



GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
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Quick Start Guide *to setting up your Wedding*

1. Contact the church about *a.* availability of the date, *b.* this process, and *c.* basic understanding of a church wedding at Grace.
2. Reflect on Marriage Questions provided for your preparation and return to the pastor prior to your first meeting.
3. First meeting with the Pastor: Personal introductions and wedding information
 - Give the pastor an opportunity to get to know you as a couple.
 - Share your hopes for the wedding service and reflect on its spiritual meaning.
 - Get information about the format and content of the wedding service.
 - Agree to Grace's wedding guidelines.
 - Learn about relationship issues and pastoral marriage guidance, including participation in the Prepare-Enrich program.
 - Decide whether to proceed with preparation and complete an information form.
4. Pray about your relationship and commit to participation in the ministry of Grace. Take the Prepare-Enrich couple inventory. Make decisions about readings and vows, music and other personal choices or contributions.
5. Second meeting with the Pastor: Relationship feedback and service planning
 - Receive feedback from the Prepare-Enrich inventory and participate in relevant exercises or commit to independent couple work.
 - Come to a mutual agreement with the pastor about whether your wedding will take place at Grace. If so, pay the compensation for a deposit.
 - Plan elements of the wedding ceremony.
6. Connect with the Music Director to select music for the service.
7. Make your reservations for the reception and other commitments. No responsibility is assumed by the church if these are made final prior to a mutual agreement about the pastor's participation in the wedding during the second meeting.
8. Optional follow up for marriage guidance or worship planning.
9. Submit *a.* your wedding license, *b.* remaining compensations, and *c.* information for the bulletin program two weeks before the wedding.
10. Rehearsal: Practice the service with wedding party and other participants.
11. Wedding: Declare your love and exchange your vows, ask for God's help in your marriage and celebrate God's blessing.
12. Continue to live in relationship with God and other believers for practical support, spiritual encouragement, and opportunities to fulfill your life's purpose by sharing your love with each other and the world.