

## WEDDING GUIDE SUMMARY

Golden Valley Lutheran Church (GLVC) is a community that worships the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We hold the Bible as the true and inerrant word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit. We are a welcoming Christian community in service to all.

We believe, as supported in the Bible, that the divine institution of marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Jesus Christ and His bride the church. Christian marriage worship services are conducted at GLVC by its Pastor who also provides pre-marriage counseling. Additional support includes pre-marriage instruction by assigned and trained mentors and coordination of the wedding process by church staff.

GLVC is a faith community which supports Christian marriage services for members and potential members before God, their family and friends. A wedding at GLVC is a worship service with our Pastor officiating. We provide pre-marriage education and counseling with our Pastor and a required marriage preparation course with assigned mentors. A Wedding Coordinator also provides help with service planning. GLVC does not rent its facilities for private use.

Golden Valley Lutheran Church believes marriage is instituted by God and therefore defined by Him. We confess that the divine institution of marriage is to be heterosexual, in which, according to God's design, a man and a woman may enjoy a life-long companionship in mutual love.

The God given purposes of marriage are threefold: God-focused companionship, procreation of children and the promotion of sexual faithfulness.

GLVC rejects any other definition of marriage or any other sexual relationship which is contrary to the definition of marriage as defined by God's Word. Golden Valley Lutheran Church will not recognize nor solemnize any other relationship apart from the Biblical definition. GLVC extends compassion, Christian truth, love and kindness to every person.

### **The Church, the House of God**

A wedding at GLVC is a Christian worship service and a sacred solemnization before God of your commitment to each other. To honor this, the wedding will reflect Psalm 100:4; *“Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name.”* Your GLVC Pastor, staff and mentors will support and help you plan the service.

### **Pre-Marital Counseling and Preparation**

The purpose of pre-marital counseling/preparation is to help you, as a couple, prepare for the spiritual, mental, physical and economic adjustments common to marriage and, at the same time, to stimulate thought about the meaning of a Christian marriage and its responsibilities.

The Pastor will meet with you for the initial session. He will then meet with you an additional three times to discuss the growth of your relationship. There will also be scheduled meetings with your assigned mentor couple to review and discuss the required marriage preparation material. There will also be a meeting with the Wedding Coordinator to make sure everything is in place for your wedding service. Because of the nature of these sessions, it is necessary that both of you be present. There is no cost for these services.

### **Reception**

The Golden Valley Lutheran Church Assembly Room is available for receptions. Facility details would be coordinated with church staff. You are responsible for working with your caterer with our guidelines and restrictions.

### **Fees**

There is no rental fee to use the Sanctuary, small assembly room and two classrooms for a wedding. There is a custodial fee and several other nominal fees detailed in the Golden Valley Lutheran Church Wedding Guide which you will receive at your first meeting with the Pastor.