I will.

Bride, will you have this man to be your husband, to live with him in holy marriage according to the Word of God? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him, obey him, and keep him in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be wife to him as long as you both shall live? Then say: I will.

Vow

I take you, *N.*, 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 that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.

Vow

I take you, *N.*, 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 the worst of what is to come as long as we live.

Vow

I, *N.*, take you *N.*, to be my wedded 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, till death us do part, according to God's holy will; and I pledge you my faithfulness.

Vow

I, *N.*, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, *N.*, 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.