



Wedding Information/Planning Package

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
89 Edgewater Street • P.O. Box 70 • Mahone Bay NS • B0J 2E0
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Wedding Information Form

*And now the three of these remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13*

✘ Personal Information ✘

Bride: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Denomination: _____ Home Congregation: _____

Maid of Honor: _____

Bridesmaids: _____

Flower Girl: _____

Parents: _____

Groom: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Denomination: _____ Home Congregation: _____

Best Man: _____

Groomsmen: _____

Ring Bearer: _____

Parents: _____

✘ Service Information ✘

Bulletin Picture / Print Cover #Copies _____

Additional Bulletin Information: _____

Musician Contact: _____

Special Music Soloist Choir Instrumental CD

Details: _____

Contact: _____

Special Requests: _____

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∞ Entrance □

- Groomsmen: _____
- Groom: _____
- Bridal Party: _____
- Bride: _____
- Parents: _____

∞ Greeting & Introduction □

- **Option 1:** *Dear friends: We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of name and name, to surround them with our prayers, and to share in their joy. The scriptures teach us that the bond and covenant of marriage is a gift of God in which two people are joined together. As name and name make their promises to each other today, we remember that at Cana in Galilee our Lord Jesus Christ made the wedding feast a sign of God's reign of love. Let us enter into this celebration confident that, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now also. We pray that this couple may fulfill God's purpose for the whole of their lives.*
- **Option 2:** *The Lord God in goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come. Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of a family can become a burden. But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.*
- **Option 3:** *Name and name have come to make their marriage vows in the presence of God and of this assembly. The uniting of this man and this woman in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort they give one another in prosperity and adversity, and that their love may be a blessing to all whom they encounter. Let us now witness their promises to each other and surround them with our prayers, giving thanks to God for the gift of marriage and asking God's blessing upon them, that they may be strengthened for their life together and nurtured in the love of God.*

∞ Declaration of Intention

○ Part 1

- **Option 1:** *Name, will you have name to be your wife/husband, to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her/him, comfort her/him, honor and keep her/him, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her/him as long as you both shall live?*
- **Option 2:** *Name, will you receive name as your wife/husband and bind yourself to her/him in the covenant of marriage? Will you promise to love and honor her/him in true devotion, to rejoice with her/him in times of gladness, to grieve with her/him in times of sorrow, and to be faithful to her/him as long as you both shall live?*
- **Option 3:** *Name, living in the promise of God, [joined to Christ in baptism,] will you give yourself to name in love and faithfulness? Will you share your life with her/him, in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness, for richer, for poorer, for better, for worse, and will you be faithful to her/him as long as you both shall live?*

○ Part 2

- **Option 1:** *Will you, the families of name and name, give your love and blessing to this new family?*
- **Option 2:** *Will all of you, by God's grace, uphold and care for name and name in their life together?*
- **Option 3:** *Families, friends, and all those gathered here with name and name, will you support and care for them, sustain and pray for them in times of trouble, give thanks with them in times of joy, honor the bonds of their covenant, and affirm the love of God reflected in their life together?*

∞ Prayer of the Day

- **Option 1:** *Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to reveal your love to all people. Enrich name and name with every good gift, that their life together may show forth your love; and grant that at the last we may all celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no end; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***
- **Option 2:** *Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so bring your joy to this wedding by his presence now. Look in favor upon name and name and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate the unending marriage feast with Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.***

∞ Readings

- Old Testament (_____)

- Suggestions

- Proverbs 3:3-6

Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them round your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you

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will find favour and good repute in the sight of God and of people. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make straight your paths.

- Song of Solomon 2:10-13

My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now 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 turtle-dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

- Song of Solomon 8:6-7a

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grace. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.

- New Testament □ (_____)

- Suggestions

- Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

- Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms,

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hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- 1 John 3:18-24; 4:7-16

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

- Psalm □ (_____)

- Suggestions

- Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is God that made us, and we are God's; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture. Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise. Give thanks to God, bless God's name. For the Lord is good, God's steadfast love endures forever, and the Lord's faithfulness to all generations.

- Gospel □ (_____)

- Suggestions

- Matthew 7:24-27

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, 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 Creator in heaven.

- John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?'

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My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

- **John 15:9-17**

As the Father has loved me, so I have 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. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

- **Other Readings**

- **Suggestions**

- **How Do I Love Thee? (Elizabeth Barrett Browning)**

*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being an Ideal Grace.
I love thee to the level of every day's
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.*

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*I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints,--I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life!-- and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.*

- **These I Can Promise (Unknown)**

*I cannot promise you a life of sunshine;
I cannot promise riches, wealth, or gold;
I cannot promise you an easy pathway
That leads away from change or growing old.
But I can promise all my heart's devotion;
A smile to chase away your tears of sorrow;
A love that's ever true and ever growing;
A hand to hold in yours through each tomorrow.*

- **Quote (Aristotle)**

*Every heart sings a song, incomplete,
until another heart whispers back.
Those who wish to sing always find a song.
At the touch of a lover, everyone becomes a poet.*

∞ Sermon

∞ Special Music (_____)

∞ Vows

- Prepared

- **Option 1:** *I take you, name, to be my wife/husband 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.*
- **Option 2:** *In the presence of God and this community, I, name, take you, name, to be my wife/husband; to have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.*

- Personal

∞ Giving of the Rings

- Prepared

- **Option 1:** *Name, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow. With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*
- **Option 2:** *Name, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.*

∞ Acclamation

- **Option 1:** *Name and name, by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have joined themselves to one another as husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.*

- **Option 2:** *Name and name, by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have joined themselves to one another as husband and wife. May their lives together be filled with all joy and happiness, strength and love.*

⌘ Marriage Blessing

- *Blessing is prepared contextually for each couple.*

⌘ Prayers of Intercession

- *Intercessory prayer is a time to include contextual concerns of the couple, family or friends. Gathered together, we pray from the world, creation, and all those in need of God's care.*
 - **Examples:** *Friends/family unable to attend the service, those suffering from illness, for the blessing of childbirth, for a safe home, thanksgiving for the wedding guests.*

⌘ Lord's Prayer

⌘ Communion

- *Traditionally, weddings may included communion. This is advisable only when it can be understood as uniting of friends and family, not divisive.*

⌘ Blessing

- **Option 1:** *The blessed and holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace, now and forever. **Amen.***
- **Option 2:** *God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. **Amen.***

⌘ Signing of the Register

⌘ Acclamation/Kiss

- *Preferred way to be announced: _____*

⌘ Recessional

- *Music: _____*