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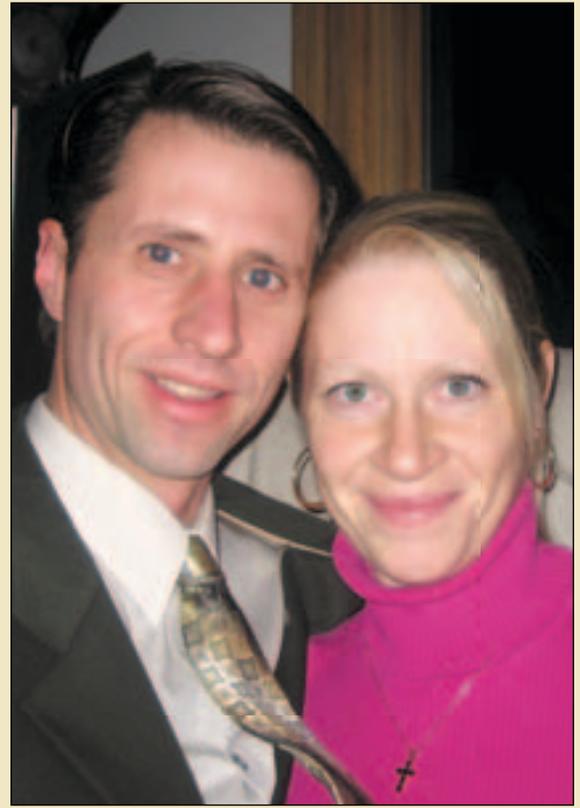
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John & Julie Ludwig

October 28, 2000



John & Julie Ludwig on October 28, 2000.....and today.

Date of Marriage:

Oct. 28, 2000

Place of Marriage:

St. Boniface Catholic Church in Cold Spring

How did you meet?

Julie and I met at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Cold Spring. I was attending my brother's oldest son's baptism. Julie (the director of music and liturgy) was directing the choir there.

Who proposed and how?

Our one-year anniversary was coming up. John had just purchased 40 acres with the intent to build a house. He made up some story about meeting a contractor out at the property, and said I should meet up with him there. When I arrived, he was nowhere to be seen. I could see something in the distance. As the figure came closer, I realized it was my knight in shining armor! John was wearing an authentic suit of armor, complete with hand guards and helmet. When he reached where I was standing, he dismounted from the horse and took off his helmet. He took out a sheet of paper, a ring, and read a poem he had written, asking me to marry him. I was in tears before he even finished. We are now living happily ever after in a castle with two children.

How long were you engaged?

Exactly one year.

How large was your wedding?

About 300 people.

What food was served?

Chicken and ham.

What was most memorable about your wedding?

Besides the obvious moments of giving our vows, the priest's homily, and the reception festivities. We later discovered the duck decoys tied behind the "Just Married" wedding truck were my own! We were in awe of all of the people that were there to support us in our commitment to each other.

What was your most memorable wedding gift?

Being showered with all of the things we needed to start our life together. It is hard to choose just one thing. We received many wonderful gifts that impact different elements of our lives.

What wedding gift do you use the most today?

Well, with the winter we've been having, our tractor hardly stands still, and our chest freezer is constantly providing us with wild game. (Both gifts from our parents.)

Who caught the bouquet and did they have to shove to get it?

My friend Kari Malecek ended up with the bouquet. There was so much shoving a couple of the girls ended up lying on the dance floor! Everyone got a good laugh out of it.

Whose relatives had the most fun at the wedding?

Clearly our wedding party, as they were involved in all of the festivities from the bachelor/bachelorette parties to closing down the wedding dance.

Where did you go for a honeymoon?

Seven days in Costa Rica! We explored the rainforest, volcanoes, rivers, and did ocean excursions.

How do you keep romance alive in your marriage?

Absence makes the heart grow fonder. Those who know us know that neither of us has ever owned a cell phone. When we are apart, we are given the time to miss each other. Our time spent together becomes more meaningful because we are not in constant contact with each other. Also, when we are at home, we have quality time to spend together; as we have not had TV reception in all the past 10 years. That leaves us with a lot more time to live life together.

If you could travel back in time to your wedding day, what advice for maintaining a happy marriage would you give yourselves?

Accept your spouse for who they are. Appreciate their unique qualities. Give each other the space and support they need to explore their hobbies and pursue their dreams.

Wedding Tip - Budget Breakdown

#2

Reception - 50%, Attire - 10%, Flowers 10%, Music - 10%, Photography/Video - 10%, Stationary and additional expenses (Rings, gifts, fees, transportation etc...) 10%.

Use the breakdown above to see how much of your total budget to devote to each of these areas. This will give you a rough idea of how much to spend and allows you to be more confident in your search for items and services for your special day!