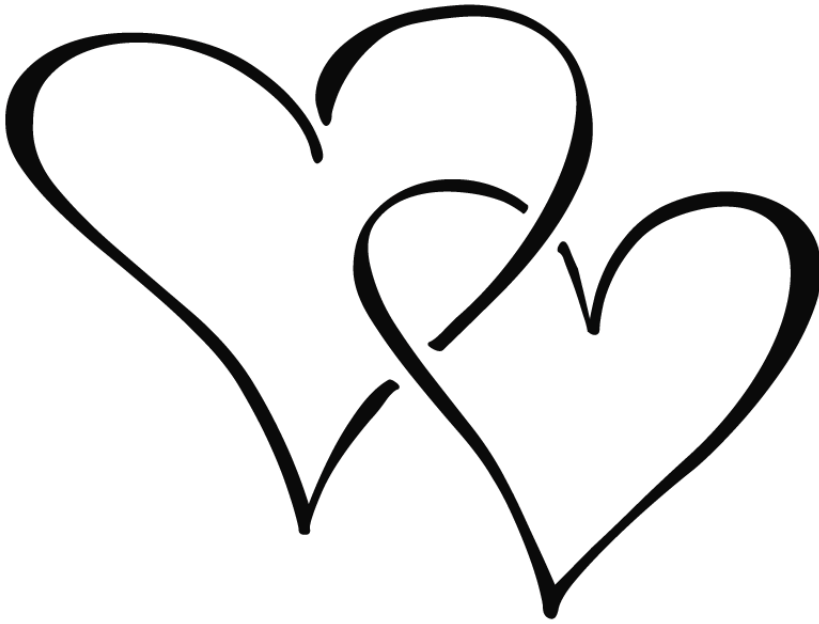
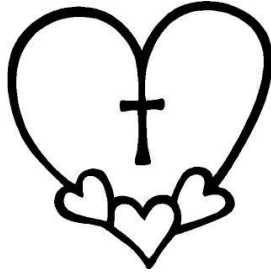


Love one another
as I have loved you
John 15:12



Wedding Planning Booklet

Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church
500 S. Main St.
Westby, WI 54667



“May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 15:5-6

This is our prayer of hope and encouragement to you as you prepare for your wedding, but more importantly as you approach a life together as two children of God bound together in love and faithfulness.

Marriage is more than a legal agreement and ceremony. It is a commitment made before God through Jesus Christ and into which God is invited to live and work with you. As you work together toward the day when you declare your promises to one another, keep in mind that God is present with you. Marriage was instituted by God as a gift to human beings. Therefore this event is given added value and importance for us as God’s children. All of our lives are lived under his loving and watchful eye, and God works for the best in our lives together.

As you plan for your wedding and your life together, we invite you to call on God to be with you in this endeavor. Seek out God’s help through the scriptures and in prayer, and trust that you will be heard. We are happy for both of you and rejoice that you have come to Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church to celebrate this great day with us.

God’s Peace and Joy,

Alyssa Weaver

Alyssa Weaver, Pastor

Weddings



A Statement of Our Values Concerning Marriage

1. Marriage is more than a legal arrangement between two people. It is a covenant of love and faithfulness between two children of God, rooted and nurtured in the steadfast love of God. God's faithfulness to his people is the model.
2. A wedding is a worship service which involves all who attend. The worship service will be one which proclaims Christ and gives glory to God who has given marriage to us a great gift. Any final decisions regarding the content of the service—music, word, or Sacrament—are entrusted to the pastor and the musician.
3. The congregation promises its prayers and any support it can offer to the couple for their new life together.

Important Steps in Preparation for Your Marriage

1. It is preferred that you contact the church (608-634-3412) at least six months in advance to set the wedding date. Church and national holidays will require special consideration dependent on the availability of the church, pastor and musician(s).
2. Fill out the enclosed **Wedding Worksheet**. Be prepared to discuss with the pastor a definite date and time for the rehearsal, wedding, and reception (if at the church).
3. Because you are preparing not only for the wedding ceremony but for married life together, the church requires participation in 3-4 marriage preparation sessions prior to the wedding day. These sessions will encourage you to reflect and talk about some important aspects of married life with the pastor. This is a time to engage in an open and honest conversation and to pray for the guidance of God's Spirit, as you anticipate the beginning of married life together. These sessions will also be tailored to the circumstances of your lives. For more information on the specifics of the preparation sessions, please contact the pastor. You can also visit the website associated with the resources we will use. The program is Prepare/Enrich and the web site address is [www.prepare-enrich.com]
4. In these meetings details for your wedding will also be finalized. Do not finalize your music choices until you have consulted with the musician and the pastor.
5. Your wedding license should be obtained from the county courthouse and brought to the church for completion **at least one week prior to the wedding**. (If you have had a recent divorce, check with the County Registrar about required waiting periods before scheduling your wedding date.)
6. It is expected that you arrive on time for all meetings and rehearsal. Please notify Pastor Alyssa if you are unable to make a meeting.

The Wedding Service

As we have already mentioned, the marriage ceremony is a service of worship. The order of service which we normally use at Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church is found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) on pages 286-291. Below is an outline of this service. The items in **bold** are essential. All others are optional.

GATHERING

Prelude

Processional

Pastoral Greeting

Declaration of Intention

Prayer

WORD

Scripture Readings

Sermon/Homily

Hymn of the Day

MARRIAGE

Vows

Rings

Acclamation

Marriage Blessing

Unity Candle

Prayers

Lord's Prayer (may be sung)

Holy Communion

SENDING

Blessing

Dismissal

Departure

We have a few suggestions of our own for your service as well:

- Friends and family are encouraged to share in the readings, prayers, or in the laying on of hands.
- Any additional wedding officiant needs to be approved and invited by the pastor of Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church.
- Any changes made to the worship service need to be approved by the pastor.

Suggested Scripture Texts

Please select 2-4 readings from the following options. Other scripture can also be chosen. At least one of the Bible readings should be from the Gospels.

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-28

Woman and man created in the image of God

Genesis 2:18-24

Companionship rather than loneliness

Proverbs 3:3-6

Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart

Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12

Two are better than one

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

The voice of the beloved

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Many waters cannot quench love

Isaiah 63:7-9

God's steadfast love lifts up the people

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The new covenant of the people of God

Psalms

Psalms 67

May God be merciful to us and bless us

Psalms 100

We are the sheep of God's pasture

Psalms 117

The steadfast love of the Lord

Psalms 121

The Lord keeps watch over you

Psalms 127

Unless the Lord builds the house

Psalms 128

Blessed are those who walk in the Lord's way

Psalms 150

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord

New Testament

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

If God is for us, who is against us

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

A living sacrifice and genuine love

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

The greatest gift is love

Ephesians 3:14-19

Breadth, length, height, depth of Christ's love

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always

Colossians 3:12-17

Clothed in compassion, kindness, patience...

1 John 3:18-24

Let us love in truth and action

1 John 4:7-16

Let us love one another for love is of God

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-10

The beatitudes

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light, let your light shine

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

A wise person builds upon the rock

Matthew 19:3-6

What God has united must not be divided

Matthew 22:35-40

Love, the greatest commandment

Mark 10:6-9

They are no longer two but one

John 2:1-11

The wedding at Cana

John 15:9-17

Love one another as I have loved you

The Marriage Vows

The vows printed below are options you may choose, or you may wish to combine ideas from each and write your own vows:

I take you, (name), to be my wife/husband/partner from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

I take you, (name), to be my wife/husband/partner, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will (obey), 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 to better understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and worst of what is to come, until death parts us.

I take you, (name), to be my wife/husband/partner. I promise before God and with these witnesses to be your faithful husband/wife/partner, 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.

(Name), I take you to be my wife/husband/partner from this time onward, to join with you to share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being until death parts us.

Your own vows (must be submitted to the pastor at final marriage preparation session)

Wedding Music

As you think about the music for your marriage ceremony, we ask you to keep in mind that this is a service of worship. Your final selection of music should be made in consultation with the pastor and the church musician. Music which glorifies God is the most appropriate music to celebrate marriage in a church. Some secular music is not appropriate in a worship setting. Here we provide you with a list of some music which is available to you. Our pianist can meet with you and play through these suggestions so you can select what you like.

Your family and friends will appreciate a chance to participate in the service by singing hymns which reflect the joy, the promise and the importance of this day. We have also provided a list of hymns for you if you would wish for congregational singing in the service.

Musician

Please make sure that you contact the church musician well in advance of the wedding date. Such courtesy will help the musician make all the necessary preparation. Any music not within the repertoire of the musician will need to be provided at your own expense.

Soloists

Your soloist(s) also should be contacted before you make the firm decisions about what music you would like at your wedding. Some soloists cannot sing certain songs because of range, the style of music doesn't suit their voice, or for other reasons.

Processional

"Air" from Water Music Suite	G. F. Handel
Air for the G String	J. S. Bach
Arioso	J. S. Bach
Bridal Chorus	Richard Wagner
Canon in D	Johann Pachelbel
Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring	J. S. Bach
The Seasons	Fox/Newmark
The Prayer	Sager/Foster

Processional or Recessional

"Finale" from Concerto No. 5	G. F. Handel
"Hornpipe" from Water Music Suite	G. F. Handel
Prelude in Classic Style	Gordon Young
Prelude and Fugue in C Major	J. S. Bach

“Rondeau” from Sinfonies de Fanfares
Trumpet Tune
Trumpet Voluntary
Wedding March

Jean Joseph Mouret
Jeremiah Clarke
Jeremiah Clarke
Felix Mendelssohn

Vocal Solos

**Your final selection of music should be made in consultation with the pastor. Because a wedding in the church is a worship service to glorify God, some secular music is not appropriate in a worship setting.

Hymns

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship WOV = With One Voice

Hear Us Now, Our God and Father	ELW	585
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	ELW	631
Lord of All Hopefulness	ELW	756
How Firm a Foundation	ELW	796
Now Thank We All Our God	ELW	840
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	ELW	836
For the Beauty of the Earth	ELW	879
Let All Things Now Living	ELW	881
Bind Us Together	WOV	748
When Love is Found	WOV	749
As Man and Woman We Were Made	WOV	751

Wedding Fee Schedule

--All payments are due at the time of the rehearsal--

Mandatory Services

Suggested Member and Non-member Minister Honorarium: \$200.00
Please make payable to: **Pastor Alyssa Weaver**

Custodial Fees: \$150.00
Please pay to WCP when booking wedding

Audio Technician: \$75.00
Please pay to WCP when booking wedding

Facility Fees: Please pay to: **Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church**

	<u>Member*</u>	<u>Non-member</u>
Sanctuary	No fee	\$250
<i>Fellowship Hall/Kitchen</i>	No fee	\$250

Prepare/Enrich Assessment: Please pay online. \$35.00

Optional Services**

Organist/Musician Fees: \$150.00 (min.)
(includes consultation, rehearsal, wedding)
Please make payable to **Musicians**

Soloist Fees: \$125.00 (min.)
(includes consultation, rehearsal, wedding)
Please make payable to **soloist**

Videographer (if provided by the church): \$100.00
Please pay to: _____

***Membership:** Membership is based on our constitution. If you question whether you are a member or not, please contact the church office.

****These are suggested fees only.** When contacting musicians their fees may be different. based on circumstances; example: extra rehearsals, multiple solos, off-site location, etc.

Other Important Information

Decorations

- The paraments (altar cloths, pulpit cloth, etc.) are used in accordance with the seasons of the Church year. These cannot be changed to coordinate with the colors of a particular wedding.
- All sacred items and musical equipment in the altar area should not be moved.
- Floral decorations may be used in the worship area. The flowers can be taken by the couple or left to be used for Sunday worship. We would appreciate only real flowers on the altar.

Before the Ceremony

- If the couple wish to have the Pastor at the rehearsal dinner and/or reception, please send her an invitation in advance. If you wish to have the pastor conduct the dinner prayer, please contact the pastor in advance.

During the Ceremony

- Photography during the worship service is permitted only if it is not distracting to the congregation. Flash pictures are not permitted. Photographers and video equipment should be inconspicuous.

After the Wedding Ceremony

- Any items left at the church will be the responsibility of the wedding party.
- All wedding and personal items must be cleaned up the day of the wedding including decorations.
- The church cannot be responsible for wedding gifts. Please remove them on the day of the wedding.
- If the kitchen is used, you will be expected to clean up and return it to its prior condition. You are expected to secure your own food and servers.

Other Information

- No throwing of rice or bird seed on the church premises.
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the church property, if the Pastor smells alcohol on **any** member of the wedding party that person will not participate in the wedding.
- Smoking is not permitted in our church building.

Wedding Checklist

Things to bring and when...

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Rings | Rehearsal night and wedding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bulletins | Rehearsal night |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Decorations | Rehearsal night, or other arrangements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | License | Rehearsal night |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Payments | Rehearsal night |

Please contact Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church with any additional questions.

Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church
500 S. Main St.
Westby, WI 54667

608-634-3412

wpcchurch.westby@gmail.com

Pastor Alyssa: 608-387-0993
westbypastoralysssa@gmail.com