

This is Our Wedding Procedure

1. Have an initial meeting with me (the pastor) *at least four months before your wedding date.*
2. Receive a copy of the Wedding / Blessing Information, which will lead you through our process.
3. Take Prepare (*a premarital inventory used in the pastoral care process*).
4. Meet at least two (2) more times with me (the pastor) to go over the results of Prepare.
5. Attend Worship / Divine Service at Bethlehem at least six (6) times, during the three (3) months before your wedding date. (*Record your attendance whenever you attend.*)
6. Pay the various fees (which total about \$600) at least two (2) weeks before your wedding date.

Conclusion

The pastor and congregation of Bethlehem Lutheran Church truly want to be an eternal blessing to you!

To take the next step toward having your wedding at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, contact me ♦with your questions or ♦to schedule a time when we can get acquainted and begin the process.

Contact by Phone: 440-292-5915

Contact by E-Mail: revrgreen@aol.com

More about BLC:

www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com

May the Triune God richly bless you, *both now and forevermore!*

Pastor Green

You Are Invited to Attend and Benefit

Website: BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com

Location: 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
(*Just South of Pleasant Valley Road*)

Schedule: See our "Join Us" Brochure

Facebook: "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"

Podcast: "Benefit from the Bible"

Contact: 440-845-2230

(Last Update: 2-20)

Wedding Information



Introduction

Dear Friend:

Because you are reading this brochure, you are about to take a very significant step in your life! It would be my privilege to work with you as you prepare for your life together and your wedding ceremony.

Please carefully read this brochure; then contact me ♦with your questions or ♦to schedule a get-acquainted meeting.

Our Desire for Each Couple

- ⇒ Assist them to learn more about the Bible and God's plan for their lives!
- ⇒ Equip them with many helpful tools to bless their marriage!
- ⇒ Bless them with a Christ-centered wedding ceremony!
- ⇒ Encourage them to continue in God's Word throughout their lives!

Declaration of Intent

The following words will be spoken near the beginning of your wedding ceremony. As you read them now, I encourage you to carefully consider this major step in your life.

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and before His Church to witness the union of *this man* and *this woman* in holy matrimony. This is an honorable estate instituted and blessed by God in Paradise, before humanity's fall into sin.

Those words point to this Bible account:

²⁰ ...for Adam no suitable helper was found.

²¹ 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 closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. (Gen 2 NIV) *Thus the first wedding!*

In marriage we see a picture of communion between Christ and His bride, the Church.

Those words point to [Ephesians 5:22-33](#), which lays out this important parallel:

As Christ loves the church

and the church submits to Christ,

so husbands are to love their wives

and wives are to submit to their husbands!

See the "Wives and Husbands" brochure for more information about Ephesians 5:22-23

Our Lord blessed and honored marriage with His presence and first miracle at Cana in Galilee. See [John 2:1-11](#).

This estate is also commended to us by the apostle Paul as good and honorable.

See [1 Corinthians 7:1-5](#).

Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into inadvisably or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Since God made us, loves us, and instituted marriage, He has also given us the best instructions for every marriage!

Sometimes God's ways may not make sense, but the Bible says: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for the mutual companionship, help, and support that each person ought to receive from the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

Those words remind us of the marriage promises: To have and to hold from this day forward for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy will...

Marriage was also ordained so that a man and a woman may find delight in each other.

God also established marriage for the procreation of children who are to be brought up in the fear and instruction of the Lord so that they may offer Him their praise.

So ♦from the words of the declaration of intent ♦to the foundational Bible passages ♦to the marriage promises, I hope you now have a better picture of God's intent for your upcoming marriage!

The Importance of Forgiveness

The Bible teaches that sin has separated all people from God ([Isaiah 59:2](#)), but there is good news: Jesus has taken away the sin of the world – *through His sinless living and sacrificial dying!* Now, *through faith in Jesus as our Savior*, our relationship with God has been restored. As God's forgiveness in Christ keeps us right with Him, *so forgiveness between husband and wife is also essential.* Therefore, the topic of forgiveness will be one of many important topics we will consider during our pastoral care sessions.

Christian to Christian

Being in Christ is essential for eternal life ([John 14:6](#); [Acts 4:12](#)), but it is also very important for every marriage! Christian husbands and wives desire to:

- ⇒ Forgive each other as they have been forgiven by God.
- ⇒ Love each other as they sacrificially take action to fulfill the needs of their spouse.
- ⇒ Know and follow God's special plan for their lives in Christ ([Ephesians 2:10](#)).

Through the premarital sessions and even beyond your wedding day, we stand ready to help you grow as a Bible-believing Christian.