



Everything You've Ever
Wanted to Know About

Weddings

at Trinity Lutheran Church

1420 South Sixth Street
Brainerd, Minnesota 56401
(218) 829-5147

Marriage Services at Trinity Lutheran Church

The marriage service is a religious service and should be planned and created with the same reverence and dignity as that of any worship service. All arrangements for the service should be made in consultation with the Pastor and the organist. **All fees are payable to the church office when the wedding date is reserved, and all musicians must be paid by the day of the rehearsal.**

Throughout your wedding preparations and celebration, **the church building is to be respected as the house of God!!** Trinity Lutheran Church is smoke- and tobacco-free. **Absolutely no alcoholic beverages are allowed on the church property.**

Some specific considerations regarding the planning are listed below. We invite your questions about anything not discussed here.

Scheduling Member wedding dates must be reserved at least three (3) months in advance. If time allows, most couples find it helpful to reserve their date at least nine (9) months in advance. Non-member weddings will not be scheduled until three months before the wedding date.

Music Selection Because this is a service to celebrate God's love, visible in the lives of the two people being married, it is important that the words and music be in harmony with that focus. There are some musical selections which are not appropriate, therefore, to a worship setting. Some popular or romantic songs would be better suited for the reception. Musical instruments are permitted. Congregational singing is encouraged. A list of appropriate hymns is included later in this booklet. Music selections must be discussed with the Pastor and the organist. The organist is a helpful resource in selecting instrumental music as well as vocal music.

Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church policy states that at least one of the resident Pastors must participate in all weddings held in this church. Other pastors may participate in the service as assisting pastors.

Organist The organist will be subject to approval by the Pastor. Fees for the service provided by the organist should be discussed with the organist and paid directly to him/her.

Musicians Ask a good, qualified soloist to sing if you desire special music. The church may be able to assist you in selecting a soloist. Instrumentalists are welcome. Fees for the service provided by musicians should be discussed with them and paid directly to them. Music is to be provided to the organists and musicians before the rehearsal day.

Holy Communion The celebration of Holy Communion may be included in your marriage service, and must be open to all baptized Christians in attendance. Communion is not offered only to the bride and groom.

Service Planning The order of worship for marriage is included in Trinity's worship book, the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW). You may write your own wedding service in consultation with the Pastor.

Pre-marital Counseling All couples must attend pre-marital counseling sessions if they wish to be married at Trinity Lutheran Church. Couples are strongly encouraged to attend pre-marriage retreat at Camp Knutson in Crosslake as administered by Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. This 24-hour retreat covers such things as communication skills, finances, family planning, etc. The pastor will inform you of dates and costs.

Vows The bride and groom may write their own vows in consultation with the Pastor. Several wedding vow options are included in the booklet.

Marriage License The marriage license must be given to the Pastor at least one week prior to the service, or the wedding cannot take place. Marriages may not be performed prior to the actual date shown on the marriage license, and the license is valid for six (6) months from the date on the license. Witnesses will sign the license immediately following the service.

Pictures Ask a reputable photographer to take your pictures. Pictures taken prior to the wedding service usually provide a much smoother running wedding and reception. **No flash photos are allowed during the wedding service.** **Photographers are not allowed to remove altar railings, move furniture, or use wagons, carts, or other items that might damage church furnishings.** Video cameras may be used if they do not detract from the service. Please inform your families, friends, and photographer of these stipulations.

Paraments Paraments are the cloths which are displayed on the pulpit and on the stole of the Pastor. Paraments for weddings are in the liturgical color for that day or season in the church year, NOT white, unless white is the appointed color in the church year. If you wish to know the church year color for the day of your wedding, please check with the Pastor.

The Nave Trinity's worship room has pew-chairs instead of pews. Absolutely no nails, tacks, tape of any kind, or Christmas lights may be used for decorating.

Banners A banner with the liturgical color of the church year will be placed near the altar in front of the church. You may use your own wedding banners during the service. The banner stand holds a banner measuring up to 32 inches wide x 72 inches long.



Bulletins Bulletins may be purchased through Bethany Book Store. Any bulletins printed in the church office must be turned in at least one week prior to the ceremony, and there is a fee involved. A bulletin is not necessary for the service, unless you have written your own service, but it will enhance the service and will be a memento for your guests.

Aisle Runner The white aisle runner, if desired, is furnished by the wedding couple. Trinity Lutheran Church's aisle requires a 50 foot runner. Aisle runners are available at floral shops or bridal shops.

Candles The liquid candles on each side of the altar are always used, but if you wish, there are two 7-branched candelabra and approx. 20 aisle candle holders available. If the Unity Candle ceremony is part of your wedding, there is a Unity Candle stand available.

The candelabra have liquid candles, if you wish to use them. All other candles must be dripless and are provided by the wedding couple. One inch candles are used in all holders except the center Unity Candle, which requires a wider, pillar candle.

Rehearsal Approximately one hour is needed for the rehearsal. For all formal services a rehearsal is essential. Rehearsals are usually on the day before the wedding.

Please be punctual! **A PERSON UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MOOD-ALTERING SUBSTANCES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED, AND MAY JEOPARDIZE THE CONTINUATION OF THE REHEARSAL OR THE WEDDING.**

Complete, detailed instructions will be given by the Pastor concerning the responsibilities of each person taking part in the service. The wedding party, parents of the bride and groom, ushers, acolytes, and musicians shall all attend the rehearsal. Please select a time when all participants can attend. If a member of the wedding party cannot be present,

please select a substitute who will then inform the wedding party member as to their responsibility during the service.

Receiving Line Receiving lines may be formed in the Narthex (back of the church), Commons (room behind the church) or outside on the patio if weather permits. You should determine ahead of time who will be in the receiving line.

Some examples are:

1. The bride and groom, with their parents and the wedding party.
2. The bride and groom, with their parents.
3. The bride and groom ushering out their own guests, with the parents in a receiving line.

Other Essential Information

1. **Rice is not allowed on the church property.** Birdseed or bubbles are encouraged for showering the departing bride and groom.
2. **The church building must be left as neatly as it was found.** All decorations must be removed promptly following the service, and the wedding party is responsible for cleaning the Unity Stand and Candelabrum.
3. If you have questions about the decorations allowed in the church building, please consult with the wedding coordinator or the Pastor.



Suggested Hymns for Congregational Singing

- *LBW Canticle 16 I will sing the story of Your love, O Lord
- *LBW #76 O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
- *LBW #78 All Praise to You, O Lord
- *LBW #287 O Perfect Love, all human thought transcending
- *LBW #288 Hear us now, our God and Father
- *LBW #289 Heav'nly Father, hear our prayer
- *LBW #315 Love Divine, all loves excelling
- *LBW #354 Eternal God, before Your throne we bend
- *LBW #481 Savior, like a Shepherd lead us
- *LBW #487 Let us ever walk with Jesus
- *LBW #512 Oh blest the house, whate'er befall
- *LBW #513 Come my Way, my Truth, my Life
- *LBW #534 Now thank we all our God
- *LBW #551 Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee
- *LBW #552 In Thee is gladness
- *WOV #749 When love is found
- *WOV #751 As man and woman we were made
- *WOV #770 I was there to hear your borning cry
- *WOV #779 On eagle's wings

If you choose other hymn(s), they will have to be approved by the minister performing the wedding ceremony.



Marriage License Laws for Crow Wing County

Before a male and female are joined in marriage, a license shall be obtained in the Treasurer's office. A marriage license application must be made in person by at least one of the contracting parties. It cannot be applied for by mail.

The applicant must furnish the following information:

- ✧ the full names of the parties;
- ✧ their post office addresses, county and state of residence;
- ✧ their full ages and *Social Security numbers; if either party has been previously married, the party's married name, and the date, place, and court in which the marriage was dissolved or annulled, or the date and place of death of the former spouse;
- ✧ if either party is a minor, the name and address of the minor's parents or guardian, whether the parties are related to each other, and, if so, their relationship;
- ✧ the name and date of birth of any child of which both parties are parents, born before the making of the application, unless their parental rights and the parent and child relationship with respect to the child, have been terminated;
- ✧ address of the couple after the marriage;
- ✧ and the full names the parties will have after marriage.

Application must be made five days before the license can be issued, not counting the day of application. Every person the full age of 18 years is capable of contracting marriage, if otherwise competent. A person the full age of 16 years may, with the consent of the person's parents, guardian, or the court, receive a license to marry when the person's license application is approved by the judge of juvenile court of the county the person resides.

The following marriages are prohibited:

1. A marriage entered into before the dissolution of an earlier marriage of one of the parties becomes final.
2. A marriage between an ancestor and a descendant, or between a brother and a sister, whether the relationship is by the half or the whole blood or by adoption.
3. A marriage between an uncle and a niece, between an aunt and a nephew, or between first cousins, whether the relationship is by the half or the whole blood, except as to marriages permitted by the established customs of aboriginal cultures; provided, however, that mentally retarded persons committed to the to the guardianship of the commissioner of human services and mentally retarded persons committed to the conservatorship of the of the commissioner of human services, in which terms of the conservatorship limit the right to marry, may marry on receipt of written consent of the commissioner.

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Marriages may be solemnized throughout the state by a licensed or ordained minister of any religious denomination, a judge of a court of record, a court administrator, or the residential school administrators of the MN state academy for the deaf and the MN state academy for the blind.

**We have tried to be comprehensive in this listing, but each wedding is unique and we may have missed addressing your particular concern. Please feel free to ask about any concerns you may have. We want to be as helpful as we can as you prepare for this special day in your lives. We look forward to assisting you in any further way.**



**MEMBER FEES**

A member of Trinity Lutheran Church is defined as a baptized person on the roll of the Congregation who has communed, made a contribution of record, or attended worship during the current or previous year at the time the wedding date is reserved. The following fees apply if the bride or groom or their parents are members of Trinity:

- Pastor.....\$150
  - Custodian Fee ..... \$75
  - Technician for Sound & Lighting.....\$50
  - Damage Deposit (returned after wedding if no damage) .....\$250
  - Bulletin Printing.....\$50
  - Fellowship Hall & Kitchen.....\$150
  - Organist/Pianist Fee (includes rehearsal with soloist at time of rehearsal, wedding rehearsal, and ceremony. Additional rehearsals are \$25 each) A.G.O. guidelines.....\$150
- Or you may provide your own organist

The wedding couple must provide their own kitchen workers. Two Trinity members, approved by the Wedding Coordinator or Pastor, are needed six weeks before the wedding for kitchen SUPERVISION during the wedding reception.

After the wedding date has been scheduled, you must meet with the wedding coordinator or Pastor to discuss details such as:

1. All food to be served. (Food must be furnished and prepared.)
2. Arrangement of serving tables and other tables and chairs.
3. Couple must provide help to cut cake, serve punch, and pour coffee, guest book, gift table, and a couple to serve as host and hostess.
4. The following items are available for your reception: white lace, linen, and vinyl tablecloths, white round cloth for punch bowl, two punch bowls and ladles, large glass serving plates, candle holders and milk glass holders, silver coffee sets, sugar tongs, cake knife and server, white wastebasket with liners for paper, punch cups. The bride and groom furnish all other items.

## **NON-MEMBER FEES**

A member of Trinity Lutheran Church is defined as a baptized person on the roll of the Congregation who has communed, made a contribution of record, or attended worship during the current or previous year at the time the wedding date is reserved. The following fees apply if the bride or groom or their parents are not members of Trinity:

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| Pastor.....                                                                                                                                                              | \$250 |
| Sanctuary .....                                                                                                                                                          | \$300 |
| Chapel .....                                                                                                                                                             | \$150 |
| Damage Deposit (returned after wedding if no damage) .....                                                                                                               | \$250 |
| Custodian Fee .....                                                                                                                                                      | \$75  |
| Technician for Sound & Lighting.....                                                                                                                                     | \$50  |
| Bulletin Printing.....                                                                                                                                                   | \$50  |
| Fellowship Hall & Kitchen .....                                                                                                                                          | \$300 |
| Organist/Pianist Fee (includes rehearsal with soloist at time of rehearsal, wedding rehearsal, and ceremony. Additional rehearsals are \$25 each) A.G.O. guidelines..... | \$150 |
| Or you may provide your own organist<br>Organ or Piano Fee.....                                                                                                          | \$50  |

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