



# ATONEMENT

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## INFORMATION ABOUT WEDDINGS

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*So they are no longer two, but one.  
Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.*  
MATTHEW 19:6

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# Your Wedding at Atonement

## Message from Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar

Weddings are a big deal! They are your special day and come as a result of much planning, work--not to mention money. I am truly honored to be a part of your special day. I am also excited about walking with you in the days that come after, too. I believe my role as your officiant is to do all in my power to help make your wedding--and marriage(!)--a success. My hope and prayer is that your marriage may bring joy, purpose, and a witness to God's love, forgiveness, and commitment.

## Thoughts About Wedding Planning *(from Miss Manners-Judith Martin)*

We encourage your creativity in making your wedding special. Some media or other visual expressions celebrating your relationship can be tasteful and appropriate. Let us know what you are thinking that would make your ceremony special and we'll help with the planning.

However, as you plan your wedding we encourage caution in following some popular trends toward "personalizing," your ceremony. We discourage you from creating a plan for your wedding that provides an opportunity to showcase yourselves. "Personal sharing time," about your courtship, or a retrospective of your lives, can obscure and distract from the sacred value of your great event.

Think of the time, trouble and expense you'll be saved; there would be no debating whether your names should be in silver or gold on matchbooks and paper napkins, which you don't need anyway. You won't be saddled with the assignment of composing vows and other declarations in competition with great writers of the ages, nor would you discover the work involved in making the autobiographical video, or the disappointment of seeing its' audience wandering off for drinks, leaving only a few relatives already familiar with the pictures and story to view your work. You would not have to think of a theme for your wedding, either a (pseudo) Victorian wedding or a medieval tournament, or something reflecting your hobbies or affection for your pets. The theme would be "A Wedding," the theme of which has been worked out for you over the generations.

Despite what you have been urged to think by the wedding industry, your wedding is not 'about you.' Your courtship is about you, and your life together in marriage will be about you. But a wedding is about your public entrance into the civic and (as you are choosing in having a church wedding), your relationship with God through Christian community. Your ceremonies' strength comes from long continuity—knowing that you are repeating the steps of those who preceded you and those who will follow.

# Preparing for Your Wedding Ceremony

It is important during this time of planning that you reflect on your relationship with God. We are committed to providing opportunities for you to learn more about how God is present in your lives and in your marriage.

## **Meetings With Our Pastors**

Our Pastor at Atonement is Pastor Kevin. There will be at least two sessions to get acquainted and offer encouragement for your life together in Christ and Christian community. We will assign a church Wedding Coordinator who assists the Pastor with planning details and conducts the rehearsal, if applicable.

## **Set The Date**

At your first session with the Pastor your wedding date will be confirmed. We request this be done no later than six months in advance in advance.

## **Planning With the Wedding Coordinator**

The Wedding Coordinator will meet with you to discuss specifics and offer guidance about your wedding ceremony. They will also be available for questions throughout your wedding planning process, direct the wedding rehearsal as well as give assistance and direction on your wedding day.

## **Pre-Marriage Counseling**

This will be arranged in consultation with your Pastor often through the support of a local Pastor who provides a pre-marriage workshop. The fee for this workshop should be about \$125.00 per couple.

## **Intro To Growth (Faith Journey) Group**

Engaged couples are asked to participate in our Intro to Growth (Faith Journey) Group. You'll meet other newcomers, laugh, explore faith and grow together. The Pastor will share the schedule for our next group. Some Faith Journey participants join our church but you do not need to be a member to be married at Atonement.

## **Weddings For Members Now Living In Another Community**

We are glad to assist with your wedding in your "home church," with the approval of the congregation where you are currently members. Please have your pastor contact the Pastor of Atonement you wish to work with. With this approval, your wedding can be conducted at the non-Faith Journey Participant rate.

# The Wedding Service

Special requests you may have for your wedding ceremony are encouraged. Please discuss them with your wedding coordinator. This is the standard wedding service at Atonement:

## Musical Prelude

- Seating of Guests
- Lighting of Altar Candles
- Seating of Grandparents and Parents
- Aisle Runner, if applicable

## Processional

- Pastor and Groom / Groomsmen
- Bridesmaids / Flower Girl(s) / Ring Bearer / Jr. Bride
- Bride

Greeting And Opening Prayer

Scripture Lessons (one or two)

Pastoral Message

Solo

Exchange Of Vows

Exchange Of Rings

Lighting Of Unity Candle With Solo  
Optional presentation of flowers to parents

The Blessing

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Communion (Optional)

Pronouncement of Marriage

The Benediction

Presentation Of Bride & Groom

## Recessional

- Receiving Line
- Sign Marriage Certificate
- Photos in Sanctuary, if applicable

# Music

Because music is an integral part of your wedding, all music should have to do with your relationship with God as well as your relationship with each other. The music for your wedding should be finalized no less than four weeks prior to your wedding date. Other musicians are welcome. All musicians and music must be approved by the Pastor. Please ask your musician(s) to attend the rehearsal.

## **ATONEMENT MUSICIAN:**

Steve Joyal - Organist and soloist: 414-640-9971 or [Steve@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:Steve@atonementmuskego.org)

Below is a list of suggested music that is commonly used at weddings or Atonement Worship services. For further music suggestions, please ask your musicians directly.

### Traditional Hymns Suggestions:

All People That on Earth Do Dwell, ELW #883  
God Himself is Present, LBW #249  
O Perfect Love, LBW #287  
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father, LBW #288  
The King of Love My Shepherd Is, ELW #502  
Lord of All Hopefulness, ELW #765  
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us, LBW #481  
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus, ELW #789  
Oh, Blest the House, LBW #512  
Now Thank We All Our God, ELW #839, 840  
Praise the Lord! O Heavens, ELW #823  
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, ELW #858, 859  
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee, ELW #836  
In Thee Is Gladness, ELW #867  
Let All Things Now Living, ELW #881  
For the Beauty of the Earth, ELW #879  
God in the Planning and Purpose of Life  
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ELW #631

### Contemporary Song Suggestions:

When I Say I Do (Matthew West)  
I Will Be Here (Steven Curtis Chapman)  
Boat Song (JJ Heller)  
Hundred More Years (Francesca Battistelli)  
The Day Before You (Matthew West)

# Scripture & Vows

Please choose one or two lessons for your service. Choose the lessons that reflect your relationship with each other and with God. Here are some ideas. For reference, please look in the *New Revised Standard* Bible translations.

## Scriptures

Genesis 1:26-31  
Psalm 23  
Matthew 19:4-6  
John 2:1-11  
John: 15: 9-17  
John 17:20-26  
Romans 12:2, 9-13  
1 Corinthians 13  
I Corinthians 13:4-8  
Ephesians 5: 25-33  
Colossians 3:12-16 (17)

## VOWS (choose one)

A: 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.

B: I take you, \_\_\_\_\_(name), to be my wife/husband and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect, trust, help, and care for you. I will share my life with you. Through the best and worst of what may come until death parts us.

C: I take you, \_\_\_\_\_(name), to be my wife/husband. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful husband/wife, to share with you in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health. I promise to forgive and strengthen you, so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.

D: \_\_\_\_\_(name), I take you to be my wife/husband from this time onward, to join with you and 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 until death parts us.

E: \_\_\_\_\_, I take you to be my wife/husband. All that I have I offer you; what you have to give I gladly receive; wherever you go I will go. You are my love. God keep me true to you always and you to me.

F: We will write our own (with approval from the Pastor)

Note: You must also select one option from above to be recited after your written vows.

# Ceremony Details

## Lighting of the Unity Candle

If you are choosing to include the unity candle in your ceremony, you are responsible for purchasing the center candle, side candles (*dripleless, please*) and holders. Candles are not recommended for an outdoor service.

There are many alternatives to the unity candle today that can also be included during your ceremony, such as, unity sand, cord of three strands, unity cross, unity glass...just to name a few that have been incorporated at Atonement weddings. You are welcome to choose whichever one you want, but you are responsible for purchasing all items.

### *Honoring Your Parents:*

This is an optional part of the service. After lighting your unity candle, you can present flowers to your parents as part of the ceremony. This gives you an opportunity to share a special moment during the ceremony and can be done without them knowing ahead of time, if you desire.

## Holy Communion

It is your option to include holy communion as part of your wedding ceremony. You may choose between wafers or bread (loaf) and individual cups or intinction (dipping the wafer in the chalice).

When communion is a part of the service, the sacrament is celebrated with the whole congregation. The sacrament is not limited to the couple or the wedding party. If circumstances prevent including the congregation, a service without communion is used.

## The Lord's Prayer

Please include the copy below in your bulletins or discuss with your wedding coordinator to have the Audio/Visual Team project the words on our overhead screens.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.



## Dismissal / Receiving Line

### **Receiving Line**

The most traditional; the usher dismisses your guests row by row, you greet your guests in a receiving line in the narthex (you may include your parents and/or your wedding party in the receiving line).

### **By Pew**

More contemporary, the bride and groom personally ushers your guests from the pew, greeting them briefly before they leave the sanctuary.

### **Receiving Line At Reception**

You may opt to have your receiving line at the reception. This allows for plenty of time for pictures at the church as well as if you are having pictures taken at a second location.

## Marriage License

You are responsible for obtaining your marriage license and delivering it to the Atonement office one week prior to the ceremony. The license should be obtained in the county where you live, each county has different rules so refer to the county website for more details.

After the ceremony, Atonement will mail your marriage license to Waukesha county where you will be able to purchase the final certificate, about two weeks after your ceremony.

## Rehearsal

All those participating in the wedding should be in attendance. The rehearsal is usually the evening prior to the wedding. It is crucial that all those involved in the service attend and be punctual.

The wedding coordinator conducts the rehearsal, giving each participant adequate opportunity to understand and learn his or her role. This usually takes an hour. Please schedule this with your wedding coordinator.

## Audio/Visual Team

One member of the Audio/Visual Team will be assigned to your wedding and will attend your rehearsal and ceremony. They will manage and operate the overhead screens (if you choose to use them) and minor sound system needs.

Michael Murphy is our Advanced Audio Tech and is available for both your rehearsal and ceremony for an extra fee. He is mandatory for outdoor services or if you utilize the Worship Team for your music.

If you would like to project any overhead images or design special screens, please discuss further details with your coordinator and AV person at least three weeks prior to your wedding.

# Decorating the Church

## **Bulletins**

The church is able to provide a standard bulletin for your wedding at a small printing fee if you would like. Please arrange with the office and your wedding coordinator at least three weeks prior to your wedding. *Note: when printing, you don't necessarily need one bulletin per person, often one per couple is enough.*

## **Flowers**

Two large arrangements, left and right of the altar, work nicely and we are willing to accommodate any special decorations you may have. Approval of decorations by the Wedding Coordinator is appreciated.

## **Rose Petals**

For Indoor ceremonies, we prohibit the use of real rose petals to prevent damage to the floor and carpeting inside the church, only silk flowers may be used to decorate down the aisle during the service.

Outdoor ceremonies allow for the use of real rose petals or any other flower, but please discuss further with your coordinator.

## **Aisle Runner**

Our aisle is approximately 39 feet in length. You are responsible for purchasing an aisle runner if you desire one. Your florist may be able to provide one for you. You are in charge of securing it properly and in a way that can be removed easily without damaging the floor or wood surface.

For outdoor ceremonies, an aisle runner is not allowed because there is no way to secure it properly.

## **Pew Bows**

For Inside Ceremonies, there are 9 pews on both sides of the center aisle. We kindly request that any decorations including pew bows do not use tape and do not damage the pews, doors or any structure in the church. Atonement has pew clips for your use that must be returned after the ceremony.

The Outdoor Worship Center has two center aisles and two outside aisles, each with four rows.

# Helpful Information

## Ushers

We recommend one usher per 75 guests (minimum two). Please consider the following:

Will they usher guests into the sanctuary and seat them?

or

Will they stand at the entry and hand out bulletins?

## Guest Pastors

Clergy from other traditions are welcome to participate in the wedding service. Please make arrangements with the Pastor you are working with at Atonement.

## Bridal Rooms

The Nursery will be available for the bride and bridesmaids to prepare for the ceremony. There is a full-length mirror and rest room for your use. The senior league room is available for the groom and groomsmen.

These rooms do not lock. Please move all of your personal items to the sanctuary or your vehicle prior to the ceremony. Atonement Lutheran Church will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal items.

## Seating

Our sanctuary will hold 287 at full capacity. Additional seating in the narthex is available upon request.

Outdoor Worship Center seats 125 with room for up to 200 if additional seating is brought in at couples' expense. The church does not rent chairs for the space.

## Handicap Accessibility

Please be advised there are handicap parking spaces, accessible doors, designated spaces in the sanctuary as well as a handicap ramp to the altar.

## Photography / Videography

No flash photographs may be taken during the wedding service. The designated photographer may take flash pictures of the members of the wedding party during the processional and the recessional. Natural light pictures may be taken from the back in a discrete manner. The service may be videotaped in a discrete manner. You are responsible for making the photographer and videographer aware of our guidelines. Please consult the wedding coordinator with questions.

## Other Guidelines

### **Please Respect Our Church Home**

The couple and their guests shall take care not to damage walls, floors, changing rooms, restrooms, fellowship hall, kitchen, etc.

The couple and their guests are responsible for the proper disposal of wrapping paper, flower boxes and the like.

No rice, confetti, birdseed or similar items may be thrown in the building or on any part of the Church property.

***Alcohol is not allowed on the property. Please do not drink before the rehearsal or wedding services.***

**Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the building.**

## Receptions at Atonement

Use of the fellowship hall and kitchen is permitted, providing that the reception does not conflict with any church activity. Please call the Church Office to reserve the room and make further arrangements.

## Outdoor Worship Center at Atonement

Our Outdoor Worship Center (OWC) is available for your wedding as another option. Please discuss further details with your wedding coordinator.

## Off-site Weddings

We do not conduct non-member weddings away from the Atonement building. Members who would like to hold their wedding off-site should consult with our pastor and wedding coordinator. Mileage fees will apply for the pastor and wedding coordinator.

# Tzedaka: Share Your Joy!

Giving to those in need while celebrating momentous events (Tzedaka) is the time honored tradition of the people of God. As you plan your celebration we invite you to give a tithe (10%) of your celebration expenses to a ministry among the poor.

We can spend a lot on our weddings. May your love for each other overflow with a designated gift to benefit those who are almost rarely touched by abundance. If the biblical/faith community tradition of a tithe of your expenses doesn't seem achievable, decide on an amount that you could feel excited about. Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar invites you to use the amount you have set aside as his honorarium (traditionally \$200) as a portion of the total you give to celebrate with the poor.

We have many suggestions for possible recipients of such a gift but encourage you to think about ministries that might have significance to you. Here are some suggestions for your gift or support the ministry among the poor of your choice.

**All Peoples Church, ELCA:** Our mission partner serving the heart of the city in Milwaukee. Your gifts support programs such as Kids Working to Succeed, a "learn to work," program/community garden for children and youth.

**Tepeagua/Student Scholarship Fund:** \$200 helps a child in our mission partner in El Salvador attend school for a year.

**Habitat for Humanity, Milwaukee or Waukesha County:** Building safe and affordable homes for lower income families in our area.

**Lutheran World Relief:** Our hunger fund feeding famine victims world wide.  
<http://www.elca.org/hunger>

**Lutheran Disaster Response:** Emergency Aid that goes directly to victims of natural disasters (hurricanes, floods, etc.) in the U.S.A. and throughout the world.  
<http://www.elca.org/disaster/>

Write your checks to the recipient as listed above. We will forward your gifts to the recipient. If you'd like to make your gift directly to another recipient please let us know.

# Fees

## Wedding Fees

	Payable to:	Faith Journey Participant	Non-Faith Journey Participant
<b>Sanctuary</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	\$0	\$250
<b>Wedding Coordinator</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	\$200	\$200
<b>Custodian</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	\$50	\$50
<b>Audio/Visual Team</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	\$50	\$50
<b>Advanced Audio Tech (Michael Murphy)</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	\$60	\$60
<b>Pastor Kevin or Tzedaka (please see page 13)</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church or Tzedaka Charity	\$200 minimum	\$200 minimum
<b>Church Musician* (Steve Joyal)</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	\$200	\$200
<b>Other Special Requests</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	TBD	TBD

## Outdoor Worship Center (OWC) Fees

<b>OWC - Ceremony</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	\$0	\$250
<b>OWC - Reception</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	\$200	\$300
<b>OWC - Deposit (Refundable)</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	\$100	\$100
<b>Advanced Audio Tech* (Michael Murphy)</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	\$120	\$120
<b>Custodian</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	\$50	\$50

## Reception Fees

<b>Fellowship Hall</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	\$100	\$175
<b>Fellowship Kitchen</b>	Atonement Lutheran Church	\$100	\$175

# Contact Information

## **Atonement Lutheran Church**

S70 W16244 Martin Drive  
Muskego, Wisconsin 53150  
Phone: 414-422-0400  
E-Mail: [info@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:info@atonementmuskego.org)  
Online: [www.atonementmuskego.org](http://www.atonementmuskego.org)

## **Pastor**

Kevin Kretzmann Farrar  
414-207-8778  
[Kevin@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:Kevin@atonementmuskego.org)

## **Pastor Appointment Scheduling**

Contact Pastor directly

## **Atonement Office Manager**

Kara Mendez  
414-422-0400  
[kara@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:kara@atonementmuskego.org)

## **Wedding Coordinators**

Kelly McDonald  
414-839-8217 (C)  
[kellyaliciamcdonald@gmail.com](mailto:kellyaliciamcdonald@gmail.com)

## **Fellowship Hall Scheduling**

Kara Mendez  
414-422-0400  
[kara@atonementmuskego.com](mailto:kara@atonementmuskego.com)

## **Fellowship Hall Coordinating**

Kara Mendez  
414-422-0400  
[kara@atonementmuskego.com](mailto:kara@atonementmuskego.com)

# Dates to Remember

- \_\_\_\_\_ First Meeting with Pastor  
Six months prior
- \_\_\_\_\_ Secure wedding date
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete Marriage Information Form and return to  
Atonement to hold your date
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting with Wedding Coordinator  
Three to six months prior
- \_\_\_\_\_ Second Meeting with Pastor
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-Marriage Counseling
- \_\_\_\_\_ Final music selections  
Four weeks prior
- \_\_\_\_\_ Final Meeting with Coordinator and  
Four weeks prior **final payments due**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Images and PowerPoint files due to AV Team  
Two weeks prior (if applicable)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Marriage License to Atonement  
One week prior
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rehearsal
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Wedding Day**