



Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Authorization for a Synodically-Authorized Layperson to Officiate at a Wedding

Weddings performed by SAWLs must meet the following criteria:

- 1) At least one of the partners must be a member of the congregation. Marriages for non-members or relatives of members are not permitted.
- 2) The Congregation Council must authorize the SAWL to conduct weddings for members of the congregation.
- 3) The synodical bishop must authorize the wedding to be conducted, with a copy of the authorization returned to the SAWL.
- 4) SAWLs, under the supervision of an ordained pastor, must ensure that all paperwork is properly executed and the marriage license returned to the proper county for validation following the wedding.
- 5) The wedding must be entered into the Parish Register as an official act of the church.
- 6) Laypersons may not officiate at weddings in New Mexico, Oklahoma, or Louisiana.

Partner 1: _____ Member of the Congregation? ____

Partner 2: _____ Member of the Congregation? ____

Date of Wedding: _____

Congregation President Signature: _____

SAWL Printed Name: _____

SAWL Signature: _____

Bishop's Signature: _____

Congregation Name and Address: _____
