



Weddings at Trinity Lutheran Church

Our best wishes are with you as you embark upon one of the most important events of your lives. Below are a few helpful suggestions:

- Contact the Pastor as soon as you have a date in mind. The date will be secured and an appointment will be set up to discuss arrangements in detail.
- The church provides the use of all of our facilities, the Pastor, the Organist, the Custodian, all candles except for the Unity Candle and its two tapers.
(large, plus two tapers – important to note size of 1” or 7/8”)
- The couple shall make arrangements for the florist, the photographer, the Unity Candle (if using one), any bulletins, the rehearsal time, the marriage license, fees to be paid for securing date (if non-member), and payment of fees when turning in the marriage license.
- The runner for the center aisle should be 75’ long
- Please note that the marriage license must be secured from the county and turned into the church office with the names of the two witnesses attached, at least three days before the wedding (2:00 pm Wednesday).

All outstanding fees for the wedding must also accompany the license being turned in on Wednesday. Checks for custodian, organist, and pastor must be made out to the individual and placed in separate envelopes: Custodian, Margaret Stevenson; organist, William Musselman; Pastor, Kenneth Johnson or Pastor, Jake Lehman. The check for non-member weddings is to be made out to Trinity Lutheran Church.

MEMBER FEES:

CHECK #1 Custodial \$250 (check made out to Margaret Stevenson)
(the church may be opened no more than three hours prior to service,
must also notify florist)

CHECK #2 Organist \$250 (check made out to Nathan Mattson)
(\$15 charge for extra rehearsals or music consultation)

CHECK #3 Pastor \$400
(check made out to Pastor Ken Johnson or Pastor Jake Lehman)

Members of the wedding party are not to extinguish candles or move candelabra or other chancel furnishings or seasonal decorations.

No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the premises
(church buildings and parking lot).

There is to be no throwing of rice, candy, etc., and no strewing of flowers in the aisle without a runner to protect the carpeting.

POLICIES CONCERNING PHOTOGRAPHING

Since a Christian Wedding Ceremony is a holy Worship Service in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, just as it is with all of our Worship Services, flash pictures will not be allowed during the Wedding Worship at Trinity from the beginning of the organ Prelude through the conclusion of the Organ Postlude.

There are two exceptions to the above policy:

A flash picture may be taken of the bride and her father at the Narthex door into the nave as long as the photographer does not go beyond the balcony overhang.

A flash picture may be taken of each bridal couple as they recess out of the Church from the back of the nave under the balcony overhang.

Pictures may be taken in advance of the Worship Service before the guests have arrived, or they may be taken following the Worship Service after the worshippers have left. Please coordinate with pastor and custodian.

The photographer for each Wedding Worship is to check all plans for picture-taking with the pastor prior to the Worship Service.

(There are some possibilities for video-taping the Service. Please check with the Pastor.)

Photographers (or any members of the wedding party) are not to extinguish candles or move candelabra or other chancel furnishings or ornaments.

STATEMENT AND POLICY ON WEDDING MUSIC AT TRINITY

Frequently questions arise regarding the selection and use of music for wedding services. The following statement is taken from the Lutheran Book of Worship, Ministers Desk Edition, published in 1978 by Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, MN. It is the official policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is endorsed by the Music Committee, Staff Musicians, and Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalamazoo, MI.

Music at Weddings:

Music selected should embody high standard of quality and, in general, reflect the praise of God, God's steadfast love in Christ as the foundation of and model for marriage, and the asking of God's presence and blessing.

A number of musical options are possible before the entrance procession: solo, ensemble, or choral pieces; organ or other instrumental music; or music using a combination of these media.

Organ music may be based on hymn tunes used within the marriage service. A printed wedding folder helps to establish such themes and relationships for the congregation. Instrumental music may be selected from chamber music literature or similar sources and should reflect the mood of joy and celebration in the service.

Wherever music is employed in the service, and by whatever instruments or voices, it should be high-quality examples of the art of composition, not cloud communication of the content and mood of the service with musical triteness or associations bordering on sentimentality, and be within the ability of the performers at hand to play or sing with assurance.

Although it is usually better to refrain from a list of music, which is not considered appropriate, the following are examples of the art or composition, which are not suitable for a worship service, which includes a wedding held in church: popular “love” songs which do not invoke the blessing of God on the ceremony; such as popular music compositions. In addition, we do not use Wagner’s Wedding March (Lohengrin) or the Mendelsshon Wedding Recessional.

PRELUDE:

The organ prelude is usually comprised of joyful and reflective pieces from various schools of organ literature. Usually included are several arias and marches from the works of Handel, Bach’s “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” and “Now Thank We All Our God.”

PROCESSIONAL:

We usually use two pieces for the processional. The Pastor, groomsmen and bridesmaids enter and process to Air from “Water Music Suite” of Handel. The bride usually processes to Purcell’s “Trumpet Tune.” These pieces are especially well suited as they usually can be shortened and lengthened easily depending of the size of the wedding party. There is a distinct change between the two pieces, which makes a good entrance for the bride and alerts the congregation to stand for her entry.

RECESSIONAL:

Usually “Psalm XIX” of Marcello is used as the recessional. It is a joyful piece, which builds to a full organ at the conclusion. It is lengthy enough for the entire bridal party to make their exit before the end of the piece. The remainder of the recessional is usually comprised of joyful pieces from Bach and Handel.

VOCAL MUSIC:

If a solo is desired it may appropriately be placed before the beginning of the service or at the time of the wedding prayer. The church will be pleased to provide a soloist, either male or female. Vocal music must fit the standards reviewed on the previous page. You would be well advised to contact the organist/director to discuss the use of a solo if you plan on providing your own soloist. We prefer that the congregation join the bridal couple in praying the Lord’s Prayer, however, it may be sung as a solo if desired. If it is sung it must follow the prayer in the wedding service.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC:

You may arrange for instrumental music such as string or brass players. Guitar music is permitted, however all selections must conform to the standards set forth in the previous page. Again, contact the organist/director if you plan on using instrumental music.

It is our desire to provide a memorable and meaningful wedding service, which is in good liturgical taste. Please feel free to contact the organist/director regarding any questions you may have. Our organ is an exceptionally well designed pipe organ installed in 1973 and enlarged in 2002 by Casavant of Montreal, Canada. Music selected for a wedding service is chosen to display the tonal resources of this fine instrument and praise God through the gift of music especially chosen for a wedding service. All church weddings are to be played by Dr. William Musselman (except for certain circumstances).

Nathan Mattson
Organist/Director
Trinity Lutheran Church

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