

United Free Lutheran Church

Application for Marriage

Groom's Name _____ Age _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

What is your religious background? _____

Do you presently have a church home? Yes _____ No _____

If "Yes" please complete the following:

Church name _____

Location _____

Pastor(s) or church leader reference _____ Phone _____

Have you been baptized?

Yes ___ When _____ Where _____

No ___

Have you been confirmed?

Yes ___ When _____ Where _____

No ___

How often do you attend worship service? Explain.

What are your plans for church involvement? Explain.

Why are you choosing to be married in a church? Explain.

Why have you chosen United Free Lutheran Church for your wedding? Explain.

Wedding Date _____ Time _____

Have you been married before? Yes _____ No _____

If "Yes," did your previous marriage end with: Divorce _____ Death _____

If "divorce," are you now legally divorced? Yes _____ No _____

Are there any children from your previous marriage? Yes _____ No _____

If "yes," please give their names and ages

Do any of the children live with you? Yes _____ No _____

If "Yes," which ones?

Is your fiancée pregnant? Yes _____ No _____

Have you discussed your marriage plans with another Pastor/Church? Yes _____ No _____

If "yes," please explain

After completion, please return to United Free Lutheran Church, 845 Old Ridge Road,
Greenbush, MN 56726

United Free Lutheran Church

Application for Marriage

Bride's Name _____ Age _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

What is your religious background? _____

Do you presently have a church home? Yes _____ No _____

If "Yes" please complete the following:

Church name _____

Location _____

Pastor(s) or church leader reference _____ Phone _____

Have you been baptized?

Yes ___ When _____ Where _____

No ___

Have you been confirmed?

Yes ___ When _____ Where _____

No ___

How often do you attend worship service? Explain.

What are your plans for church involvement? Explain.

Why are you choosing to be married in a church? Explain.

Why have you chosen United Free Lutheran Church for your wedding? Explain.

Wedding Date _____ Time _____

Have you been married before? Yes _____ No _____

If "Yes," did your previous marriage end with: Divorce _____ Death _____

If "divorce," are you now legally divorced? Yes _____ No _____

Are there any children from your previous marriage? Yes _____ No _____

If "yes," please give their names and ages

Do any of the children live with you? Yes _____ No _____

If "Yes," which ones?

Are you pregnant? Yes _____ No _____

Have you discussed your marriage plans with another Pastor/Church? Yes _____ No _____

If "yes," please explain

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Greenbush, MN 56726

Wedding Booklet



United Free Lutheran Church

845 Old Ridge Road

Greenbush, Minnesota 56726

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING AT UNITED FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christian marriage is a covenant of faithfulness. Such a commitment cannot be based only upon human love; it must be grounded in the steadfast and self-giving love of God. "God is Love." Without His gracious, forgiving, love-inspiring presence, marriage is not complete.

The church and its pastor are responsible to God as well as to the State in conducting marriages. In the face of increasingly distorted attitudes toward marriage, we seek to help couples married in this congregation to establish their families in a bond of Christian love firmly rooted in God's Word. We believe that God has established marriage as between one man and one woman as stated in Genesis 2:22-25.

One purpose of pre-marital counseling is to help each couple carefully lay spiritual foundations for its family and home. Therefore, the relationship of both bride and groom to Jesus Christ and the church is of vital importance. Faithful worship is essential for the spiritual life of a marriage and family.

Your marriage, even more than your wedding, deserves long-range planning with a pastor's counsel. A conscientious pastor will reserve the right to decline participation in any marriage where significant problems cannot be resolved. This is less apt to happen with long-range planning and ample time for conversation and reflection. In addition to the pastor's approval, anyone petitioning to be married in this church is to be granted permission by the majority consensus between the pastor and the board of deacons as stated in the appendix of our constitution.

ABOUT THE WEDDING SERVICE

You have chosen a Christian wedding, distinctly different from a civil wedding. It should in every respect be worshipful, inviting the presence of Christ Himself, joyful, yet reverent.

The order of service, based upon the liturgies of the Lutheran Church, will offer some options and flexibility enabling you to craft a service fitting to you and praiseworthy to Christ. A list of scripture lessons and wedding hymns are provided here, and the pastor can offer suggestions for good music.

Your wedding is a public act, symbolic of the reality that your lives and marriage rely upon and affect many other people. You invite not only Christ, but other loved ones to witness your covenant and the beauty of this special moment. Share the vows, and hear God's Word. You do your guests a courtesy when you consider their participation in the service.

May God Guide and bless your thoughtful planning for a wedding and marriage that will enjoy His heavenly benediction "for as long as you both shall live!"

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Pastors--All marriages performed at United Free Lutheran Church will be performed under the guidance and direction of its pastor. A relative or a friend of the bride or groom, who is a pastor, may assist in the wedding ceremony with the permission of the pastor of United Free. The invitation to a guest pastor should be made through the pastor of United Free Lutheran Church.

Premarital Preparation and Discipleship

1. Twelve hours of premarital preparation is usually required, done by United's pastor, or by another means approved by him and the deacons. Since marriage is a life-changing event, adequate preparation is required for both of you to transition into this state together.

2. In addition to this, church membership classes may be required. Unless there are unusual circumstances, it is best you are both members of the same local church body, especially for your children's sake.

Organist --It is advisable to use one of the organists from United Free. He/she is acquainted with the organ and is experienced in playing for weddings. If a guest organist is desired, prior arrangements must be made with the pastor.

Tech or Sound Persons--Sound equipment for any of our functions will be run by our trained sound engineers.

Wedding Music-- United Free has as its policy the following:

1. We believe that marriage is an institution ordained by God: therefore, music that is a part of a Christian wedding should have a Christian emphasis. The pastor must approve wedding music.

2. The selection of music for your wedding service should be made in consultation with the pastor. Plan to confer with him before you make any decisions or arrangements involving music or musicians. Your decisions about music should be made with the following guidelines in mind.

a. The wedding ceremony is an act of Christian worship. The Christian tradition provides the setting for the service.

b. Wedding music should reflect the praise of God, God's steadfast love in Christ as the foundation of and model for the marriage, and the asking of God's presence and blessing. Some music is clearly very suitable for this

purpose and some may be a matter of debate. One convenient guide is to ask yourself if the music would seem appropriate for a Sunday service of worship.

c. If congregational involvement is desired, it may work well to include a congregational hymn in the wedding service.

d. The implementation of these guidelines is left to the discretion of the pastor.

Purity Covenant-- Couples being married in the church or as a part of the church's ministry shall sign and adhere to the Purity Covenant, unless unusual circumstances dictate otherwise, in which case special approval by the pastor and the Board of Deacons must be granted.

Wedding Bulletins--Use of wedding bulletins is optional. If you wish to use bulletins they can be purchased from most floral shops, and they can arrange for their printing. Or, they can be purchased from and printed at any print shop. Consultation with the pastor concerning the order of service must be done before the bulletin is sent for printing. See suggested order of a wedding service for bulletins toward the end of this booklet.

Wedding Coordinator--Couples may find it helpful and necessary to have a wedding coordinator. Obtaining the help of such a person is the responsibility of the bride.

Since the pastor presides over the wedding service, and is responsible to see that all is done in "good order" and in "good taste," the Wedding Coordinator will need to consult with the pastor concerning wedding plans.

Hosts-- It is recommended that there be two sets of hosts/hostesses for the wedding. Traditionally, arrangement for this has been the responsibility of the bride. Host/hostesses are responsible for such things as greeting the guests, directing them where to take the gifts, where to go to sign the guest book, where the rest rooms are located, where to go for the reception, etc. Therefore, it is helpful that the hosts/hostesses be familiar with the church facility.

Guest Book--The guest book is placed in the narthex for the guests to sign prior to or after the service.

Wedding Gifts--Two people should be asked to be in the church narthex to accept gifts brought to the wedding and place them on the table provided in the narthex or fellowship hall for that purpose. Arrangements for the set-up of this table should be made with the pastor at least one day before the wedding.

Aisle Cloth--Use of an aisle cloth is optional. Most floral shops have very nice (disposable) aisle cloths for purchase at a very reasonable cost. If an aisle cloth is to be used, it should be taped down prior to the service.

Set-Up--The church will automatically be reserved the day before the wedding for rehearsal as well as for set-up and any other decoration that may need to be done.

Clean-Up-- Church custodians will ensure that the church is clean before and after the wedding. However, it is expected that the families of the wedding party remove from the church all personal belongings following the wedding, before leaving the church.

Decorations--The bride is responsible for decorating the sanctuary and fellowship hall (for the reception). All bulletin boards are to be left alone. Bows may be attached to the pews if this can be done without the use of tacks.

Dressing Rooms--Bridal party women can make use of the Sunday school class rooms. Men should be dressed before coming to the church.

Alcohol & Tobacco--Principals of the wedding party are responsible for seeing that indulgence in alcoholic beverages before the rehearsal or the wedding is discouraged. Under NO circumstances are alcoholic beverages or tobacco to be used on church grounds or in the church building at any time.

Rice--No rice, wheat, birdseed, confetti or other such items are to be thrown (or allowed) in the church building. A couple may be charged for additional cleaning if the policy is ignored.

Fees--A service is being provided for you by the church and its volunteers and staff to help make your wedding day one of special beauty and lasting remembrance. Keep this in mind when considering your fees and other donations. Fees and donations are customarily the responsibility of the bride or the bride's family; the exception is any voluntary gift to the pastor, which is traditionally taken care of by the groom.

As for wedding fees/charges, please consult your fee schedule as to the exact amounts. All fees are to be paid at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

Marriage License--Purchasing the marriage license is the responsibility of the bride and groom. Licenses are purchased at the local courthouse, and should be done in a timely manner.

The marriage license should be brought to the church office at least one week prior to the wedding.

Wedding Certificate--following the wedding, the pastor will need the signature of two witnesses before the ceremony is completely finalized. The bride and groom should notify the two individuals who are to sign the marriage license that they are to meet with the pastor in his office following the wedding ceremony for this purpose.

Rehearsal--Ask all involved in the rehearsal to be on time. Rehearsing itself lasts about 45 minutes. If you have a wedding bulletin, please bring a few to the pastor during the week prior to the wedding, so that we are sure to have one during the rehearsal.

Ushers--Ushers act as hosts on behalf of the family. They should be at the rehearsal and at the church at least 1 hour before the wedding. They are responsible for the following:

- Lights, if needed
- Ushering guests to the pews as instructed
- Candle lighting/extinguishing, if requested
- Help prevent throwing of rice, etc. in the church

Reception--Traditionally, the bride (and her family) is responsible for the reception.

The fellowship hall of the church is available for the reception. Receptions at the church must be planned with the Facilities Use Coordinator, whose name shall be supplied by the pastor. After consulting with the pastor, verifying dates, etc. the bride should contact the Facilities Use Coordinator as soon as possible.

Photographs--No flash pictures are to be taken during the service by guests or a hired photographer. It is suggested that formal pictures be taken before the wedding.

Videotaping may be done if it can be done discreetly. The video-cam operator must consult with the pastor as from where best to videotape.

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The Wedding Booklet is the work of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons, and is subject to change by the same as circumstances require.

Original: February 2012
Updated: November 2022

THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE

Before solemnizing a marriage the Pastor shall diligently inquire: first, as to whether the union contemplated be in accordance with the Word of God; second, whether it be in accordance with the laws of the state. An official marriage license must be given to the Pastor before the ceremony. The Pastor is legally responsible to ensure that his license or ordination credentials are registered in the state where the wedding takes place and then to mail or deliver the signed license to the licensing office or courthouse in a timely manner. No marriage shall be solemnized unless the Pastor is convinced that God's blessing may be asked upon it.

In church, the service shall begin with an appropriate hymn or other sacred music during which the Pastor goes before the altar. When the singing has ended, the persons to be married shall present themselves before the altar rail, the groom to the right if the bride.

Pastor:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

Parents: ***Her mother and I do.**

(*Or other appropriate response such as: I do or We do.)

The father of the bride may then give the hand of his daughter to the groom, and then return to his seat.

Pastor:

Beloved in the Lord:

Inasmuch as marriage is a holy estate ordained by God, and to be held in honor by all, those who desire to be married should search for God's will and know what God's Word has to say about marriage. Our Lord Jesus taught:

And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them .from the beginning made them male and female, and said, for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate" (Matthew19:-4-6).

38 Ministerial Acts

Remember that Jesus our Lord was invited to the wedding in Cana of Galilee. He gladly accepted that invitation and sat down to celebrate with the bride and groom. It was at this wedding where Jesus performed His first miracle, revealing His glory and blessing this couple. In the same way, ask the Lord Jesus to be the guest of honor at your wedding and as the head of your new home. May *you* keep Jesus as the Lord of your lives and may you grow in His Word and in His Church. Then the Lord will make His glory known to you, so that you may be strong in faith, sanctified in the truth, and kept from all evil.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:4-7).

And finally, take to heart that Word of God which says:

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another (John 13:34).

And

Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant (Matthew 20:26).

For those who enter into the estate of marriage are above all to love and serve one another. As you are of the same heart, so be of the same mind in all things. Don't let bitterness or anger have a place in your hearts, but pray with and for each other. Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. Mutually share the trials of this life, but above all help one another in the way of eternal life. And the God of peace sanctify you wholly, that your spirit and soul and body may be preserved entire and without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Additional Scriptures may be read by the Pastor or designated person.

MESSAGE

VOWS

Pastor to the bridegroom:

I ask you _____ (Bridegroom's full name without title) in the presence of God and this assembly: Will you have _____ (Bride's full name) to be your wedded wife?

Answer: **I will.**

Will you live with her according to God's Holy Word, love and honor her in both good and evil days, and keep yourself only unto her until death do you part?

Answer: **I will.**

Pastor to the bride:

In the same manner, I ask you _____ (Bride's full name): Will you have _____ (Bridegroom's full name) to be your wedded husband?

Answer: **I will.**

Will you live with him according to God's Holy Word, love and honor him in both good and evil days, and keep yourself only unto him until death do you part?

Answer: **I will.**

*The couple may repeat the following vows to each other after the Pastor:
Bridegroom takes brides' right hand, faces her and repeats:*

I, _____, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, _____ to be my wife, 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, according to God's Holy Word.

Bride repeats:

I, _____, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, _____, to be my husband, 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, and I promise to be faithful to you until death separates us.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

The bridegroom and the bride now exchange rings. The best man hands the rings to the Pastor who gives the ring to the bridegroom. The bridegroom places the ring on the fourth finger of her left hand as the following words are read by the Pastor and repeated by the bridegroom:

Receive this ring/ as a pledge and token/ of wedded love and faithfulness.

If two rings are used, the Pastor repeats the preceding promise for the bride.

Pastor:

Please join your right hands.

Pastor places his hand upon the joined hands of the couple and announces;

Because you have agreed to live together in the holy estate of marriage, and have promised to do this before God and this assembly, and have joined your right hands together, I pronounce you husband and wife in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

If the couple desires to use a unity candle, they may light it at this time.

The two individual candles may be lit from an altar candle or be lit with the other candles at the beginning of the ceremony. The individual candles are to be extinguished after the lighting of the unity candle symbolizing that the couple are no longer two, but one flesh.

The couple may kneel at this point in the service.

Pastor:

All things are made holy by the Word of God and prayer. Let us therefore pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ:

Merciful God and Father, you have ordained marriage and promised your love and faithfulness to those who come with sincere hearts, trusting in all that our Savior Jesus has done for us. Let your blessing rest upon this bridal couple. Fulfill in them your love, that they may be one, as you are one. Look in mercy upon them and upon all who are in this special relationship of marriage.

Strengthen them by the power of your Holy Spirit, that in both good and difficult days they may place their trust in you alone and so in mutual love help one another on the way to eternal life. Amen.

OR

Lord God, Heavenly Father, you who created man and woman, and joined them together in marriage, let your blessing rest upon these servants of yours who have now been united in the promise of holy matrimony. We ask for your infinite mercy, that the sacredness of marriage be graciously upheld and that your divine purpose would be accomplished in their hearts and home through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

The Pastor invites the couple and the congregation to pray the Lord's Prayer.

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.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The couple may now rise.

*Pastor: (*The Pastor may say: You may now kiss your bride).*

The Pastor announces: I present to you Mr. and Mrs. _____.

When several couples are united in marriage in one service, each couple shall be asked the same questions and vows. After the vows and exchange of rings, the ceremony continues addressing all who are married.

**Items marked with an asterisk are optional, or may be changed.*



A SUGGESTED ORDER FOR WEDDING BULLETINS

THE WEDDING CELEBRATION
OF

AND

DATE TIME
UNITED FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH
GREENBUSH, MINNESOTA

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude	Title
*	Title
Processional	Title
Invocation	
*	Title
Scripture Readings	
Sermonette	
*	Title
Exchange of Vows	
Exchange of Rings	
*	Title
Unity Candle	
The Blessing & Prayers	
*	Title
Benediction	
Recessional	Title
Postlude	

Officiant	Pastor's Name
Soloist	Name
Organist	Name

* Asterisks denote points at which sacred music might come.

THE WEDDING PARTY

Maid of Honor	Name
Bridesmaids	Name
Best Man	Name
Groomsmen	Name
Flower Girl	Name
Ring Bearer	Name
Ushers	Name
Guest Book	Name
Flowers	Name
Gift Attendants	Name

PARENTS

Bride's Parents	Name
Groom's Parents	Name

GRANDPARENTS OR SPECIAL GUESTS

Bride's Grandparents or Special Guests	Name
Groom's Grandparents or Special Guests	Name

THE RECEPTION PARTY

Hosts & Hostesses	Name
Cake Servers	Name
Coffee Servers	Name
Punch Servers	Name

THANK YOU FROM BRIDE & GROOM

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31
Genesis 2:18-25
Psalms 33; 100; 117: 127; 128; 136;
148; 150

Ruth 1:16-18
Isaiah 63:7-9
Solomon 2:10-13
Solomon 8:6-7

New Testament

Matthew 7:24-27
Matthew 19:4-6
John 2:1-10
John 15:9-12
Acts 16:31
Romans 12:1-2
Romans 15:5-6
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 or 13:4-8a

Ephesians 3:17-20
Ephesians 5:21-33
Philippians 4:4-9
Colossians 2:6-7
1 Peter 4:8
1 John 4:7-12,17-19
Jude 21

Couples will do well to read these and suggest selections to be read. Typically, one or two Scripture passages are read, and the brief sermon may be based on one of these, or on yet another passage of your choosing. Communicate these to your pastor when planning your service. Attention could also be paid to carry the theme of the sermon message in choosing your wedding hymn.

SUGGESTED WEDDING HYMNS

From the Ambassador Hymnal

#171 Praise To The Lord, The Almighty
#185 Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven
#226 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
#325 Our Father, By Whose Name
#386 O Perfect Love
#387 Crown with Thy Benediction
#388 Hear Us Now, Our God and Father
#389 Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer
#566 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
#572 O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

SUGGESTED SOLOS

A Wedding Blessing	Walter Pelz
When Two Become One	Melody J. Dyer
The Wedding Prayer	Mary Rice
The Bridal Prayer	Albert Hay Malotte
The Lord's Prayer	Albert Hay Malotte
Two Candles	Sonny Salsbury
Wedding Prayer	Fern Glasgow Dunlap
Whither Thou Goest	Guy Singer
God, A Woman and A Man	
He Has Chosen You For Me	
This Is The Day	
With This Ring	
In This Quiet Hour	

SUGGESTED PROCESSIONALS

Trumpet Voluntary	Prince Denmark's March
E Triumphant	Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach
Prelude In Class. Style	Ode To Joy - Beethoven
Canon In D Major	Hornpipe
Canon In D Pachelbel	Fugue in C Major
The Rejoicing - Handel	Wedding March - Felix Mendelssohn

GUIDELINES FOR A GOOD WEDDING REHEARSAL

The purpose of a rehearsal is to assure all of us that your marriage service will be as beautiful and as inspiring as possible through careful planning.

1. If you have a wedding bulletin, please bring a few so we will know your exact Order of Service.
2. Ask all involved to please be on time! Rehearsing itself lasts about 45 minutes.
3. Ushers should be at the rehearsal to receive instructions and to become familiar with the service and the church building.
4. Anyone involved in the wedding service (bride's escort, flower girl, ring bearer, etc.) should be at the rehearsal.
5. If an aisle cloth is to be used, it should be taped down prior to the service.
6. Review plans for the use of:
 - Candelabrum in chancel and aisle
 - Flower Stands
 - Unity Candle
 - Sound or Video recording
7. Decide the location of receiving line and who will be in it.
8. Practice actual marching in and out, etc.
9. Clarify what names are to be used in the vows and prayers.
10. Clarify pronunciation of names involved in wedding party.
11. Clarify if the couple wants "closing introduction."

CHECKLIST

_____ Has the church been reserved with definite date and time?

_____ Has the rehearsal date and time been set?

_____ Has pre-marriage counseling been arranged for?

_____ Has president of the WMF been contacted if a reception is held at the church?

_____ Has the pastor been contacted and is the music for organ, soloist, and/or congregation agreed upon?

_____ Has the Wedding Information Sheet been completed?

_____ Has the entire party (parents included) been notified to be at the rehearsal?

_____ Has the pastor been notified (in advance) as to whether he is expected to be at the rehearsal dinner?

_____ Is the photographer secured and arrangements for pictures made?

_____ Is the marriage license in the church office?

_____ Have donations, gifts, and fees been paid?

Wedding Information--Form B

Groom's Name _____ Phone _____

Bride's Name _____ Phone _____

Wedding Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Wedding Date _____ Time _____

Wedding Reception _____ Time _____

Maid/Matron of Honor _____

Best Man _____

Bridesmaids

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Groomsmen

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Flower Girl _____

Ring Bearer _____

Ushers

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

Candlelighters

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
|----------|----------|

Organist _____

Soloist _____

Special Music _____

Scripture _____

Unity Candle _____ Candelabra _____ Banner _____

Vows _____ Prayers _____