



Serving the *Lord*

and the  
Greece Community  
at

*HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH*

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Our staff members are ready and pleased to assist you during your wedding preparations. You may reach them by calling the church office at 723-4673.

# WEDDING GUIDELINES

Congratulations on the decision you have made to enter into the covenant of marriage! We believe marriage is a gift from the Lord, given to us to put His greatness on display for the world. (***Genesis 2:22-24; James 1:17; Matthew 5:14-16***)

More importantly, while we desire couples to have a wonderful wedding day, our greatest passion is for your marriage to bring God the glory He deserves. Since marriage is one of the most important decisions you will ever make, we see it as our responsibility to help best prepare you for marriage. So, we have put together this wedding policy and guide to assist you in the process.

Please read through this content before filling out a Wedding Information Form. A form may be printed out from our website, picked up or sent to you from Hope Church. Once that form is filled out and brought to the church office, you may contact Pastor Kirk's or Pastor Larry's administrative assistant to schedule an initial meeting.

May God bless you as you prepare both for your marriage and your wedding day!

In Christ,  
Pastor Kirk Dueker  
Pastor Larry Stojkovic

## MARRIAGE MENTORS

Hope Church provides a wonderful ministry to couples called Marriage Mentors. While this is optional, we strongly encourage couples to take advantage of it.

Marriage mentors have gone through training in how to come alongside engaged or newly married couples to help them build a strong foundation for marriage. They meet once a month for a year. To learn more about marriage mentors, please speak to one of the pastors or email [Jillstojkovic@sharethehope.org](mailto:Jillstojkovic@sharethehope.org).

Since Hope is a large church and the pastors are called first to serve the people of Hope, weddings are limited to those who are members or regular worship attenders at Hope.

## WEDDING PLANS

### 1. Scheduling

- Your wedding service must be confirmed by the Wedding Coordinator and Pastor.
- Weddings may not be scheduled more than 1 year in advance.
- Weddings may not be scheduled less than 6 months in advance.
- All fees must be paid to the Wedding Coordinator one month prior to the wedding.
- Wedding dates are unavailable during the following times:
  - Holy Week and Easter
  - Independence Day (if it falls on a weekend)
  - Thanksgiving Weekend
  - Christmas / New Year's Weeks (December 22-January 2)

## 2. Initial Meeting

- After filling out the Wedding Information Form and contacting the pastoral office, an initial meeting will be scheduled to meet with the officiating pastor to get to know each other, share God's design for marriage and to talk about the wedding service.
- After meeting with the pastor, you will be introduced to both the Wedding Coordinator and to those who will facilitate the premarital counseling process. All couples are required to attend 4-5 premarital counseling sessions with a trained person or couple who will go through the DVD curriculum with you. Each session lasts between 60-75 minutes.
- After your premarital sessions you will again meet with the pastor to finalize the wedding service.

## 3. Sexual Purity / Living Apart

Why does Hope care about this issue? Is it really because we want to be judgemental? Or could it be that we really desire to see couples thrive under God's full blessings? Of course it is the latter. None of us have a right to judge or appear superior. We are all sinners saved by grace. But, we can show our love and hopes for a great marriage. That is why we care. The Biblical picture of marriage is a man and a woman making a commitment until separated by death.

**Genesis 2:24** *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*

**Matthew 19:5-6** *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?" So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."*

**1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 (MSG)** *"God wants you to live a pure life. Keep yourselves from sexual promiscuity. Learn to appreciate and give dignity to your body, not by abusing it, as is so common among those who know nothing of God."*

Webster's Dictionary defines a cohabitating couple as one that lives together and is sexually active.<sup>1</sup> Both the percentage of couples living together and moral acceptance of cohabitation are increasing among evangelical Christians.<sup>2</sup>

The primary reason is fear, derived from a divorce rate that has more than tripled in the last 50 years, leaving two generations with a very real fear of broken homes and broken marriages.<sup>3</sup> This leads couples to want to “test the waters” by living together without any formal commitment.

It sounds like it makes sense but secular research does not confirm this. The Center for Disease Control indicates that 80% of all couples who live together and get married will end up divorced.<sup>4</sup>

Among cohabitating couples, domestic violence increases by 5 times the amount of marriage couples, as well as abuse, depression, financial hardship and infidelity of partners greatly increases.<sup>5</sup>

Despite the growing popularity outside and inside the church, we desire to still submit to God’s Word, and do it His way. We ask couples to abstain from sexual relations and to make every effort to live apart trusting in God’s love and provision. Because of God’s grace, it is never too late to restore purity. (As a believer) you are the salt of the earth... let your light shine.

**Matthew 5:13-16** *“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

## References

1. Merriam-Webster Inc. Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary and Thesaurus (Springfield, Mass., Merriam-Webster, 2007)
2. The Barna Group, The Buster Report: A New Generation of Adults Bends Moral and Sexual Rules to Their Liking, October 31, 2006
3. Bramlett MD and Mosher WD, Cohabitation, Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage in the United States. National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Health Statement 23(22).2002.26
4. Ibid, 56
5. McManus, Michael and Harriet. Living Together: Myths, Risks and Answers. Howard Books, New York, NY 2008, 41-47

A person who has a relationship with Jesus Christ is called to be a light to the world. People watch what you do and form opinions about God according to your actions. Are you willing to stand in the gap and hold firm to living apart before marriage as a testimony to the work of Christ in you? Your joy in doing the will of God can be a beacon of light and hope to others. We want to help you and discuss this further if you have any questions.

#### **4. Rehearsals**

- Rehearsals are scheduled for the day before the wedding for a 1-hour time slot at 4:00, 5:00 or 6:00 pm.

#### **5. Ceremony**

- Saturday weddings can begin no later than 2:00 pm in the Worship Center. Saturday weddings must be concluded by 3:30 pm for adequate time to clean up and set up for evening worship service.

#### **6. Typical Order of Worship**

1. Pre-Service Music
2. Seating of Grandparents
3. Seating of Parents
4. Processional
5. Invocation
6. Giving of the Bride
7. Scripture Readings
8. Message
9. Declaration of Intent (I do)
10. Exchange of Vows
11. Giving of the Rings
12. Lighting of the Unity Candle
13. Special Music
14. Prayer
15. Recessional

## 7. Printed Order of Worship

- Many couples use a printed order of worship, which is given to all those present at the wedding. Besides serving as a reminder of your service, a printed order can help to remind those who worship with you of the part they play on this joyful occasion.
- You may have it printed professionally. If the bulletin is to be prepared by our wedding coordinator, information and bulletin covers to be used should be delivered to the main office three weeks before the wedding.

8. **Bible Passages** that speak about God's intentions for marriage, some of which are often used during the wedding service:

### Old Testament

**Genesis 2:18-24** *"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.' Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man.' That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."*

**Ruth 1:16-17** *"But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.'"*

**Psalm 34:1-3** *"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!"*

**Psalm 67** “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!”

**Psalm 100** “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

**Proverbs 18:22** “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.”

**Song of Solomon 2:10-13** “My beloved speaks and says to me: ‘Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away, for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. 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.’”

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 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! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

## **New Testament**

**Matthew 5:13-16** “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. You are the light of the world. A city



*set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”*

**Matthew 7:24-27** *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*

**John 15:9-15** *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*

**1 Corinthians 13:1-8** *“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.”*



**Galatians 5:22-23** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

**Ephesians 5:22-33** "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 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. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 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. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

**Philippians 2:1-4** "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

**Hebrews 13:4-6** "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

**1 Peter 4:8** "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins."

## 9. Music

- Since your wedding is to be a service of worship, it is the policy of Hope Church to permit only music that is directed to our Lord, the glorification of His Name, and the proclamation of His Word. If your service is to include music, the Director of Music will play and will help you make appropriate selections with this policy.
- It is suggested that an appointment be made with our Director of Music at least one month in advance of the wedding date, so appropriate planning can be made. If you would like a vocalist, instrumentalist or a different organist, he or she must be named at the time the arrangements for the wedding are made. (A person accustomed to our keyboard equipment and acquainted with the order of service, is necessary.) If there is any question, the Director of Music should be contacted.
- The following are suggested areas of the wedding service where music may be shared:
  - **Pre-Service Music** - Typically, the musicians will play a mix of classical and contemporary Christ-centered instrumental music before the service begins.
  - **Processional/Recessional** - This music accompanies the entrance and exit of the wedding party. You will find a list at the end of this section that will help you in selecting suitable music for this use.
  - **Hymns** - The singing of hymns by the congregation during the wedding service can be an excellent way to help those assembled with you share in the thanks and praise God's blessings upon your marriage.
  - **Vocalist/Instrumentalist** - Many of the hymns suitable for congregational singing may be shared as solos during the wedding service. Traditional and contemporary Christian music especially appropriate for weddings is also available from the Director of Music. Some suggestions have been included in the following section.
- **Recommended Selections**
  - The following lists contain recommended music selections, but are not all inclusive. If you have questions about others, please contact our Director of Music.

## Processionals and Recessionals

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Mouret, J.    | Rondeau   |
| Marcello, B.  | Psalm 19  |
| Pachelbel, J. | Canon in D<br>Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring                  |
| Handel, F.G.  | Allegro Maestro<br>Horn Pipe in D<br>Trumpet Voluntary in D |
| Purcell, H    | Trumpet Voluntary in D Major<br>Trumpet Tune in D Major     |
| Biggs, E.P.   | Emperor's Fanfare March                                     |
| Beethoven, L. | Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee                                |
| Dobrinski, C. | Rondo-Passacaglia   |
| Smith, M.W.   | Great is the Lord<br>Sonata in D Major                      |
| Kendrick, G.  | Shine, Jesus Shine  |
| Peeters       | Cortegé   |
| Fletcher, P.  | Festival Toccata  |

## Vocal Music:

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| O'Brien, M.            | When God Made You        |
| Chapman, S.C.          | I Will Be Here           |
| David, G.              | Parent's Prayer          |
| Hummon, M.; Hanna, J.  | Bless the Broken Road    |
| Terry, P.              | He Has Chosen You for Me |
| Jernigan, D.           | The Blessing Song        |
| Malotte                | The Lord's Prayer        |
| Public Domain          | Wedding Song             |
| Paris, T.              | How Beautiful            |
|                        | Make Us One              |
| Aldridge, W.; Park, E. | I Loved Her First        |
| Heath, B.; Cotes, C.   | Love Never Fails You     |
| Brickman, J.           | Love Never Fails         |
|                        | Your Love                |

## Congregational Singing:

Great is the Lord  
He is Exalted  
Shine, Jesus Shine  
Now Thank We All Our God  
All Creatures of Our God and King  
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee  
Love Divine, All Love Excelling  
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
From All that Dwell Below the Skies  
Shout to the Lord  
In Christ Alone

## 10. Fees

- The fee for a wedding ceremony in the Worship Center (seats 550 comfortably) is \$500, which includes the following services:
  - Hope's Wedding Coordinator
  - Set-Up
  - Cleaning
  - Rehearsal
  - Utilities
  - Music Director
  - Tech Assistance
  - Pastor's Honorarium
- Payments should be made out to Hope Lutheran Church. Please include the name of your wedding on the memo line. Please give to the Wedding Coordinator prior to, or at the rehearsal.

## 11. Facility Usage

- All of the policies will be discussed when you meet with the Wedding Coordinator. We want to be open to people's individual tastes and creative ideas, but still be mindful of honoring God's house of worship.
- We do not have space to hold wedding receptions at Hope Lutheran Church.

## Flowers and Other Decorations

- All altar furnishings are items dedicated to the glory of God and are not to be removed or concealed by church decorations.
- Flowers and any decorations used should be in place a minimum of one full hour before the wedding, so that there isn't any disturbance.
- Fresh flowers as well as silk may be used. Please let the wedding coordinator know if the flowers will be left for the Saturday night service or Sunday morning service.
- Decorations may not be fastened to the woodwork or furnishings of the altar area. Settings in the the altar area should be limited to palms, altar vases, and one or two pair of standing baskets. If additional flowers are desired (beyond what would be appropriate on the existing floral stands), or if other special effects are desired, you

should discuss these matters with the Wedding Coordinator.

- Our regular vases may be used for wedding ceremonies. These vases are equipped with plastic liners. On the Wednesday before the wedding, the bride must notify the Wedding Coordinator that she desires to take these liners to her florist to be filled. Doing this allows the florist to merely drop the already arranged bouquet into the brass vases.

### **Candles**

- Those on the altar and candleabra are supplied by the church. The Wedding Coordinator will provide any additional information needed.

### **Photography**

- Since the wedding service is one of the sacred ordinances of our faith, we ask that pictures be taken in the isle during the processional and recessional and only by the professional photographer during the service
- Video recording during the service is permitted. Special instruction will be given to you if the service is to be video recorded. We do not provide video recording.
- Please let the Pastor know if you would like him present for pictures following the service.

### **Wedding Reception**

- We do not have space to hold wedding receptions at Hope Lutheran Church.





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