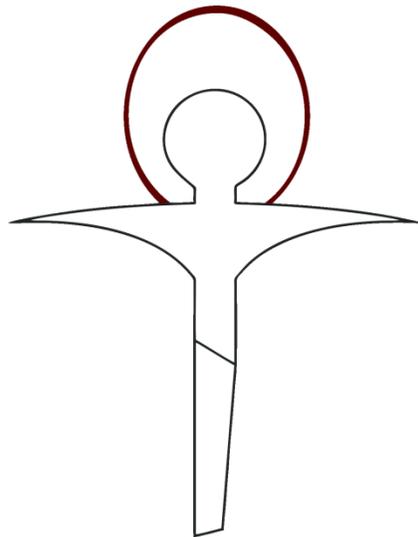


**WEDDING INFORMATION  
AND  
PLANNING GUIDE**



***BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH***

3628 W. Johnson Rd.  
La Porte, Indiana 46350  
(219) 324-7442  
[bslclaporte.org](http://bslclaporte.org)

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Congratulations on your engagement! You are at the beginning of an important journey. We are honored that you want Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church to share in your joy on your wedding day.

This booklet serves as a summary of the policies and procedures for marriages at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, as well as marriages elsewhere performed by Beautiful Savior's pastor(s). We ask you to read through this booklet prior to your submission of a marriage request form.

This booklet also serves as a workbook for your marriage preparation and planning. Bring it with you for the premarital counseling sessions you will schedule with the pastor. It will be referenced often.

We pray the time you spend in preparation for your marriage ceremony at Beautiful Savior will impress upon you the most important thing about your wedding day. It is not the flowers, the clothes, the pictures, or the party. It is how God himself comes to you in his Word of the gospel and gives the blessing of his grace to those who receive him in humble, penitent faith. This will be the foundation not only of your wedding day, but of your marriage and your lives together moving forward from the wedding day.

## **STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

Pastor Kevin Boushek  
Office: (219) 324-7442  
Cell: (219) 363-6164  
E-mail: [kevinboushek@gmail.com](mailto:kevinboushek@gmail.com)

### Music Persons

Cherie Mack  
*Please request contact information.*

Michele Bryant  
*Please request contact information.*



## WEDDING REQUEST FORM

Thank you for your interest in Beautiful Savior as the site of your wedding. Requests for marriages performed by our pastor are subject to approval by the congregation's council. To make your request, please complete this form and submit it to the pastor. He will present it to the council and inform you of their decision within a month.

### BRIDE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beautiful Savior Member:      Yes      No

### GROOM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beautiful Savior Member:      Yes      No

Requested Wedding Dates[s]: \_\_\_\_\_

Why have you chosen Beautiful Savior as the site of your marriage ceremony?

We have read through the Wedding Planning Guide for Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and we pledge to plan our wedding accordingly with the pastor's assistance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## WEDDING APPROVAL FORM

**Bride and groom:** \_\_\_\_\_

having consulted with the pastor and submitted a marriage request form to the congregational council, is hereby given permission to schedule their wedding on

**Approved wedding date and time:** \_\_\_\_\_

The congregational council has reviewed the marriage request and has given its approval.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I commit to perform the above cited marriage in accord with the policies in the Beautiful Savior Wedding planning Guide and the doctrine and practice of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Reception of your \$50 non-refundable deposit by the church office secures the date. Please make the check payable to "Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church."*



## WEDDING PLANNING FORM

Approved wedding date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

### BRIDE

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### GROOM

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaids as appearing in the bulletin:

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Groomsmen as appearing in the bulletin:

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Ushers as appearing in the bulletin:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Junior Bridesmaids, Flower Girls, Ring Bearers, etc., as appearing in the bulletin:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Music**

Processional: \_\_\_\_\_  
Recessional: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hymns: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special: \_\_\_\_\_

**Processional/ Dismissal/ Seating Instructions**

**Miscellaneous**

Unity Candle \_\_\_\_\_ Flowers \_\_\_\_\_ Rehearsal Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
License \_\_\_\_\_ Photo \_\_\_\_\_ Doors to Open: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting Sessions:**

Premarital Counseling 1                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_                      Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Premarital Counseling 2                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_                      Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Premarital Counseling 3                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_                      Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Premarital Counseling 4                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_                      Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Premarital Counseling 5                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_                      Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Class Completed              Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **THE BASICS**

### **Preliminary Arrangements**

All who wish to be married at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, or be married by one of her pastors are asked to fill out a “Marriage Request” form. This document is taken by the pastor to the congregational council for their approval of the pastor’s officiating at the wedding and the wedding date.

Couples are asked to read the contents of this wedding planning guide as a prerequisite for making a request. Typically couples arrange a preliminary meeting with the pastor to walk through how weddings are performed at Beautiful Savior, select possible dates, and to ask questions prior to submitting a marriage request form.

### **Requirements**

To be married at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church you must...

1. be interested in considering our congregation as a possible church home, or already be a member of a Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) congregation.
2. fulfill the premarital counseling sessions as dictated by the pastor.
3. complete a membership study class prior to your wedding date if either you or your fiancé(e) is not a confirmed member of Beautiful Savior, WELS, or ELS.
4. agree to plan your wedding service according to the policies and procedures detailed in this guide and according to the direction of the pastor.

### **Fees and Honoraria**

Individuals requesting to be married at Beautiful Savior fall into one of the categories listed below. This will determine the fee you are required to provide.

1. **Member(s) of Beautiful Savior**
  - a. Building Operations and Use - \$100
  - b. Damage Deposit - \$100
  - c. *Note: As a member of Beautiful Savior, there is no compensation charge for the pastor. The pastor(s) of Beautiful Savior are your called servants. Although they do give their time willingly as your called servant, it is customary and respectful to provide an honorarium for their participation. The congregational council suggests the following amount for an honorarium: \$100.*
2. Son or Daughter of Beautiful Savior Congregation
  - a. Building Operations and Use - \$300
  - b. Damage Deposit - \$100
  - c. *Note: This fee includes compensation for the pastor, music persons, and typical custodial work.*
3. Non-member
  - a. Building Operations and Use - \$500
  - b. Damage Deposit - \$100

c. *Note: This fee includes compensation for the pastor, music persons, and typical custodial work.*

Provided that no damage or extraordinary clean-up of the facility was required, your damage deposit will be returned to you. A deduction from the damage deposit will be required should any damage or extra clean-up be required.

Repair costs of damage to the facility and its furnishings caused by behavior deemed reckless and disrespectful of the Lord's house will be billed to you.

When you receive a signed Marriage Agreement from the congregational council, you may secure the approved date by remitting a \$50 non-refundable deposit payable to "Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church." The receipt of this deposit finalizes the reservation of the date. The deposit is credited toward the wedding fee. The balance is due when you deliver the wedding license to the church office no less than one week prior to the wedding date.

### **Access for Persons with Disabilities**

Our entire facility, except for some utility closets, is accessible to persons in wheelchairs. Locations for wheelchairs can be created by removing sanctuary chairs in the first and last rows on both sides of the sanctuary.

### **Drug and Alcohol Policy**

The use of alcohol or any illegal drugs on the church property during any wedding related activity by those associated with the wedding is prohibited. *Should the church fellowship hall be used for a small reception following the ceremony, wine may be served, but it must be approved.*

### **Kitchen Use**

Wedding parties are welcome to use the kitchen for lunches on the day of the wedding. However, table service is not included in wedding fees. Wedding parties must provide their own.

### **Receptions**

Beautiful Savior's fellowship hall is capable of hosting small receptions either after wedding rehearsals or wedding services. If you are interested in reserving the space, you must contact the church office to check on the availability of not only the rooms, but also of the church's seating and tables.

### **Marriage License**

In order to be married in the State of Indiana you must have a valid marriage license.

Your local county clerk can provide the details and requirements regarding the marriage license.

## **YOUR PASTOR**

The pastor of the congregation will not only officiate at your marriage service, but will also be responsible for assisting you with service planning and leading you through the required premarital counseling and membership course, if necessary. He is the shepherd of our congregation and is called by us to proclaim the Law and the Gospel for the salvation of souls. As a public minister he represents the congregation and our Lutheran Christian faith. It is his responsibility to ensure the conduct of your wedding is in keeping with everything our congregation stands for. As such, he has final say on all the content of your marriage service, and who can serve in leading any part of it, including the music. This applies even if the marriage service is held in a location away from the church such as a park or a private residence.

Service planning will be a part of each premarital counseling session. It is good to start meeting with the pastor soon after you've received confirmation of your wedding date via a signed "Marriage Agreement" form.

## **Visiting Clergy**

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church welcomes the participation of visiting clergy of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) in marriage services. If you have a pastor from a home church, or a family member ordained in these denominations who wants to be involved in the marriage service, we are happy to accommodate you.

For confessional reasons we cannot accommodate clergy or musicians of other denominations leading our worship services. To do so misrepresents the teachings of Scripture upon which this congregation has pledged to stand.

## **Membership Classes**

The purpose of our congregation is not to merely "marry and bury." It is to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ by teaching people what he has done and told us as recorded in the Scriptures.

Therefore, we require those we marry who are not communicant members of the WELS or ELS to take our membership course. This is an adult instruction course which gives an in-depth overview of the Bible's main teachings. Participants will learn the beliefs of the Lutheran Church, and how they come from the Bible. More importantly, they will grow in the knowledge, understanding, and faith in Christ.

The course is offered periodically at Beautiful Savior. Usually there is a Fall and a Spring session. Alternate arrangements can always be made and often are to accommodate people's hectic schedules.

Upon completion of the course those who find themselves in agreement with what has been taught in the membership course are invited and encouraged to join our congregation as communicant

members. Those completing the course but deciding Beautiful Savior is not the church for them will still have their marriage service conducted at Beautiful Savior as agreed upon in the “Marriage Agreement” form.

You are to complete this course prior to your wedding date; so plan accordingly and arrange your schedules. Couples have repeatedly reported this course to be a wise investment not only in their faith lives, but also their relationship.

### **Premarital Counseling**

A minimum of five premarital counseling sessions with one of our pastors is our standard expectation. During these sessions you will work on service planning, examine what the Bible says about the origins and intended purpose of marriage, learn the God-given roles for husbands and wives, and apply God’s Word to a variety of practical marital topics. These sessions also serve to develop a relationship between you and the congregation’s pastor.

Our pastor is neither a clinical counselor nor a therapist. He is a shepherd of souls who uses God’s Word and his Sacraments to care for the sheep entrusted to him. The counsel he will give you is not only Bible-based, but centers on the good news of what Jesus has done for us. Drawing on God’s Word and his years of experience as a pastor, a husband, and a father will make these sessions an important part of your marriage preparations.

It is your responsibility to contact the pastor once your wedding date is confirmed to schedule your first session.

## **THE REHEARSAL**

Rehearsals normally take place the evening before the wedding. It is essential that all members of your wedding party— including parents, ushers, musicians, anyone involved in the wedding ceremony – be present and on time. The pastor also attends the rehearsal.

The rehearsal is typically the beginning of the weekend’s celebration of your marriage. It is an opportunity for members of your wedding party to get acquainted with the worship space and become comfortable with their responsibilities for the coming day.

In the case of small weddings the pastor will discuss with you whether or not you wish to have a formal rehearsal the night before.

## **DRESSING ROOMS**

Two small classrooms in our fellowship hall are available as dressing rooms on the day of your wedding. You may bring items into those rooms on the night of your rehearsal unless they are scheduled for other ministry uses that evening. Beautiful Savior is not responsible for items left in the building overnight. The rooms are to be left in good condition. Any trash should be cleaned up and disposed of properly before the wedding party leaves the building.

You may bring snacks, lunches, and non-alcoholic beverages to the kitchen either at the time of the rehearsal or on the wedding day. The refrigerator, stoves, and microwave are available for your use. Beautiful Savior does not supply plates, napkins, cups, or glasses.

It is important to assign a person (not in the wedding party) to remove all your belongings from the dressing rooms after the service. This person[s] should also be tasked with putting things back the way they were found and picking up any trash and meal leftovers in the kitchen.

## **THE SANCTUARY**

Beautiful Savior’s sanctuary seats 100 people. There are 5 rows of pews and two rows of moveable chairs on either side of the center aisle, which is just over 30 feet long.

Often during the year the sanctuary is decorated with seasonal banners and other items used to enhance worship. These items will not be removed or altered for wedding services. This includes the color of the paraments on the altar and pulpit as well as the stoles our pastor wears. Please note the following colors of the various seasons of the church year. Paraments are changed at specific times of the year and are not changed for wedding services.

Advent (December)	blue
Christmas	white
Epiphany (beginning of January)	white
Time after Epiphany (middle of January into February)	green
Transfiguration (Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday)	white
Lent (generally March and April)	purple
Good Friday (the Friday before Easter)	black

Easter (generally April and May )	white
Pentecost (generally in June)	red
Holy Trinity (Sunday after Pentecost)	white
Time after Pentecost (generally June through October)	green
Reformation (October or November)	red
All Saints (November)	white
Christ the King (November)	white
Festivals of the Church (Various Dates)	red

\*Note: We do not allow our sanctuary to host weddings on the weekend before Christmas or the weekend of Easter.

### **DECORATIONS**

Decorating the sanctuary for your wedding is allowed, but your plans must be approved by the pastor. The chancel is spacious enough to accommodate candelabras and other free standing fixtures. As a general rule decorations can go anywhere in the sanctuary except on or in front of the altar.

You can make arrangements with the pastor to decorate the sanctuary. It is your responsibility to assign someone to take down your decorations after the wedding service.

### **CANDLES**

There are two candelabras and two altar candles that may be lit for your wedding. The large paschal candle may or may not be lit depending on the season you are married in (generally April and May).

If you bring in any of your own candles, you should purchase dripless tapers. You are responsible for any additional costs incurred to clean wax off the floor in the chancel.

If you plan to have a unity candle ritual, you are responsible for providing the large center candle and two long burning, dripless tapers. Speak with the pastor about possible stands available at Beautiful Savior or rent from an outside party.

You may place candle arrangements in memory of deceased loved ones in the chancel, but not on the altar. This information can be included in your wedding bulletin.

### **FLOWERS**

Flower arrangements are welcome in the chancel. There are two wooden stands available to hold the arrangements. Your arrangements should be in self-contained vases. Flowers may be placed on the altar only with special approval from the pastor.

You are welcome to have specific flowers or flower arrangements displayed in honor or memory of loved ones. This information can be included in your wedding bulletin.

You are invited to leave flowers from your wedding in the sanctuary for the Sunday services. If you plan to do this, inform the pastor so it can be noted in the Sunday bulletin.

If you have a flower girl, please have her throw fake flower petals instead of real ones as real flowers will end up being ground into the carpet staining it.

### ***PHOTOGRAPHY/ VIDEOGRAPHY***

Photographs in sanctuary are normally scheduled two hours prior to the start of the service and should be completed 45 minutes prior to its start. They can also be taken after the service.

Once the wedding party, bride and groom have arrived at the chancel steps photographs may be taken without flash from the back of the sanctuary. Videographers and their cameras are also restricted to the back of the sanctuary during the worship service. Beautiful Savior has a video camera and can produce a DVD of the service if you so desire.

### ***MISCELLANEOUS***

Beautiful Savior does not permit the throwing of plastic confetti, rice, or birdseed either inside or outside the church building. Once the wedding party is outside, it is permissible to throw flower petals or to blow bubbles. (Note: bubbles and colored flower petals may stain fabric.)

Beautiful Savior does not permit live animals in the building. (Service animals are allowed.)

Beautiful Savior does not permit smoking in the building.

## **ORDER OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE**

This order of worship is from our hymnal, "Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal." It celebrates God's gracious gift of marriage. The congregation shares the joy of the bride and groom as they publicly promise lifelong love and faithfulness to each other.

\*Note: Wherever you see *Bride* and *Groom* the appropriate names will be inserted.

### **Processional**

#### **Call to Worship**

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Our Lord Jesus Christ came as an invited guest to the wedding at Cana, and with his gracious presence, he brought joy and gladness to those who were there. Jesus is also with us who have gathered in his name to celebrate with the word of God and prayer the marriage of *Bride* and *Groom*. We are assured of God's gracious help and guidance in these words from the Psalms:

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C: His love endures forever.**

M: The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love.

**C: He is good to all.**

M: God is our refuge and strength.

**C: An ever-present help in trouble.**

M: He is our God forever and ever;

**C: He will be our guide even to the end.**

M: May God be gracious to us and bless us.

**C: And make his face shine on us.**

M: Loving Father, we are grateful for your goodness in permitting us to gather as the family and friends of *Bride* and *Groom* to share their joy on this special day. Look on them with favor, strengthen their confidence in your firm promises, and assure them of your abiding love. As your Son Jesus graced the wedding at Cana with his presence, so may he be with us who pray in his name.

**C: Amen.**

## **Hymn – Optional**

## **The Word of God**

(One or two sections of scripture are usually read.)

## **Message from Pastor**

(Based on selected Scripture Reading)

## **Marriage Rite**

M: Dear Friends: When God in love created the world, he made man and woman in his own image and bonded them together in marriage. Through this blessed union of husband and wife, God established the family, provided for the physical and spiritual welfare of children, and fostered the peace and stability of society.

But because of sin, the joy of marriage was soon overcast with sorrow, and the harmony of family life was shattered by strife. Out of love God sent his Son Jesus to die on the cross to take away the sins of all people. Everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness and is enabled by the Holy Spirit to live in peace and joy.

God's Love for you is boundless. He commands you, in response to his love, to love each other. Love is forgiving and enduring. Love shows itself in truth and faithfulness, in thoughtfulness and understanding, in patience and kindness. Marriage furnishes a unique opportunity to put this love into practice.

The pattern for Christian marriage is the intimate union of Christ and his Church, which the apostle Paul depicts in Ephesians 5. After urging all of us "to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ," he makes this application for Christian spouses: "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church...Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself for her." It is reverence for Christ on the part of husband and wife that lays the foundation for Christian marriage.

You have come here to be united in marriage, which consists in your mutual consent, sincerely and feely given. You are now invited to declare this intent in the presence of God and these witnesses.

## Marriage Promises

M: *Groom*, will you take *Bride* to be your wife? Will you be guided by the counsel and direction God has given in his Word and love your wife as Christ loved the Church? Will you be faithful to her, cherish her, support her, and help her in sickness and in health as long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I will."

**G: I will.**

M: *Bride*, will you take *Groom* to be your husband? Will you be guided by the counsel and direction God has given in his Word and submit to your husband as the Church submits to Christ? Will you be faithful to him, cherish him, support him, and help him in sickness and in health as long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I will."

**B: I will.**

M: Join your right hands and make your promises to each other:

*Groom*, repeat after me:

**I, *Groom*, / in the presence of God and these witnesses, / take you, *Bride*, to be my wife. / I promise to be faithful to you / as long as we both shall live.**

*Bride*, repeat after me:

**I, *Bride*, / in the presence of God and these witnesses, / take you, *Groom*, to be my husband. / I promise to be faithful to you / as long as we both shall live.**

## Exchange of Rings

M: Exchange rings as a symbol of the lifelong commitment and abiding love which you as husband and wife have promised each other.

*Groom*, repeat after me:

***Bride*, receive this ring / as a symbol of my love and faithfulness.**

*Bride*, repeat after me:

***Groom*, receive this ring / as a symbol of my love and faithfulness.**

## **Declaration of Marriage**

M: By their promises, *Bride* and *Groom* have bound themselves together in marriage before God and these witnesses. Therefore, I declare that they are husband and wife, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together, let no one separate.

## **Marriage Blessing**

M: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit preserve you in faithfulness, strengthen you in love, and guide you to life's end.

## **Unity Candle (Optional)**

## **Hymn (Optional)**

## **Prayer**

M: Let us pray for God's blessings on *Bride* and *Groom*.  
Eternal God, source of love, help *Bride* and *Groom* to fulfill the promises they have made here today and to reflect your steadfast love in their love for each other. Give them kindness and patience, affection and understanding, happiness and contentment. Use their family and friends to support them in difficult days, that their love for each other may continue to grow as long as they live. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

(The assembly is invited to join in speaking the Lord's Prayer.)

## **Blessing**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

## **Recessional**

## **SUGGESTED MARRIAGE PASSAGES**

As your wedding service strives to focus on God and how he will bless your marriage, it is appropriate to consider specific passages of God's Word to share in your service. Below is a collection of Bible passages that relate to marriage. Feel free to select other passages as well. If you would like the pastor to pick out the readings for you, he would be more than happy to do so.

Genesis 2:18 It is not good for man to be alone.

Deuteronomy 33:27	God is your refuge.
Joshua 1:9	The Lord will be with you wherever you go.
Joshua 24:15	As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.
Ruth 1:16-17	Where you go, I will go.
1 Chronicles 17:27	Bless the house of your servant forever.
Psalms 23	The Lord will guide us as our Shepherd.
Psalms 31:3	The Lord will lead me and guide me as my rock and my fortress.
Psalms 37:5	Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this.
Psalms 118:14	The Lord is my strength and my song.
Psalms 121:8	The Lord will watch over your coming and going now and forever.
Psalms 127:1	May the Lord build this house.
Proverbs 3:5-6	Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
Proverbs 19:14	A prudent wife is from the Lord.
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	Two are better than one.
Isaiah 41:10	Do not fear because God is with you.
Isaiah 54:10	God's unfailing love for you will never be shaken.
Jeremiah 31:3	God loves us with an everlasting love.
Matthew 6:25-34	Don't worry. Seek God's kingdom and his righteousness.
Matthew 7:24-27	Build a house founded on the Rock.
Matthew 19:4-6	What God has joined together, let man not separate.
Matthew 28:20	I will be with you always to the very end of the age.
Luke 10:38-42	Only one thing is needful in life: Jesus.
Luke 24:29	Stay with us, Jesus.
John 2:1-11	Jesus at the wedding at Cana.
Romans 8:31-32	If God is for us, who can be against us?
Romans 8:35-39	Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.
1 Corinthians 11:11	Man and woman are not independent of one another.
1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Love is the greatest.
Ephesians 4:32-5:2	Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other.
Ephesians 5:22-33	God's ideal relationship between husbands and wives.
Philippians 4:19	God will meet all your needs.
Hebrews 13:5	God will never leave you or forsake you.
1 Peter 5:7	Cast all your anxiety on God because he cares for you.
Revelation 19:7-9	The wedding of the Lamb has come.

## **MUSIC GUIDANCE**

The marriage rite is a liturgy of the church celebrating God's gift of marriage. It is part of the ministry of our congregation which offers its witness and support to you and who, with you, seek God's blessing on your marriage. As such, only that which is appropriate for the worship of God is included in the wedding service. Music chosen on the basis of Christian themes of faithfulness, Christ's self-giving love, and seasonal context are most appropriate. (See the Hymns section on page 24.) Secular music based on the theme of love for one another is appropriate for the wedding reception, not the worship of God Almighty in his house of prayer.

Here's some additional information to make planning music for your wedding an easy task:

1. It is our practice that Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church musicians, instrumentalists and soloists lead the music for all weddings held at our church. In rare circumstances visiting musicians may lead the music provided they are competent musicians and members of a WELS or ELS sister congregation.
2. The pastor will begin assisting you with music selection issues already in the first premarital counseling session.
3. Contact the pastor(or church music tech) at least two months before your wedding date to schedule a consultation regarding all your wedding music. The consultation is included in the music tech portion of the church fee. They usually take less than 30 minutes and often can be arranged for after a worship service.
4. If you are interested in a soloist or instrumentalists for your wedding the pastor will provide you with names within the congregation you can approach to secure their services.
5. Regarding the selection of music, especially vocal solos: since the wedding ceremony is a worship service of the congregation, selections must be appropriate for use at any service (i.e. sacred in nature, theologically correct). Solo pieces to be included in any wedding service must be submitted to the pastor for his approval prior to arranging a consultation music tech or soloist.
6. Please note that soloist and instrumentalist (other than music techs) fees are not included in the Beautiful Savior fee schedule. It is your responsibility to compensate these additional musicians directly.

## **HYMNS**

Our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, has a section of marriage hymns (600-604). Below is a list of other suggested hymns from our hymnal, *Christian Worship*.

If you desire the use of a hymn or song not appearing in our hymnal, you must submit a copy of it to the pastor for his approval. If approved, you are also responsible to secure permission from the copyright holder to reproduce the song in the bulletin.

Abide, O Dearest Jesus .....	333
All People that on Earth Do Dwell .....	233
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus .....	169
Beautiful Savior .....	369
For the Fruit of His Creation .....	611
Go, My Children, with My Blessing .....	332
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father .....	603
Joy to the World .....	62
Let All Things Now Living .....	260
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus .....	452
Love Divine, All Love Excelling .....	365
Love in Christ Is Strong and Living .....	490
Love Is the Gracious Gift .....	505
Now Thank We All Our God .....	610
O God, Our Help in Ages Past .....	441
Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices .....	242
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty .....	255
Our Father, By Whose Name .....	501
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow .....	334
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty .....	234
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise .....	82

## **BULLETIN**

Most weddings provide a bulletin for the worshippers. The church office will produce your bulletin for you, unless you would like to produce your own bulletin. Consult the pastor if you desire to produce your own bulletin. If you want to have a special four color cover, they are available for you to purchase at a variety of Christian bookstores. The art work and message on the cover should reflect Christian themes. Speak with the pastor about the paper size you should purchase.

The pastor will work with you to gather the required information for your wedding bulletin and provide you a rough draft for your approval. Since the worship bulletin is also representative of the church and its ministry, the pastor has final approval on content.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Q: Do you have to be a member of Beautiful Savior in order to be married there?**

A: The short answer is no. You must, however, be looking for a church and thus be willing to consider our congregation as a possible church home, or already be a member of a Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) congregation. You are also required to fulfill the premarital counseling sessions as dictated by the pastor, complete the Membership course prior to your wedding date if either you or your fiancée is not a confirmed member of Beautiful Savior or the WELS or ELS, and agree to plan your wedding service according to the policies and procedures detailed in this guide and the direction of the pastor.

### **Q: Can we have the pastor perform our wedding offsite?**

A: Yes. God has made many beautiful locations in Northwest Indiana for wedding services. Our pastor is available to perform marriages outdoors as well as in different locations. The same theology and practice applies to services our pastor does offsite. They are no less spiritual than the ones done at Beautiful Savior. Our pastor will work with you in putting together a worship service that achieves the goals for your wedding service even if it is held in a different location.

### **Q: When can we have access to the church for the rehearsal and the wedding?**

A: Rehearsals are generally scheduled the evening before the wedding. You have access to begin decorating or bringing things into the building for the next day starting thirty minutes before your scheduled rehearsal time, unless you've made other arrangements with the pastor. You will make arrangements with the pastor regarding when the building will be opened prior to your marriage ceremony.

### **Q: How long is the wedding service itself?**

A: Depending on the number of attendants and musical selections, a traditional service held in the sanctuary generally lasts between 25 and 40 minutes. Services held offsite in parks or at private residences typically last about 20 minutes.

### **Q: What about our marriage license?**

A: You must obtain your marriage license from the county clerk office. There is a three day waiting period between application and pick up. The license is good for 30 days from the day of application. You must deliver the license to church no less than one week prior to your marriage so that the pastor can fill out the parts of the license he is required to and prepare it for signatures on your wedding day.

### **Q: Do you rent out your facility for weddings?**

A: No. Renting the facility to those uninterested in the ministries of our church due to affiliation with another local church or some other reason is not in keeping with our mission.