

----*GUIDING PRINCIPLES
For a
CHRISTIAN WEDDING
at
St. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
BARRHEAD, ALBERTA

We believe that God established marriage and continues to bless it with His abundant and ever present support, in order that men and women might find fulfillment and joy through sharing each other's lives in the spirit of genuine love.

A wedding at St. John's, then, embraces a celebration in which God's gift of marriage is recognized and God's blessing is given.

The verb "to wed" originated in the verb "to promise". All of the elaborate planning and preparations come together in a moment of promise celebrated within a service of worship. The high point of the wedding ceremony occurs when, in the presence of God and God's people, the promises are made in the vows exchanged and God's blessing given.

The word of promise spoken in the wedding liturgy is rooted in God's promise of faithfulness to His people. We believe that the foundation for the love that marriage partners pledge to one another rests within the ultimate love God has shown to us in the person and example of Jesus. The wedding liturgy invites Christ to be a partner in your life together.

A Christian wedding is celebrated as an act of worship. As such, it includes Scripture readings, prayers and hymns. Couples are encouraged to choose the readings and hymns in consultation with the Pastor.

In a Christian marriage, God explicitly promises a divine blessing and, in a sense, to be the "unseen guest" in the household of God's people, their source of strength and renewal and the cornerstone of their family.

Marriage is a holy estate according to the ancient wedding liturgy. The assembled community, or congregation pledges to honor your marriage and to support and encourage you in your life long faithfulness to each other.

The act of marriage involves sacred vows and holy responsibilities. For that reason, a home within the church will be important to you in the days and years to come.

We believe that in baptism we become children of a gracious and forgiving God. If you or your partner is not an active member of the Church, or has not been baptized, we invite you to explore your place in God's world and a home in Christ's Church.

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