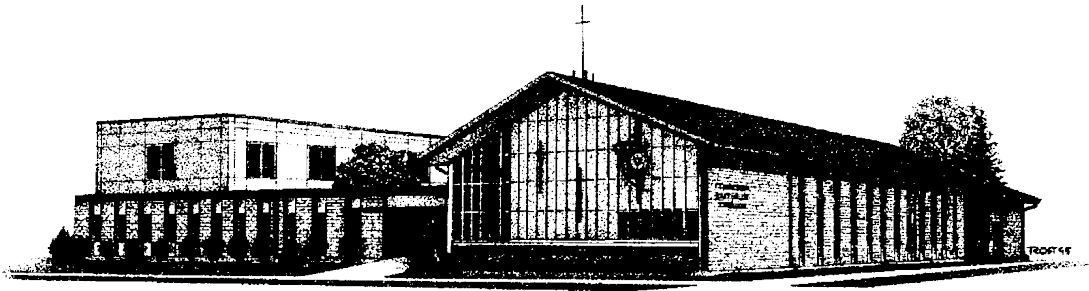


WEDDING HANDBOOK

Concordia Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
South St Paul, Minnesota

2010



Pastor John Otte

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh”.

This brochure is to help you plan your wedding day at Concordia and outline what you can expect from the church. Look forward to your wedding day with eager anticipation! It was your God who instituted marriage and you have His promise that He will bless all who enter this holy estate according to His will and purpose.

The Lord Jesus says, *“Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate”*. The marriage vows clearly bind bride and groom together as husband and wife for the remainder of their lives. Such vows are made before God and before the witness of men. Marriage is inseparable. Divorce is a grievous sin. In order that what is promised can find fulfillment in a long and happy marriage, the blessings of God should be invoked and realized.

Throughout our nation, two out of five marriages end in divorce, and the ratio is steadily moving toward every other one instead of improving. Our goal is to have marriages begun at Concordia at the altar of the Lord to have better odds than that. We don't want the vows and prayers of the ceremony to be soon forgotten, and the marriage to crumble because it was not properly founded.

We strongly recommend all couples to seek pre-marital counseling. Furthermore, the church desires that you continue to seek the face of the Lord through worship and faithful study of Scriptures for your mutual growth in faith and wisdom in Christ. Therefore, it is our prayer and hope that you will seek and follow God's guidance for godly living, love and forgive each other and do everything possible to avoid the breaking of these sacred vows, so that the holy estate of marriage may be honored by you and in our midst.

Marriages that have parents and children regularly attending worship services and maintaining family devotions have much better odds than one out of three. The odds jump to one out of four hundred! That is what we are after, and the ideal is that every marriage solemnized at Concordia be fully successful in every sense of the term, offering the happiness and fulfillment that you yourselves as a couple are looking for in marriage.

WEDDING SCHEDULING AND RESERVATIONS

Weddings can be better planned if the Pastor and church office is contacted several months in advance of the day you want to be married on so that reservations can be made. Reservations for church facilities are made through the church office at 651-451-0309. Reservations are marked on the church

office calendar when your refundable \$200 deposit is received. Reservations are made on a first come basis.

To avoid conflict with our Saturday night service, all weddings must be done by 4:30 PM. This allows our custodial crew to set up and prepare for the service. Only members of Concordia may be married here. Non-members are required to complete the membership class before the ceremony is completed.

PASTORAL MEETINGS

A wedding ceremony is in fact, a worship service. The Pastor will give you several options for your Ceremony Order of Service. Variations must have his approval.

Three to four premarital sessions are required. At the first session the date and time of the wedding will be set on the church calendar if this hasn't already been done. We will go over the details of the service so you know what still needs to be arranged. The second session will be the administration of a marriage inventory, "Prepare-Enrich". During the third and fourth sessions the results will be discussed and final details will be taken care of.

The pastor of Concordia will officiate at all weddings. If a family desires the participation of another clergyman, the request must be made to the pastor before any commitments are made. It is the pastor's prerogative, after approval by the Ministry of Elders, to extend an invitation to the other clergyman to assist at the wedding. Should such an invitation be sent, it must be in keeping with the congregation's policy on who can assist in worship services at Concordia.

If the proposed guest clergyman is affiliated with a church body with which Concordia is not in fellowship, the invitation cannot be sent since a wedding service is a formal worship service within the structure of congregational life. However, with the approval of the pastor and Ministry of Elders, a clergyman of a church not in fellowship with us may pronounce a blessing upon the bridal couple at the close of the service.

ORGANIST

We strongly prefer that our organist play for weddings at Concordia, since he/she is so well acquainted with our pipe organ. We also recommend that you schedule a meeting with him/her to discuss possible music for the service. If you wish to use a different organist, the music selected still will have to come under the approval of the pastor and our hired organist. The guest organist will need to contact our organist.

Our organists are:

Bethany Ekblad (952-432-0152)

Rebekah Jorgensen (651-487-1619)

SOLOIST

If a soloist is desired, the organist will be able to furnish names of competent and experienced soloists. If the bride and groom have a particular soloist in mind, then approval of this choice must be obtained from the organist. The couple is responsible for seeing to it that arrangements are made with the organist for adequate rehearsal between soloist and organist.

MUSIC

The music you choose conveys a message to your families and friends. On the day of your marriage, you are coming into the Lord's presence to plead for his blessing. It is not a "demonstration" at the altar. Rather, it is a service of prayer and petition to God asking him to bless your union.

In light of that, the music selected must be "sacred music". The essential question is: "Does this music praise God?" Therefore, in order to harmonize the music with the Christian understanding of wedding all music must be approved by the pastor and organist. The same principle applies regarding the solo music. Selections that center on human emotions and that draw attention to the bride and groom more than God and our Lord Jesus Christ, are also unacceptable. For instance, the traditional "Wedding March" from the Wagnerian opera "Lohengrin" is unacceptable, because of its secular origin and purpose, and because of its tragic setting in the plot of the opera.

CHILDREN PARTICIPANTS

Small children as members of the wedding party (flower girl or ring bearer) can participate only in the processional and recessional and will be seated with parents or relatives in the pews during the course of the actual wedding service.

CHURCH DECORATIONS

The church is decorated for the seasons. Sanctuary fixtures should not be moved. Altar furnishings should not be changed or removed. Any floral arrangements and banners must not be taken down.

It is the responsibility of the couple to make arrangements with a florist for the wedding decorations. Ribbon or simple floral arrangements may be used to mark pews, but pew decorations are not mandatory. Care must be taken not to deface the surface of the pews, which means that tape, sticky adhesives or masking tape should not be used for securing decorations to the pews. Please use pipe cleaners, plastic-coated wire or transparent fishing line to attach decorations. Aisle candelabra may be rented from the congregation.

If you wish to share your wedding flowers with the congregation by leaving them as altar flowers, please sign the Flower Chart at the front of the sanctuary

so proper recognition can be given in the service bulletins. Otherwise, they must be removed by 4:30 PM.

WEDDING CONSULTANTS

Wedding consultants who assist the couple should understand that the pastor is in charge of the wedding ceremony. The wedding consultant will not be permitted to assume direction of any portion of the wedding rehearsal or of the service itself. It is the responsibility of the couple to make this known to their consultant if they hire one.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO TAPING

Most couples want pictures to remember their special event. Professional photographers generally know that they aren't to take flash pictures after the processional. The processional and recessional are not regarded as part of the solemn service, and flash pictures are permitted at that time. Your photographer, wedding participants and guests are not permitted to take flash pictures during the ceremony. The couple is to make certain that the photographer understands this before the ceremony starts, and if you have wedding bulletins, it can be stated there.

Time exposure, "available light" photographs, and video recordings of the ceremony may be taken from the rear of nave or from the balcony, provided it does not cause any disturbance to the organist

RICE/ BIRDSEED/ CONFETTI/ FLOWER PETALS, ETC.

The guests are to be advised by the ushers that none of these is to be used.

ARRIVAL TIME BEFORE THE SERVICE

If you plan to take pictures prior to the service, your complete wedding party will need to be here several hours before the service begins. If the bride plans to dress at the church, our congregation has a Bride's Room adjacent to the Courtyard Room, which gives access to the women's rest room. Be sure to schedule your arrival with the pastor so that the church is open

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES/ FOOD/SMOKING

Alcoholic beverages are not served or consumed in or on the church property. This includes the parking lot, sidewalks, and lawn as well as the Fellowship Room and restrooms.

Food and beverages are not allowed in the church proper or sanctuary. Food and sodas are only allowed in the Fellowship room.

Smoking is strictly forbidden within the church's facility.

REHEARSAL

The rehearsal usually takes between 45 to 60 minutes. Plan to have your complete wedding party at the church **ON TIME**. If the pastor is called to attend an emergency during the rehearsal, he will have to leave. Different arrangements will be made before he leaves the rehearsal. Bring your Unity Candles to the rehearsal.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Your license must be received in the church office one week before the service.

Please note that your witnesses **MUST** be at least 16 years of age on or before the wedding day.

FEES:

Deposit due at reservation	No fee
Wedding use of church facilities including rehearsal	No fee
Fellowship Room Rental	
Reception (wedding, bridal shower, private party, etc.)	\$50
Pastor (includes service, planning, counseling)	\$250

Organist:

Weddings - Rehearsal and wedding	\$150
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Note: The American Guild of Organists guidelines state that if a guest organist is requested, then this fee still be paid to the staff organist (for his consultation.)

Bulletins:

Liturgy Preparation/formatting	\$25/hour	Bulletin Preparation (Copy Ready)	\$20/hour
Photo-copying			\$.10/copy
(The bridal party pays for the cost of the bulletin stock.)			

Custodian:

Wedding/Rehearsal	\$80
Aisle Candelabra Rental –weddings	\$0
Set-up, take-down, globe cleaning	\$80
Candles & Candelabra	\$50
Fellowship Room set up/take down	\$50

Payment:

Checks are to be made payable to the respected individuals and are due prior to the ceremony.

HYMNS:

You may prefer the guests to participate as they join you on this meaningful day, and not just be observers. In addition to choosing organ music and vocalists (solo or duet), a list of suggested hymns is found below:

- Perfect Love
- All People That on Earth Do Dwell
- Lord, When You Came as Welcome Guest
- Now Thank We All Our God
- The Lord's my Shepherd
- Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
- Blest Be the Tie That Binds
- Beautiful Savior
- Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
- Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
- Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Scripture Readings

(Genesis 2:18-24; 1:31a) 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 beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. 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 of the air and all the beasts of the field. 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 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." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

(Ruth 1:1,3-5,8-9a,14-17 NIV) In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them and they wept aloud. At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her. "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." 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 anything but death separates you and me."

(Psa 20:4 NIV) May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

(Psa 36:5-10a NIV) Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O LORD, you preserve both man and beast. How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart.

(Psa 37:3-7a NIV) Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

(Psa 100 NIV) Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

(Psa 118:1,14,24,29 NIV) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

(Prov 3:3 NIV) Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

(Prov 31:10-31 NIV or selected passages) A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

(Eccl 3:1-8 NIV) There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

(Eccl 4:9-12 NIV) Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

(Solomon Song of Songs 4:9-10a NIV) You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your

necklace. How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice! Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

(Isa 40:28-31 NIV) Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

(Jer 31:3, 10, 33b NIV) The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. “Hear the word of the LORD, O nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: ‘He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’ “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

(Hosea 2:19-20 NIV) I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the LORD.

(Mat 7:24-25 NIV) “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

(Mat 19:3-6 NIV) Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?” “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

(Mark 10:1-9 NIV) Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them. Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” “What did Moses command you?” he replied. They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.” “It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied. “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become

one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

(Luke 6:46-49 NIV) “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

(John 2:1-11 NIV) On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” “Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.” This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

(John 15:9-12 NIV) “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

(John 15:12-13, 16-17 NIV) My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.

(Rom 8:35, 38-39 NIV) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Rom 12:9-18 NIV) Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

(1 Cor 13:1-13 NIV) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

(1 Cor 16:13-4 NIV) Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.

(Gal 5:22-25 NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

(Eph 3:16-19 NIV) I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

(Eph 4:2 NIV) Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

(Eph 4:15-16 NIV) Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

(Eph 5:1-2 NIV) Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

(Eph 5:25-33 NIV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

or

(Eph 5:25,28-31,33 NIV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

(Phil 1:9 NIV) And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

(Phil 4:5-9 NIV) Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

(Col 3:12-17 NIV) Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of

Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(1 Thess. 3:12 NIV) May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

(2 Thess. 3:5 NIV) May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

(1 Tim 1:5 NIV) The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

(Heb 13:4a, 5b, 6, 8 NIV) Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(James 3:17-18; 4:7-8a NIV) But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.

(1 Peter 1:22 NIV) Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

(1 Peter 3:1-7 NIV) Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes.

Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

(1 Pet 4:8-11 NIV) Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking

the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

(1 John 4:7-21 NIV or selected verses) Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Concordia Lutheran Church Building Use Agreement

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

Day and Date requested for building use _____

Time _____ AM PM

Group size or Number of Guests _____

Our facility is a smoke-free environment. No smoking is allowed anywhere in the building including restrooms. The use of alcoholic beverages on church grounds inside or outside the building is inappropriate and not allowed. Do not leave vehicles in the parking lot overnight.

I agree to abide with these policies and to remit fees when due.

X _____ Date _____

Return this form with your deposit check. Checks made payable to: "Concordia Lutheran Church". Mail to Concordia Lutheran Church, ATTN: Secretary, 255 Douglas, So. St. Paul, MN 55075. Questions? Call our church office at 651-451-0309.



Office Use Only:

Date received _____ Date approved _____

General Use

- Sanctuary
- Sound
- Music Rental
- Hall/Kitchen
- Classroom

Custodian

Wedding Fees

Pastor

Sanctuary

Sound

Bulletin Prep

Candelabra

Candles

Custodian

Reception Fees

Fellowship Hall

Custodian

Total Fees

Deposit Rcv'd

Balance Due

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
RENTAL POLICY**

Fellowship Room Set Up/Take Down \$50.00

Courtyard Room Set Up/Take Down \$50.00

Community Groups/Schools No Charge

- ❖ The above facilities will be rented to members of Concordia Lutheran Church only. Checks should be made payable to Concordia Lutheran Church. All fees are to be paid one week prior to event.

- ❖ For community or school groups, we ask that you return the room to the configuration you found it and generally pick up at the conclusion of your event.

- ❖ Tables and chairs are available for loan on a short-term basis – on a first-come, first-serve basis. The white tables from the Fellowship Room are NOT available for rent.

Rental of tables and chairs are for the exclusive use of members only. Please contact the church office (651-451-0309) to reserve quantities required. Make deposit checks payable to Concordia Lutheran Church and leave it with the secretary in the Church Office.