The Two Became One

A

Wedding

Preparations

Guide

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

6965 Chestnut Ridge Rd.

Lockport, New York 14094

(716) 434-8500

mtolivechurch@verizon.net

 The Solo (and/or hymn) (optional)

 The Rite of Marriage

 The Giving of Parental Blessing

 The Declarations

 The Exchange of Wedding Vows

 The Wedding Pronouncement

 The Lighting the Unity Candle

 The Prayers

 The Lord’s Prayer (May be sung as a Solo)

 The Benediction

 The Tribute of Flowers for the Mothers

 The Recessional

Reflections on the Wedding Ceremony

 Though some variation is permitted in the Order, especially with respect to placement of the musical portions, couples married at Mount Olive Lutheran Church will want to follow the general outline above. Since the wedding ceremony is a worship service of the church, we discourage individualization in development and writing of the ceremony or parts thereof. Sources from wedding guides or consultants should be scrutinized for their Christian content. Please discuss these matters early with the officiating Pastor and with the Director of Music/organist.

 Ordinarily, readings are kept to Scripture selections. Poems, biographical selections, etc. are discouraged. Scripture readings are rendered by the officiating Pastor. Some of these selections are: Genesis 2, Matthew 19, Psalm 128, Ephesians 5, Ruth 1, 1st Corinthians 13, 1st John 1, 2 and 4, 1st Peter 3. Readings other than the Scriptures may be shared at the reception.

 At the close of the wedding ceremony, the officiating pastor speaks the Benediction. With this word of blessing, the Rite of Marriage is concluded. Ordinarily, the officiating Pastor will not introduce the couple. This gesture seems unwarranted when once the wedding pronouncement in the ceremony has been spoken. Unless requested, the officiating Pastor will not speak such an introduction.

 For the wedding ceremony, soloists and instrumentalists work with the organist from the church balcony. Also, any additional sound

For musicians should be placed in the balcony and coordinated with the church sound system. Note: Additional sound enforcement will not be attached or integrated into the church sound system. Consult with pastor and Director of Music.

 Couples may wish to have a printed Order for the Marriage Service. This is optional. To secure this service, please contact the church secretary as soon as possible—no later than one month prior to the wedding date— with all of the information to be included. The secretary will also be able to show you what bulletin covers we have available, or you may provide one to the church office. The printing may be done in the church office or at any shop locally.

The Wedding Rehearsal

 The date and time of the rehearsal will be set when making application to be married at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Please set an hour when all parties can comfortably arrive on time.

 In general, rehearsals are held the evening prior to the day of the wedding ceremony.

 The rehearsal is preparation for the wedding as a worship service. Organists are present for rehearsals at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. And soloists may be present also. Practice for soloists with the organist, however, should be scheduled for another time. Other personnel to be present at the rehearsal are: Bride and groom, attendants, ring bearer and flower girl, ushers, parents from both sides of the wedding party. Wedding rehearsals go more smoothly when those attending are limited to the personnel cited above.

 Rehearsals last from twenty-five to forty-five minutes. The officiating Pastor will conduct the rehearsal. Participants will be asked to gather initially in the back pews of the sanctuary. The Pastor will share some preliminary remarks. Then the bridal party will find their places in the chancel, walk through the processional once without music, then with music, and then recessional with music. He will have suggestions for forming a receiving line in the narthex, and share instructions for the ushers. As a last detail, the Pastor will direct participants to areas on the premises reserved for members of the bridal party,

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**“A Christian Wedding”**

Beautiful weddings are held at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. The long, gracious aisle, the stained glass window, and the well-appointed chancel, the music of the church, all together form a setting for a beautiful wedding. The “praying hands” design symbolizes our trust and dependence in our Heavenly Father.

The Rite of Holy Marriage begins in the Name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. More than atmosphere, therefore, and more than ceremony, the wedding is a Christian worship service.

Two persons come before God at His Altar to exchange promises of love and fidelity for a lifetime together. These are sacred moments. As Moses stood before God in the mountain, the couple stands on holy ground, holy because God meets them in His holy and gracious will to save and bless.

Therefore, the Rite of Holy Marriage brings together bride and groom and their family and friends, “. . . In the presence of God.” The couple will join with pastor and organist and others seeking to do things “decently and in order”, as the Apostle Paul advises persons gathered for worship in the church (1 Cor. 14:40). This applies to music, décor, dress, and many other details. Your wedding is just the first day in a lifetime of marriage and we encourage you to treat it as such.

To assist your planning of such a Christian wedding, this booklet is dedicated. May yours be a beautiful wedding in the name of the Triune God and to His glory. . . And for your happiness.

The Rev. James R. Zang III

Pastor

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOCKPORT, NEW YORK

Winter 2013 Church Office (716) 434-8500

**GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR WEDDING PLANS**

Setting the Wedding Date and Time

 Having read and comprehended this booklet and having forwarded the Wedding Information Application Form, the Pastor will act on this information, approving the schedule of your wedding and rehearsal. Please carefully read this booklet and digest the information. Some of this information may not apply to your wedding, but it is important to read the entire booklet. Then, you will want to do the following:

Immediately contact the Director of Music/Organist at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Please call the church to set up a meeting (434-8500) with Debbie Freeman or contact the organist directly: fdjfreeman@gmail.com

Three months prior to your wedding date, call for an appointment with the officiating Pastor. Either he will make arrangements for several pre-marriage counseling sessions, or direct you to a class for couples planning marriage. You may call him at any time to inquire about details not covered in this wedding booklet. Or, you may wish to clarify some matters.

Your Wedding Team

 Who can officiate at your wedding? Any pastor must be either the resident pastor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church or a pastor approved by the current resident pastor and the church council of Mount Olive.

 Generally, clergy participating in wedding ceremonies at Mount Olive Lutheran church shall be clergy of the Lutheran Church—Missouri synod or clergy members of a Lutheran church in pulpit and altar fellowship with the Missouri Synod.

 Musicians serving in the wedding ceremony should ordinarily be from Mount Olive Lutheran Church, If the musician/organist/soloist/instrumentalist is not from Mount Olive Lutheran church, they must be approved by the current pastor and elders. Their information should be presented to Pastor for approval and a meeting prior to the rehearsal may be requested.

 Occasionally, couples will engage a wedding coordinator or other wedding consultant. Such personnel should be in contact with the officiating Pastor several weeks prior to the wedding rehearsal. These advisory personnel should be thoroughly acquainted with policies and procedures for the conduct of weddings at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. **Note:** The officiating Pastor is in charge of conducting the wedding rehearsal and also the wedding itself, not the wedding coordinator/consultant.

Wedding Music

 Wedding music in all aspects shall serve the congregation at worship. The Rite of Holy Marriage brings bride and groom, their families and friends, “. . . In the presence of God.” Among the myriad choices of music, the pastors and musicians at Mount Olive Lutheran Church request that wedding music be appropriate for a service of public worship, honoring the Triune God, and expressive of Christian faith in God.

 In this regard, couples should consult with Pastor and/or the music director (or organist) before making the final selections of wedding music. When planning music for the Christian wedding, consider the rich heritage of music for the Lutheran tradition. A sample of these selections for processional and recessional, solo pieces, and works for instrumentalists are printed in the Appendix of this booklet. Also, the singing of appropriate hymns is proper. Discouraged is the use of taped/recorded music for use in weddings at Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

The Wedding Ceremony

 Couples should become acquainted with the wedding ceremony of the Lutheran Church. The order of Marriage Service is set forth with essential parts underscored.

 The Pre-service music

 The Processional (and/or Hymn by the congregation)

 The Invocation

 The Solo (optional)

 The Reading of Scriptures

 The Wedding Sermon or Meditation

The Wedding Party and Participants

 There are no fixed rules on the size of the bridal party, but we suggest that the party be limited to Bride and Groom, Maid/Matron of Honor and Best Man, two or three bridesmaids/groomsmen and the option of a flower girl and/or ring bearer. The chancel of the church is somewhat shallow and small to moderately-sized bridal parties are best suited for wedding ceremonies at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Note: If children should participate, they should be of age. We suggest five years or older. And, instead of standing with the bridal party in the chancel, they may come down the aisle and be seated with relatives in the first or second pew from the front.

The Marriage License

 **Please bring the marriage license to the wedding ceremony, making certain that the officiating Pastor receives these important papers.**

 A couple who intends to be married in New York State must apply in person for a marriage license to any town or city clerk in the state. The application for a license must be signed by both applicants in the presence of the town or city clerk. A representative cannot apply for the license on behalf of the applicants. This applies even if the representative has been given a Power of Attorney. Notarized marriage license affidavits signed by the applicants cannot be substituted for their personal appearance.

 Although the marriage license is issued immediately, the marriage ceremony may not take place within 24 hours from the exact time that the license was issued. A marriage license is valid for 60 calendar days, beginning the day after it is issued. No pre-marriage physical examination is required in New York State.

 **Mail the completed marriage license immediately after the wedding ceremony, to make sure you will not forget. Your marriage is not valid in New York State unless you do this!**

Photographers and Photographs

 Making plans for the wedding, the couple will select a

photographer. With regard to pictures, we ask that each couple counsel with their photographer and share the following information:

Photographs may be taken before or after the wedding ceremony.

Aisle shots are permitted for the parents and the bridal party during the processional and recessional.

NO FLASHES OR STROBE LIGHTS ARE PERMITTED IN THE SANCTUARY DURING THE WEDDING CEREMONY, FROM THE CLOSE OF THE PROCESSIONAL TO THE BEGINNING OF THE RECESSIONAL.

A time exposure or still picture may be taken from the balcony during the ceremony.

Video cameras/recorders are permitted in the balcony and from stationary tripod placed at the side aisle, lectern side. Video equipment is not permitted near the chancel, nor in the chancel itself during the ceremony. ROVING PICTURE TAKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE SANCTUARY!

All parties taking photographs or using video equipment at the request of the bride and groom should counsel with the officiating Pastor prior to the ceremony.

The photographer should inform the Pastor if he will be needed to pose for photographs following the wedding ceremony. Note: Photographs including the Pastor should be taken immediately following the ceremony. Please instruct your photographer!

**CUSTOMS AND ACCESSORIES**

Flowers

 The couple shall share their plan for floral decorations with the officiating Pastor. Because the Christian faith honors the living Lord, only fresh , cut, living flowers may be placed as bouquets in the church sanctuary or chancel. Silk flowers are not permitted. We encourage hand bouquets, boutonnieres and flowers for the mothers to be fresh cut flowers.

 The proper chancel flowers are two dish arrangements for the shelves on either side of the altar. One large arrangement may be centered on the floor at the base of the Altar. No flowers are to be put on the Altar itself! Also, floral pieces such as garland should not be used to

The communion rail. No arch—brass or floral—shall be placed in the chancel or even at the foot of the chancel steps.

 The pews along the center of the aisle may be decorated. Whether the decoration be floral or ribbons, plastic clips should be used, and decorations affixed to the clips and NOT the pews themselves. DO NOT USE NAILS, SCREWS, THUMBTACKS, WIRE OR ANY OTHER FASTENER WHICH MAY DAMAGE THE VARNISH OF CHURCH FURNITURE! Note: Consult with the custodial staff of Mount Olive Lutheran Church before placing decorations in the church.

 Rose petals, usually thrown by a flower girl, may be used along the path if a runner is used in the main aisle. The runner must be procured from a florist. We suggest a cloth runner. The aisle measures \_\_\_\_\_ feet.

It is advisable to procure a good-quality plastic runner if cloth is not used.

 When making floral arrangements, urge the florist to work in the sanctuary well in advance of the Wedding Service. Also, the florist should gather up his accessories and take them from the sanctuary immediately following the wedding. Mount Olive Lutheran Church is not responsible for wedding accessories brought by the florist of other parties engaged by the wedding couple.

Candles

 The five wall candles on each side of the Altar are lit for every worship service. For weddings after 4:00pm, additional candelabra and candlesticks may be used. These can be rented from a florist. Pew candlesticks can also be used. Mount Olive has these located in the Work Sacristy, but candles will need to be provided by the wedding couple. Please consult with the head of the Trustees, regarding these candelabra.

 A Unity Candle may be used. Either a florist or craft store may provide this fixture. These candles must be provided by the wedding couple.

Flowers for the Mothers

 Two single blooms (fresh cut) may be placed on the railing of the chancel. Following the benediction at the close of the ceremony, the bride and groom may carry the flowers to their mothers seated on either side of aisle in the front pew. The organist plays quietly as the couple goes first to the bride’s mother and then to the groom’s mother.

Thereafter, they regroup in the center for the recessional.

Guestbook

 The couple shall provide their own guestbook. A Stand in the narthex may be used for this book. We suggest placing the stand near the main entrance of the church so that guests may sign the book when arriving for the ceremony. It is proper to have an attendant at the guestbook.

Receiving Line

 If the couple has determined to greet their guests at the church following the ceremony, we suggest that they form a receiving line in the narthex. Parents will flank on the bride’s right. The bridal party may assemble on the groom’s left. The officiating Pastor will assist the couple in forming this line as a final detail of the wedding rehearsal.

**DECORUM**

Conduct in the Church

 Couples married at Mount Olive Lutheran Church are urged to select members of their bridal party who have profound respect for the church as the House of God. In this place the Gospel of the Lord is proclaimed and shared in the Sacraments. Let all comport themselves appropriately in the house of the Lord!

Wedding Attire and Wardrobe

 With respect to dress, let good taste and propriety be the rule. Dresses should be tailored for beauty, but in no way be revealing. Clothing worn at the rehearsal may be informal, but party dress for the night club is strongly discouraged.

 For the wedding, the women in the bridal party may dress in the room provided at the church. Normally, men in the party will dress at their homes and arrive at the church in their suits or tuxedos.

Distractions

 May each couple retain the focus of their Wedding Service as worship of the Lord, and in all parts of the wedding ceremony, give honor and glory to the Lord! Please refrain from “showboating”, practical jokes and/or horseplay, as these activities detract from the focus.

Bridal Kiss

 Display of affection is a personal matter, and couples should use their sanctified judgment in this matter. They may wish to reserve a private moment for themselves immediately following their recessional from the sanctuary. If there is a kiss before the Altar, let such expression be in good taste.

Post-Ceremony Celebration —Throwing of Rice

 May we offer guidance for post-ceremony celebration at the church? We discourage the throwing of rice or bird seed. First, the rice or bird seed in such quantity cannot be good for birds who ingest a fatal amount of the substance. Then, the throwing of rice is a pagan custom, a sign of fertility, part of worship and celebration before pagan deities. It is inappropriate on the premises of a Christian church.

 Then, other factors must be considered. The rice or bird seed, even when thrown outdoors, gets into hair and clothing and is brought back into the church building becoming hazardous for the elderly walking in the Church.

Tobacco and Alcohol

 Every couple will understand that alcohol has no place even at a distance for both wedding rehearsal and ceremony.

**NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PERMITTED ON THE PREMISES OF MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH—INDOORS OR OUTDOORS! THIS IS INCLUSIVE OF THE PARKING AREAS!**

Failure to abide by this rule will mean an immediate cancelation of the wedding ceremony at Mount Olive. There will be no exceptions.

Any guest violating this mandate will be asked to leave the church and premises immediately.

The bride and groom should inform their friends and acquaintances of this policy made necessary following distasteful and unfortunately past experiences when persons brought alcohol to weddings and wedding rehearsals.

 No beverages of any kind are permitted in any portion of the church sanctuary.

 Smoking is permitted only outside, in accordance with New York State Law. Smokers should be careful to extinguish their cigarettes completely before returning indoors.

Receptions at Mount Olive

 Wedding receptions may be held at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall (basement level). The fees for use of the area are cited in the following section of this booklet.

 A separate Building Use Form must be filed with the church office and approved by the Board of Trustees a minimum of a month prior to date of use. This form is available from the church office.

 There are certain limitations attached to use of the Fellowship Hall. The curfew is 11:00pm for evening receptions. There shall be no dancing and no service of alcoholic beverages. Live bands are not permitted, but small ensemble of classical musicians or circulating violinist are acceptable. A disc jockey playing chamber music is also allowed.

**FEES AND HONORARIUMS**

 For those who serve at church weddings we ask well-deserved recognition in terms of modest honorariums. Also, certain fees are set by the Church Council for the use of the premises. The schedule of fees listed here has been established by the congregation’s Board of Elders and Church Council. The fees vary for couples who are members of Mount Olive Lutheran Church and those who are not members of the congregation. They are the following.

 NON-MEMBER MEMBER

Building Use $150.00 No charge

Custodian $50.00 $40.00

Organist $50.00 $50.00

Soloist $30/song $30/song

Instrumentalist $30/song $30/song

Pastor $150.00 $150.00

 When presenting honorariums and paying fees, please observe the following procedure:

Place the Building Use Fee and Custodian Fee in one envelope. The total should be directed to MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH. Present this payment to the church office or Pastor *prior* to the wedding, or hand to the officiating Pastor at the rehearsal.

Make out separate honorariums in individual envelopes for the Pastor, the Organist, the Soloist/Instrumentalist. Present these honorariums at the rehearsal. Alternatively, the Best Man may present them at the wedding, no later than immediately following the ceremony.

**FEES FOR THE RECEPTION IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

 The fee set by the Church Council for use of the Fellowship Hall (basement level) is for both members and non-members alike. The fee is $30.00 per hour, a minimum of four hours (minimum fee of $120.00). Payment must be made a minimum of one month in advance at the church office.

**INVITATION TO THE PASTOR**

 If the bridal couple wishes to invite the officiating Pastor to either the Rehearsal Dinner or the Wedding Reception, or both, they should notify him at least one month in advance of the wedding. Prior invitation will enable him to consider a busy professional schedule and decide whether he is able to be present. This courtesy is appreciated.

**APPENDIX**

MUSIC FOR CHRISTIAN WEDDINGS

 Since the marriage service is a worship service of the congregation, the music selected for such a service should be either in praise of God or in prayer to God. The music of the marriage service also needs to convey the message of Colossians 3:17 which says, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

 You will need to pick three selections. One will be used for the procession of the bridesmaids and another for the bride, and a third for the recessional where everyone leaves the altar area. In addition to this, you may choose to have one or two selections for a soloist/instrumentalist. In this event, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with the soloist/instrumentalist.

 Please note, there are a few songs which are popular wedding songs, which are not acceptable in the Christian church. These include “Ave Maria” and the Wedding March from the opera “Lohengrin”. Please consult with Pastor if you have questions about why these songs are inappropriate in a wedding ceremony at Mount Olive.

Processionals and Recessionals for Weddings

Classical Wedding Music for Organ

 “Arioso in A” — Corelli

 “Air from St. Paul” — Mendelssohn

 “Festal March” —Handel

Wedding Music I —CPH

 “Trumpet Tune in D Major” —Purcell

 “Trumpet Voluntary in D Major” —Purcell

 “Andante” —Handel

 “Aria in F Major” —Handel

 “Postlude in G Major” —Handel

 “Processional”— Handel

 “Air From Water Music Suite” —Handel

 “Psalm XIX” —Marcello

 “Processional in G Major” —Stanley

 “Choral Song” —Wesley

 “Cantilena” (from Sonata in D Major) —Rheinberger

 “Movement I from Suite Gothique” —Rheinberger

Wedding Music II— CPH

 “All Glory Be to God On High” —Bach

 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” —Milford

 “Lord Jesus Christ Be Present Now” —Walther

 “O Blest the House What’er Befall” —Pachelbel

Wedding Music Book II —Johnson

 “Allegro Maestoso” —Handel

 “March” —Handel

 “Processional in D” —Johnson

 “Processional in E Major” —Johnson

 “Hornpipe” —Handel

Five Hymn Improvisation for Wedding and General Use—Manz

 “God of Grace”

 “Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”

 “Now Thank We All Our God”

 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Six Processionals—Handel

 “Processionals 1-6”

Individual Compositions

 “Procession” —Zabel

 “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” —Bach

 “Canon in D Major” —Pachelbel

 “Fanfare and Processional” —Innes

 “Jig Fuge” —Buxtehude

 “Sinfonia” —Bach

 “Trumpet Tune” from Rigaudon —Fischer

 “Trumpet Tune” —Greene

 “Rigaudon” —Campra

Wedding Solos

 In a Christian Marriage our Lord is the unifying factor in the marriage. True love comes from God. Therefore, the solos sung should be either in praise of God or in prayer to God.

Ring of Gold

Contents: “Love is Sunlight” —Bunesan

 “When Jesus To the Wedding Went” —Azmon

 “The Lamps that Light This Wedding Day”

 “The Days of Summer” —Kremser

 “”Now With Thanksgiving” —Slane

 “When God Designed Creation” —Aurelia

 “Within the Arc of Grace” —Rhosymedre

Wedding Blessings

Contents: “Jesus, Shepherd, Be Thou Near Me” —Bach

 “The Lord My Shepherd Is” —Helder

 “O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts” —Brahams

 “Love Divine, All Love Excelling:

 “Jesus, Joy of Man’s Desiring” —J.S. Bach

 “Lord, Who at Cana’s Wedding Feast” —Buxtehude

 “”The Lord Bless You” —J.S. Bach

Individual Selections

 “The Lord’s Prayer” —Malotte

 “Wedding Prayer” —Dunlop

 “The Lord Be With You” —Polach

 “Wedding Benediction” —Lovelace

 “Where There Were Two” —Kohneke

 “Wedding Song” or “Let Us Call Upon Christ Jesus”

 “All That We Are” —Temple

 “You Made Us For Each Other” —Innes

 “God Bless This Marriage” —Hanks

 “Wedding Song” or “There is Love”

 “God Has Given You to Me” —Leech

 “We Have the Lord and We Have Each Other” —Wyrtzen

 “Because You Are God’s Chosen ‘Ones’” —Smith

 “Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost” —Erickson

 “Bridal Prayer” —Copland

 “You Have Made Us One” —Novak

 “Blest Are They” —Haas (from “Lift Up Your Hearts”)