

2026

Edgerton Enterprise

Complete Bridal Guide

April 2026



Finding perspective through the Lens

Jill Fennema

What began as a junior-high hobby with a family digital camera has grown into a creative business rooted in storytelling, connection and perspective for Elizabeth Tinklenberg, founder of ZIL Productions.

Now a college student at the University of Sioux Falls, Liz officially began pursuing photography professionally in 2024 during her sophomore year. After second shooting weddings for another photographer in the summer of 2025, she discovered a particular love for documenting wedding days and began marketing her work through social media.

“I realized I really enjoyed capturing weddings,” Liz said. “There’s something special about being trusted with such an important day.”

Her interest in videography developed just as organically. As a child, she created short iMovies on her family’s iPad and later spent time vlogging (video blogging) and editing videos throughout high school. In the summer of 2025, a close friend asked her to create a wedding video — an experience that opened the door to offering both photography and videography services professionally.

While weddings are a growing focus of ZIL Productions, Liz does not limit herself to a

single niche. During the winter months, she frequently photographs sporting events, while summers are filled with senior sessions and weddings.

“I enjoy every type of photography too much to pick just one,” she said. “Switching up what I’m taking photos of helps me stay creative.”

Her approach to wedding photography emphasizes preparation, communication, and presence. In the months leading up to a wedding, Liz works closely with couples to help plan timelines that prioritize their experience rather than the schedule.

“This is their wedding day,” she said. “I want them focused on each other, not the timeline or the photos. My job is to capture the day in a way that lets them be present and intentional.”

Her videography style is more observational. Often working alongside a photographer’s established timeline, she focuses on multiple angles, behind-the-scenes footage and the quieter moments that unfold naturally throughout the day.

“Those small moments are what make a wedding video feel personal and unique,” Liz said.

Spending 10 to 12 hours with couples on a wedding day — along with meetings and calls beforehand — al-



Liz prides herself on capturing the wedding day details.

lows her to build meaningful relationships with clients. That connection, she said, is one of the most rewarding aspects of wedding work.

“There isn’t one specific wedding that confirmed this path for me,” she said. “But every time a couple shares private vows or when the groom sees his bride walking down the aisle, I fall in love with weddings all over again.”

Balancing emotional intimacy with professionalism requires intention. Liz discusses expectations with couples during the planning process, explaining when and how intimate moments will be captured. When those moments arrive, she steps back and documents them from a distance.

“Communication is everything,” she said. “The more comfortable couples feel around me and my camera, the more authentic their photos and videos will be.”

As a new business owner, Liz has faced challenges — particularly the high cost of professional photography and videography equipment. While balancing college coursework, she also edits client galleries and works two to three additional jobs to support her growing business.

“It sounds like a lot, but I love staying busy,” she said. “I know it will all pay off someday.”

Helping clients feel comfortable in front of the camera is another priority. Liz offers clear posing guidance while also allowing time for candid moments to unfold naturally.



Liz Tinklenberg is the owner of ZIL Productions. She offers still photography as well as videography.

“Everyone is different,” she said. “I make sure couples don’t feel pressure to know what to do. I’ll guide them, but I also want to capture who they really are.”

Liz has noticed wedding trends shifting toward more personalized celebrations. While traditional elements remain, couples are increasingly designing days that reflect their personalities, often incorporating bold floral colors, black-and-white palettes and film photography — a trend she especially enjoys.

Several mentors have influenced her work, including photographer Anna Bucher, whom she first second shot for, and University of Sioux Falls media professor Nick Poppens. The name ZIL Productions itself reflects a personal influence: her older brother, Josiah Liz.

“ZIL is just ‘Liz’ spelled backward,” she said. “It’s about perspective — looking at things differently and choosing to see the good in every situation.”

Looking ahead, Liz hopes to continue growing ZIL Productions over the next five to ten years. While making the business a full-time career would



Elizabeth says part of her approach is to look at things differently.

be a dream, she says the work itself is what matters most.

“I’ve already been incredibly blessed by this,” she said. “No matter where it leads, I’ll keep working hard because I love what I do.”



Balancing emotional intimacy with professionalism requires intention. Elizabeth discusses expectations with couples during the planning process, explaining when and how intimate moments will be captured.




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Fulda American Legion offers flexible, affordable option for wedding celebrations

Jill Fennema

For couples looking for a wedding reception space that is practical, welcoming, and budget-friendly, the Fulda American Legion and Community Hall continues to be a popular local choice.

Managed by Barb Kruger, the facility offers room for up to 400 guests, making it well-suited for both large wedding receptions and more intimate gatherings. The building is owned by the City of Fulda, while the American Legion covers utilities and ongoing upkeep – an arrangement that helps keep rental costs accessible for the community.

Currently, the rental fee for a wedding is \$500. Smaller events, such as meetings or birthday parties, rent for \$200. Kruger said that affordability has long been a priority for the Legion, allowing families to host meaningful celebrations without excessive expense.

The hall includes a full kitchen, bar area, and ample seating. Rectangular tables and plenty of chairs are provided, though couples hoping for round tables are welcome to bring them in. The kitchen is equipped with refrigerators, freezers, generous sink space, and numerous electrical outlets, including separate circuits capable of supporting items like roasters or even an ice cream machine in the corner.

Alcohol service is handled exclusively through the Legion, with no outside alcohol allowed. Couples may bring in champagne or another beverage for a toast, but otherwise beverage sales

are how the Legion generates revenue. The bar is staffed by three trained bartenders, and Kruger works closely with couples to determine what types of alcohol they would like available for their guests. A wide variety is offered, and special requests can often be accommodated.

One increasingly popular option is drink tickets, which allow the bride's or groom's family to purchase beverages for guests. "It's a nice way to treat everyone," Kruger said, noting that many couples appreciate the flexibility.

Another benefit for wedding parties is the ability to decorate and set up the day before the event, typically on Friday. While the Legion is open to the public on Friday nights and generally does not rent out the hall exclusively that evening, couples can still come in earlier in the day to prepare. Tear-down arrangements are flexible and depend on whether anything is scheduled for Sunday. Kruger tries to avoid booking events the following day when possible, though some standing Sunday events do occur.

Cleanup expectations are straightforward. Renters are responsible for putting tables and chairs away and cleaning up their own décor and belongings, but they are not required to mop the floors.

The Legion places few restrictions on catering. Any licensed caterer is welcome, giving couples freedom to choose menus that fit their tastes and budgets.

One thing couples should be aware of is that advertising signs on the walls must



Rectangular tables and plenty of chairs are provided, depending on the arrangement up to 400 people can be seated.

remain uncovered. Those ads help fund the purchase of chairs and equipment, which in turn helps keep rental fees low. Businesses pay \$75 per

year for the ad space.

Beyond weddings, the Fulda American Legion and Community Hall plays a significant role in the broader community. The space regularly hosts benefit events for families affected by tragedy or cancer and is the site of an annual ambulance benefit. While the Legion is open only on Friday nights and does not

hold a food license, its focus remains on service, connection, and support.

For couples planning a wedding reception that values simplicity, flexibility, and a strong sense of community, the Fulda American Legion offers a space where celebrations feel both personal and meaningful—without losing sight of practicality.



Some folks prefer to bring in their own round tables for special occasions like this quinceañera.



The bride and her father enjoy their dance at the Fulda Community Center.



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Bridal store brings joy

Denise DeKam

Weddings can be as diversified as the likes and dislikes of both the groom and bride. And while this can also include the apparel worn by the wedding party, the wedding dress has been an iconic symbol for a vast majority of wedding ceremonies.

Just like all fashion, it will evolve over time. Apparel, including the wedding dress, can also be influenced by cultural traditions and personal expression. The largest influence on the wedding dress is credited to Queen Victoria's choice of a white gown in 1840.

When Queen Victoria married Prince Albert in a white gown, this was a departure from the traditional use of colorful dresses. Her choice popularized the choice of a white wedding dress and became the preferred color for brides, influencing fashion trends since then.

Over the years and from generation to generation, wedding dresses have undergone significant transformations. It is fun to look back at wedding dresses worn by our grandmothers and mothers and compare those changes. Features such as corsets, high necklines, full skirts to relaxed flapper inspired, a beautiful variety of necklines, veils to hats, puffy sleeves, different lengths for both the dress and veil, and color are all details that have graced the weddings of brides of many cultures.

For the wedding itself, each couple formulates their plans to fit their personalities along with religious and cultural influences. The one staple in



the vast majority of weddings is the wedding dress.

This is where Tyana's Bridal in Luverne can make a bride's dreams come true. Amy Van Essen and her staff are ready to make each bride's experience a Cinderella magic, "Say yes to the dress" reality, and help each bride discover and create the dress of their dreams.

Amy Van Essen opened Tyana's Bridal on Mother's Day weekend in 2025. Approaching her one-year anniversary, Amy is so thankful for how many brides she has been able to assist in finding THE dress.

There have been shifts in the apparel retail business, but even with the changes Amy found a love in the retail realm with the bridal industry. Amy enjoys using her gifts and talents for that one-to-one personalized customer connection and service. The customer service you will receive reflects Amy's commitment and love of her faith and her family. Amy and her husband, Mark, have four children and three grandchildren with whom she enjoys spending time when she is not at Tyana's either close to home or travels.

Amy and her staff of five regular and part-time consultants strive to provide, and what brides experience, is a relaxed, no-time limit appointment. Tyana's Bridal is a calm, quaint, and comfy environment that is both joyful and fun for the employees, but more importantly for the brides and their family and friends. There is a great selection of dresses from a-line, sheath, fit and flare, mermaid, and curvy styles for all brides to select from to find their dress. The designers Amy selects her dresses from are Justin Alexander, Cizzy, MonCheri, Morilee, and Allure. Also, having no limit on the number of dresses the bride may try on, the appointment gives a bride time to find a dress with the undivided attention of caring, professional attendants. For every appointment, Amy and her staff aim to have two



Amy Van Essen (inset photo) is enjoying the bridal retail business and pictured is a small portion of the dresses for brides to select to try on.

attendants for each bride to answer questions and keep the appointment at the fullest level of customer service. One regular employee helps manage the day-to-day tasks including scheduling appointments and alteration appointments.

An additional joy of the retail business is the many different individuals Amy, as a bridal business owner, gets to interact with. Tyana's Bridal has been blessed by local brides who have purchased their dress, but the cliental has also included a substantial number of brides from a circumference of two to three hours driving distance.

Bridal marketing shows, social media, and word of mouth have helped promote

the success of the bridal store and the expressed appreciation of a beautiful experience at Tyana's. While brides give their experience a 5-star rating, Amy continues to be deeply encouraged and touched by the smiles and tears shared when the bride finds THE dress. Those are "payments" with unlimited value. Amy shares, "Nothing is more rewarding than watching a bride's face light up when she has found her perfect dress."

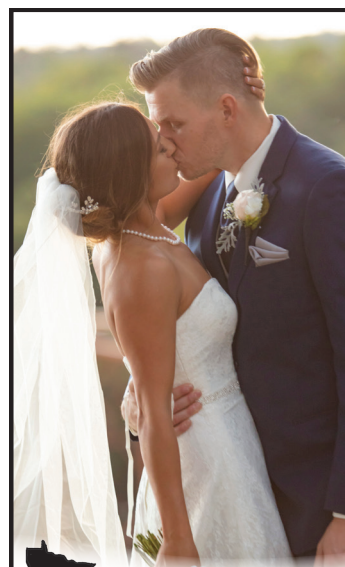
After a bride finds THE dress, she has the fun memory making moment of signing the dress at the entrance of the boutique with what will be her new married name. This moment, with taking pictures with the "I Said Yes

to the Dress – Tyana's Bridal" sign, is the exclamation mark to their exquisite appointment.

Can't forget the moms!

The bride and groom are the focus of the wedding day, but we don't want to overlook the moms and moms-in-law for the day. Tyana's Bridal is also able to assist many moth-

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The Art of Alterations

Denise DeKam
On your wedding day, the next chapter of your love story begins. Your wedding day is filled with many breathtaking moments from pictures captured, vows expressed, and especially the moment the bride walks down the aisle.

Getting to that moment required some planning and finding THE dress. Even the most exquisite dress can have a fitting problem, but with skilled alterations the dress will become like a second skin that feels molded to the bride for a full day of comfort, which brings confidence, and ready for moving, sitting, and dancing!

Making this happen is the true artistry of alterations. Teresa Wieneke has enjoyed the beauty of this art for over 34 years. Teresa, business owner for 30 years, is the proprietor of Simply Elegant by Teresa located at 211 East Main Street in Luverne (right next to Tyana's Bridal). Teresa started in professional sewing in creating custom dresses, not alterations, with a focus on custom wedding gowns,

prom dresses, figure skating, and dance costumes. Custom dress making, along with the other dress and costume options, has given Teresa an immense amount of experience and skill development to the alteration platform.

Teresa opened her storefront business in Luverne in May of 2025. Before the location in Luverne, Teresa was conducting business out of her home by Adrian. She is originally from the Sauk Center and Osakis area, where she worked at a bridal store. Teresa moved to the Adrian area after her marriage to her husband, Chad. They have three children. The busy life at home was part of the decision to move the business to Luverne. A storefront allows the separation from business and home and provides a more structured schedule for Teresa. It allows a couple of days for alterations and other days for sewing.

Teresa has one other regular employee who assists with the variety of alterations done at the store. An additional employee schedules the alterations and helps with some of the detail

work on the dresses.

Teresa works on a variety of dresses and her goal for every customer is "they deserve to look amazing in their dress, to look and feel amazing." Alterations means sculpting the fabric to enhance the natural shape and provide comfort throughout the day. Alterations can include, but are not limited to, intricate lace-work, delicate embellishments, complex internal structures, hems, adding layers for an added wow factor, bra cup adjustments to enhance shape and lift, and straps and/or sleeves added.

When a customer has an appointment for alterations, they should bring the shoes and undergarments they plan to wear with the dress. The initial appointment will include discussion on style modifications, custom touches envisioned by the customer, and setting up the remainder of appointments that will be required. Typically, 2-4 fittings are required. These fittings will focus on bust support, hem length, waist contouring, sleeve and neckline fit, and fabric flow. The bustle for the dress is added for the ease of move-



Teresa Wieneke owns Simply Elegant by Teresa in Luverne. She sews and alters wedding dresses.

ment post-ceremony. The last step is making sure the dress fits perfectly, is steamed, and ready for the event day.

Popular alteration requests include sweetheart, off-shoulder,

and deep V necklines. Sleeves can be shortened or removed. Open backs are adjusted for elegance and support. Your dress has a slit, but you don't want as

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Teresa opened her storefront business in Luverne in May of 2025. Before the location in Luverne, Teresa was conducting business out of her home by Adrian. A store front allows the separation from business and home and provides a more structured schedule for Teresa. It allows a couple of days for alterations and other days for sewing. Teresa has one other regular employee who assists with the variety of alterations done at the store. An additional employee schedules the alterations and helps with some of the detail work on the dresses.

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Wedding Trends: *Rustic Charm Meets Modern Style*

Wedding styles may evolve each year, but one thing remains consistent: couples want their wedding day to reflect their personality and values. Across the country, weddings range from glamorous ballroom affairs to intimate backyard celebrations. In many rural communities, however, western and rustic aesthetics continue to dominate, blending timeless traditions with a few modern touches.

From color palettes and flowers to photography and family attire, here's a look at some of the trends shaping weddings today.

Rustic and Western Themes Still Popular

In many rural areas, barn weddings and outdoor ceremonies remain among the most popular choices. Couples often seek venues that already have natural character—historic barns, countryside landscapes, or family farms.

Rustic weddings typically feature simple but elegant décor such as wooden tables, mason jars, lanterns, and greenery. Western-inspired weddings are also common in agricultural regions, incorporating cowboy boots, denim jackets, leather accents, or even horse-drawn entrances.

Despite the rustic feel, today's couples often mix traditional elements with more modern touches. Soft lighting is especially popular. String lights, Edison bulbs, and candles can transform a barn or outdoor reception area into a warm and inviting space once evening falls. Wedding planners and venues frequently highlight these lighting styles as a defining feature of modern rustic weddings.

Popular Wedding Color Palettes

Wedding color palettes tend to shift with trends, but several

combinations have been especially popular in recent years.

Soft, romantic tones remain a favorite choice. Many couples are selecting colors such as sage green, dusty rose, buttercream yellow, and ivory for a look that feels both classic and relaxed. These shades pair well with rustic venues and outdoor settings.

Other trending color combinations include powder blue and white for a timeless and elegant look, as well as soft pastel palettes that feel fresh for spring and summer weddings. Lifestyle publication *Southern Living* has noted that powder blue has recently surged in popularity for bridesmaid dresses and wedding décor.

Earthy tones also remain common, particularly for fall weddings. Colors such as rust, terracotta, sage, caramel, and warm neutrals complement natural landscapes and barn venues.

For couples seeking a more formal feel, the classic black-and-white palette still remains a popular choice for evening receptions.

In rural settings, many couples gravitate toward colors that blend naturally with the surrounding environment—greens, creams, muted pinks, and warm earth tones that echo the countryside.

Photography and Videography

Capturing the memories of the day remains one of the most valued parts of a wedding.

According to wedding planning website The Knot, about 87 percent of couples hire a professional wedding photographer, making photography one of the most common vendor services at weddings today.

Videography has also become more popular in recent years. The Knot reports that about 37 percent of couples now hire a wedding videographer, a notice-

able increase compared to past decades when video coverage was less common.

Many couples choose to hire both professionals. Photographers capture timeless still images of the ceremony and portraits, while videographers document the movement and emotion of the day, from the vows and speeches to the first dance.

Wedding Budgets and Priorities

Wedding budgets can vary widely depending on the size of the guest list, the venue, and the level of formality.

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In many rural areas, barn weddings and outdoor ceremonies remain among the most popular choices. Couples often seek venues that already have natural character—historic barns and countryside landscapes.



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The bright, relaxed and inviting area of Tyana's Bridal. Brides have the beautiful experience of finding a dress during their no time limit or dress limit appointment with the staff at Tyana's.

Bridal store brings joy

Continued from Page 4

ers/mothers-in-law find a dress they will enjoy wearing for the full day. These women desire their special dress too, and Amy and her crew have been able to check that box of finding and buying a dress for moms and grandmothers. Just like bridal dresses, Tyana's "mom" dresses have great structure to support silhouettes of young to mature women. The phrase of "that would not look good on me" has been excitedly dismissed when Amy and her staff encourage someone to try on a dress and they are in awe what the dress looks and feels like. Just another enjoyable and delightful reward to helping someone see all the possibilities in a dress for their special occasion.

Just as all brides and moms are different, Tyana's has a great selection of dresses in a variety of styles and sizes for brides and moms to try on. Amy purchases the dresses for her store at bridal markets and through direct contacts with designers and their company. The average cost for a wedding dress is \$1,500.



Along with the great selection of wedding dresses, Tyana's also has a great selection of "mom" dresses to choose from.

After the purchase

Each dress will fit each bride and mom differently and that is where alterations come in. Tyana's has the seamless arrangement with Simply Elegant by Teresa (see separate article on this business along with a fun fact about both owners) in the same building in the companion store front to perform the needed alterations and custom work to make each dress

fulfill the vision and dreams of each bride and mom.

If you are a bride or mom who may still need a dress for an upcoming wedding, Amy and her staff would love to help you find THE dress. The store is located at 211 East Main Street in Luverne. You may make an appointment online - <https://www.tyanasbridal.com/> or by calling the store at 507.920.9115.

Wedding trends, cont.

Continued from Page 6

Research and data summaries compiled by the statistics website Gitnux indicate that the average wedding in the United States now costs tens of thousands of dollars, although the exact amount varies widely from region to region.

According to wedding industry research cited by Gitnux, the venue and catering typically represent the largest portion of the overall wedding budget.

However, many couples in rural communities find creative ways to reduce expenses. Using family farms or church venues, borrowing decorations, reusing floral arrangements, or purchasing secondhand décor are all ways couples are keeping weddings meaningful without overspending.

Personalization Is the Biggest Trend

Perhaps the most significant trend in weddings today is personalization. Couples are less focused on following a strict formula and more interested in creating

a celebration that reflects their own story.

Some popular personalized touches include custom cocktails named after the couple, photo displays of family members' weddings, guest books made from quilts or wooden signs, and late-night snack tables or food trucks.

Family traditions are also often woven into the day. In rural communities, that may mean incorporating church ceremonies, family heirlooms, or local foods into the celebration.

A Blend of Tradition and Simplicity

While trends come and go, weddings in rural communities often maintain a balance between elegance and simplicity. Rustic barns, soft lighting, natural flowers, and meaningful family traditions continue to shape the look and feel of many celebrations.

Whether the event is large or small, formal or relaxed, the goal remains the same: gathering family and friends to celebrate the beginning of a new life together.

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How do I love thee?

We asked 2nd graders in Edgerton (Southwest Christian School and Edgerton Public School) how to show someone that you love them. Here are their beautiful, and sometimes humorous, responses!

You can show someone that you love them by giving them the thing they have been wanting their whole life. You can say - you are the best in the world. You can give them a hug. You can help them by cleaning the whole house. You can spend time with them by watching a movie with them. You should love each other unconditionally and be patient and forgiving.

Kallen Kroeze, SWC

You could give a gift to someone like a card. another thing you can do is words, something you can say is - I love you. You can give them a huge, a smile, and a kiss. You can help them by cleaning up, washing dishes, and last of all, you can spend time together.

Zeph Galvin, SWC

You can show someone that you love them by giving them flowers and give them a card. You can say I love you, you were amazing. You can give them a hug. You can clean your house. You can spend time with them by playing with them and reading with them.

Ava Ekkel, SWC

You can show someone that you love them by giving them some flowers. You can say I hope you do well. You can give them a fist bump. You can help them by taking out the trash. You can spend time with them at a specil restront. Be patient and forgiving.

Luke Krosschell, SWC

You can show someone that you love them by being ther friend and loveing them. Gir- ing then a toy. You can say grayt job. You can give them friends. You can help them if



One way to show love is to give a hug. Or flowers. Or both!

they get hirt or tell the techer if you ar far owey from them be ther friend the End.

Emma Bouw, SWC

You can give them flowers. You can say nice job. You can give a hug. You can clean the house. You can spened time at the movies. with you Mom or Dad or both.

Lexie Schaap, SWC

You can show some one that you love them by giving them some candy. You can say that you love them. You could give them a hug. You could help them by spraying the win- dows. You could spend time with them by going to their house.

Orlie Groen, SWC

You can show someone that you love them by giving them flowers. You can say you can do it. You can give them a hug. You can help them open the door if there hands are full. You can spend time with them by going to a movie with them.

Devin Rylaarsdam, SWC

You can show someone that you love them by giving them flowers. You can say good job. You can give them a big hug. You can help them by clean-

ing the house. You can spend time with them by going to visit them. Love each other unconditionally and being pa- tient and forgiving.

Holden Blankers, SWC

You could give them some- thing, you could say Good stuff to them, you could give them a hug, you could help them, and you could spend time together.

Wyatt Klumper, SWC

You can show someone that you love them be giving them gifts and you can say encour- aging words like, you can do this! and you can spend time by going to the pool and hav- ing a day playing with them. And you can always show kindness.

Halle Hayden, SWC

By giving them flowers. You can say Great job. You can give them a hug. You can help them by washing the dishes. You can spend time together

like playing a game with them. Ayla Steenholdt, SWC

You could give them flow- ers. You can say good job. You can give them a high five. You can help them by doing the dishes. You can spend time with them by watching a mov- ie. Be patient and forgiving.

Cayson Huisken, SWC

Giving them gifts. You can say, thank you, hello, good- dye, how is your day. You can give them a hug, flowers, or a high five. You can help them by cleaning the home, dishes, sweeping, moping. You can spend time with them by read- ing, waching a move, or going to the movie therter, goto the park, pool.

Brayden Schuld, SWC

You show love by giving a pat on the back. And tell them nice work. Wash the close for your mom. Sweep the shed for my dad.

Dexter Vander Pol, SWC

You can show kindness by helping someone up. For exa- ple if your freind falls down and is bleeding you can get a teacher or recess duty person. Or something else you can do to be kind is give a picture to a teacher or a sibling.

Ruby Prunty, SWC

You can show love by do- ing someones chores insted of watching TV. If someone is lonely you can play with them. If someone is hurt you can get help. Those are ways you can show love.

Levi Forness, SWC

To show love is by saying kind words to others. You could give someone a hug or a high five. You Should Spend time with others and play with them. Another way is to give gifts to others. And to do ser- vice to others by doing dishes

and clear up the house. Kendall De Jongh, SWC

I can show love by playing with somone and spending time together. You can give gifts and presints. You can give a high five or pat on the back. I can say good job!

Jonah Top, SWC

I can show Love by Give some budy a high five when they do a back flip for their first time. Give them gift like yellow flowers. If someone is lonly youcanplay with them. You can give a hug.

Lincoln Hoheisel, SWC

Give flowers to your parents or teacher. Spend time with each other. Help someone up. Say nice words. Wash the dishes for you mother or fa- ther. Play with someone that doesn't have a friend to play with. Ask someone to go to your church.

Eva Krosschell, SWC

You can show love by nice words. You can show love by doing service to anyone and to a friend. You can show love by spending time with famly to- gether never stop loving.

Logan Meksavanh, SWC

I can show love by giving them a gift like a stuff ani- mal. I like to serve and do the dishes fro my mom. I can help them when they fall.

Zoey Veldkamp, SWC

I can show love by my words, like after my brother was done racing and won a medal. I could say good job. I can show love by my service, like my mom is sick and could not get out of bed so I could do the dishes for her. I can show love by when my friend falls I could help them up and give them a hug.

Everly Hoheisel, SWC



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Let me count the ways....

I could do dishes for my mom I could share with my sisters. When my little sister wants someone to play with I could play with her. I could give them a gift.

Owen Nykamp, SWC

Do a pat on the back and say good job. Give a hug! Spend time together. Nice words. Wash dishes!

Colter Van Hofwegen, SWC

I love hugging my mom and dad. And kissing them and working for them. It is fun!

Keldan Knobloch, EPS

I can show someone I love them by giving them giving gifts, Saying I Love you, and Watching tv. I also like playing out Side With my friends and giving them hugs.

Mercedes Carrion, EPS

I can show someone I love them by giving them sweet treats and giving them hugs. I like saying nice things like, you have a kind heart.

Avery Ann Baustian, EPS

I would help people who do not have food. And I would

I can show by giving them a gift. I can hug my dog. I hug Mrs. Gates to show her love.

Eleanor De Kam, EPS

I can show someone I love them by giving kisses. I love giving high fives.

Lily Tarasar, EPS

I can show someone I love them by giving them a gift and a hug. I can give them a kiss.

Victor Adler, EPS

I can show someone I love them by dancing. I like to give flowers.

Azul Celeste Barrios, EPS

I can show someone I Love them by giving flowers. I also like giving a hug.

Mays Stout, EPS

I can show them by giving them a hug. I tell mom and dad that I love them.

Daxton Haas, EPS

I can show someone I love them by giving them gifts. I like to give hugs.

Elijah Lopez, EPS

Fist bump, a hug, a kiss,

I show love to people in need of things. I help them. I give them the things they need. I also show love by loving one another and helping people too. I love the people in this town and you too!

Brayleigh Schelhaas, EPS

I give my dad a hug. And I say I love you daddy.

Sarai Davis, EPS

I love my family. I help them cook.

Eowyn Sumption, EPS

Tell them you like their clothes and be kind. Be kind to family. Be kind to your siblings.

Oakley Paulson, EPS

Give them a hug. Be kind to them. Give them a high five. Say I love you.

Edward Gunnink, EPS

God made us to love one another. You and I were made to love one another. Like my family, they love me so much. Love your family. Love God. Love Jesus. Love everyone NO MATTER WHAT. More than 8 BILLION of us were made to love people, so LOVE EVERYONE.

Liam Ward, EPS

To show my mom I love her, I give her hugs and kisses. The most fun and loving thing is watching a movie on holidays. We watch Elf. We can also love them by shaking hands or fist bumps. My Dad is far far away and I still love him.

Atleigh Johnson, EPS

Be kind to my parents and family. We can play games.

Jensen Gunnink, EPS



Another good way to show that you love someone is to give them a gift.

Be kind to others. Help other people.

Bennett Bootsma, EPS

I hug my mom. I can help my friends.

Evelyn Martinez, EPS

I can give someone a hug and a present. I love my mom and dad.

Courtney Acevedo, EPS

Be kind to your family. Help clean the kitchen. Be kind to friends.

Asher Claar, EPS

How I Show someone that I love them is when I Show them respect. I tell them I love you and give them a hug.

Heidi Ximena Diaz Monter, EPS

I love my family. I hug my mom.

Bianca Padron Chirinos, EPS

God made us to love one another. You and I were made to love one another. Like my family, they love me so much. Love your family. Love God. Love Jesus. Love everyone NO MATTER WHAT. More than 8 BILLION of us were made to love people, so LOVE EVERYONE.
Liam Ward, EPS

help the homeless people too.

Dahlia Trump, EPS

I show love by playing, hugging, highfives, flowers, and gifts. I make friends by being kind. I help celebrate birthdays.

Faelynn Snyder, EPS

And a high five, gifts, saying I love you. And flowers. Wach tv togethr, dance togethr.

Kylie Mollema, EPS

I am funny and they are nice. We watch movies together.

Ronny De Kam, EPS



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“Mini Quiches and Matrimony”

Tara Griffin

Planning a bridal shower menu sounds simple until you realize you're feeding a mixed crowd of grandmas, aunts, bridesmaids, picky cousins, and at least one person who only eats things that come from Trader Joe's. Suddenly the stakes feel very high. One wrong food choice and Aunt Linda is whispering, "Well... this is interesting."

So if you've been tasked with providing food for a bridal shower, allow me to walk you through it. First, remember the golden rule of bridal showers: people expect cute food, not necessarily a full meal. This is not Thanksgiving. No one is looking for a turkey leg. What they are looking for are tiny, polite foods that can be eaten while holding a gift bow in one hand and a mimosa in the other.

This is why bridal showers tend to revolve around what I like to call "fancy snacks." You start with the foundation: finger foods. Think mini quiches, tea sandwiches, fruit skewers, caprese sticks, pinwheels, or little croissants. Anything that can be eaten in two bites or less is ideal. If someone needs a steak knife and a strategy to eat it, you've gone too far.

Second, every good bridal shower needs a charcuterie board. I don't know when this became law, but it has. Somewhere along the line, Pinterest decided that every gathering now requires a wooden board the size of a coffee table covered in cheese, crackers, grapes, and something that looks vaguely European. Nobody questions it. We just accept it. A good charcuterie board has three cheeses, two meats, something crunchy, something sweet, and something that makes people ask "what is that?" (Usually fig jam.)

Third, add something fresh and light. Bridal showers often happen mid-morning or early afternoon, which means people are pretending they are "just nibbling." This is where fruit salads, veggie cups, or

pasta salads come in. They make everyone feel like they are making responsible choices before immediately eating three cupcakes.

Speaking of cupcakes, dessert is not optional. Bridal showers run on sugar and mild gossip. Cupcakes, macaroons, sugar cookies, or cake pops are perfect because they are small, adorable, and photograph



Chef Salad On a Stick

- 4 hardboiled eggs
- 1/2 English cucumber
- 2 oz. deli ham, thick cut
- 2 oz. deli turkey breast, thick cut
- 2 oz. deli roast beef, thick cut
- 8 oz. swiss cheese block
- 1 head red leaf lettuce

- 16 grape tomatoes
- 8 large green olives
- 8 12-inch skewers
- Ranch dressing
- Black pepper

Instructions

Cut each hardboiled egg into four pieces. Slice the cucumber lengthwise, then cut into half circles, about 1/2-inch thick. Cut the ham, turkey and roast beef slices lengthwise into 1-inch wide strips. Roll each strip up into a pinwheel. Cut the Swiss cheese block into 16 squares. Alternating pieces, place 2 pieces each of Swiss cheese, cucumber, tomato and egg; 1 pinwheel each of ham, turkey, and roast beef; and 3 pieces of lettuce, each folded up into a bundle, on each skewer. Finish each skewer with 1 green olive. Serve on a platter drizzled with ranch dressing and sprinkled with black pepper. Serve immediately.

well. This is important because half the point of bridal shower food is that someone will say, "Wait! Don't eat that yet, I need a picture."

Now let's talk drinks. The traditional bridal shower beverage is something sparkling with a fruit floating in it. Mimosas are classic, but you can also do sparkling lemonade, rosé, or a mocktail for anyone who wants to behave responsibly. The key is bubbles. Bridal showers love bubbles.

And finally, my most important piece of advice: don't overcomplicate it. You do not need to invent a twelve course tasting menu. People are there to celebrate the bride, watch her open twenty-seven kitchen gadgets, and play slightly awkward games about how well the couple knows each other.

If the food is pretty, easy to eat, and involves cheese, you have already succeeded. At the end of the day, the true purpose of bridal shower food is simple:

Keep everyone pleasantly fed, slightly caffeinated, and enthralled with the desserts and gift opening. And if you accomplish that, congratulations. You have officially hosted a successful bridal shower.



Bridal Shower Punch

- 1/2 gallon pineapple sherbet
- 1 liter lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage
- 4 cups pineapple juice

Scoop sherbet into a large punch bowl. Pour soda and pineapple juice over sherbet. When adding soda, the punch will foam, so stir constantly so the foam can go down. Serve immediately.

Champagne Cake Pops

- CAKE:**
- 1 (15.25-ounce) box vanilla or white cake mix
 - 1 cup sparkling wine @ room temperature
 - 3 large eggs
 - 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- CHAMPAGNE BUTTERCREAM:**
- 8 Tbsp. (1 stick) salted butter, at room temperature
 - 2 1/4 cups powdered sugar
 - 2 Tbsp. sparkling wine (such as champagne, prosecco or cava), at room temperature
- DECORATIONS:**
- 3 cups white candy melts (about 15 ounces)
 - 40 (6-inch) lollipop sticks
 - 1/4 cup mixed white nonpareils and white sugar pearl sprinkles (any combination)

Instructions
Preheat oven to 350F. Grease and line a 9x13-inch pan; line a baking sheet with parchment.

Champagne Cake Pops

Instructions, cont.

Whisk cake mix, sparkling wine, eggs, and oil until smooth. Pour into pan and bake ~20 minutes, until it springs back when touched. Cool 10 minutes, then remove from pan and cool completely.

Buttercream & Dough:

Beat butter until creamy. Add powdered sugar and sparkling wine; mix until light and fluffy. Crumble cooled cake into the buttercream and mix until a sticky dough forms.

Shape & Chill:

Scoop into 1 1/2 Tbsp balls, roll smooth, and place on baking sheet. Freeze until firm, at least 1 hour.

Coating:

Melt candy melts in 15-second intervals, stirring until smooth. Let cake balls sit 5 min. Dip a lollipop stick in melted candy, insert halfway into each ball, and let set briefly. Dip each ball to coat, tapping off excess. Chill if they soften. Let coating set. Drizzle with more melted coating, decorate with sprinkles.



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The Art of Alterations

Continued from Page 5

much exposure? Lace can be added, or an adjustment made to the length of the slit to aid modesty or style. Corsetry can also be added to define the waist and support posture and incorporating trains or overskirts. A full list of alterations can be found on the Simply Elegant by Teresa website along with portfolio pictures.

Certain styles of dresses don't have a lot of structure, so adding structure is one of the challenges that Teresa and her staff can encounter. Other challenges include sheer corsets and some of the lace work as some of the smallest needle picks and attention to the seam detail is so important.

The "fun" of these challenges, for any skill trade business, is the appeal from the remarkable blend of problem-solving, noticeable results, and ability to turn a somewhat complex, head scratching creative delay into an artistic masterpiece. Each dress is different, each day will be different, and Teresa thoroughly enjoys meeting so many different people and hearing so many different stories.

Loving the skills and talents she has been gifted with, Teresa also has enjoyed helping others learn the trades. She has been able to guide young sewers in judging 4-H projects and is always willing to help other alteration enthusiasts to master the skills she has gained throughout her notable career.

Time commitment is a major part of each alteration. Most individuals do not realize the amount of work and hours that go into an alteration job. One example Teresa shared was that 100 hours went into a dress with all the detail work the customer desired. The average cost of an alteration of course depends on the amount of work required and custom details requested: sleeves, glitter layer added, appliques, bead work to name a few. Each alteration project falls into the \$300-\$500 range, the \$500-\$800 range, or the \$800+ range.

Simply Elegant is a sunny, welcoming professional business. When a dress is purchased at the companion store, Tyana's Bridal, the dress is kept in a climate control room until alterations are started and can remain there until the customer is ready

to pick up the dress. Simply Elegant is open to doing alterations for anyone, regardless of where they purchase their garment.

A few of the comments from customers include, "Teresa was able to save our daughter's wedding dress after another seamstress was unable to do the alterations correctly and nearly ruined her wedding dress. She saved the dress and made the bride smile again and did beautiful work. So sweet and kind, we were most appreciative of her talents" and "When shopping for prom dresses, my daughter wasn't finding a style that she liked or worked for her. Teresa was able to take what she liked about different dresses and designed one just for her. Teresa came up with the layered skirt which added so much to the dress. Teresa also altered a dress for another one of our daughters. She is excited about every project she does. She is incredibly talented and creative!"

A bride should begin setting up her initial appointment 4-5 months in advance so the subsequent appointments can also be locked in. Appointment dates fill up quickly, so if you know you will need alterations, give Teresa a call as soon as you know to save your spot on the calendar. Currently the most popular months for weddings are June, August, and October. Teresa is ready to welcome you to a wonderful experience of fashioning your dress to make you look and feel great. Check out Simply Elegant by Teresa website: www.simplyelegantbyteresa.com or contact her by phone: 507.360.1292

Fun facts: Teresa has the beautiful, love gift-giving opportunity to make the wedding dress for her daughter, Alysha who will be getting married in August. And the fun fact that Teresa and Amy, owner of Tyana's Bridal, have in common...they both have a daughter getting married in August. Do you think these businesswomen will be busy this summer?



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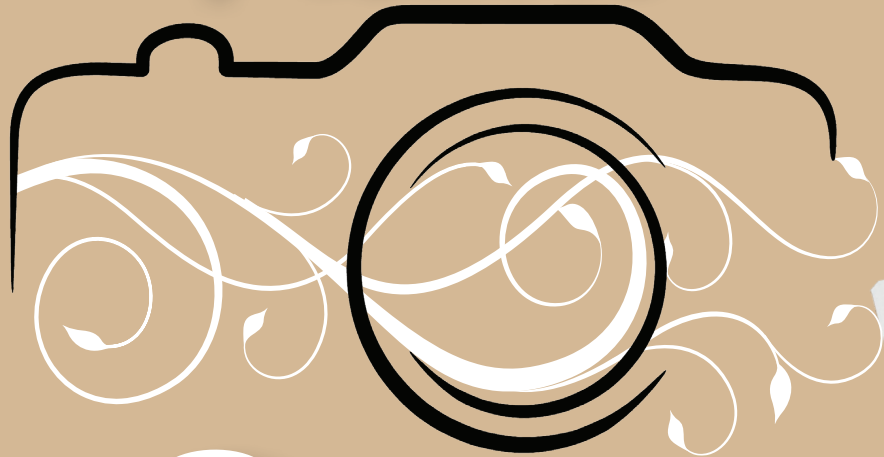
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