



Everything You've Ever
Wanted to Know About

Weddings

at Trinity Lutheran Church

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

*Fees to be discussed at first visit.

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. **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.

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.**



## **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. When Pre-marriage counseling is accomplished, there is a significant discount in the marriage license fee. The Pastor you are working with will explain this and provide the necessary form needed at the Court House.

### **The applicant must furnish the following information:**

- ✧ the full names of the parties;
- ✧ their addresses, county and state of residence;
- ✧ their full ages and 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.

**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. Pastor Contact Information:

Pastor David P. Holte 218-829-5147

[pastrodave@brainerd.net](mailto:pastrodave@brainerd.net)

Pastor Hans Anderson 218-829-5147

[pastorhans@brainerd.net](mailto:pastorhans@brainerd.net)

**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 *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book* (ELW). 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. The Pastors believe that every couple needs as many tools as they can gather for a lifetime of growth together. Couples are strongly encouraged to attend pre-marriage classes. Please talk to the Pastor regarding marriage classes and locations of marriage classes.

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

## **Suggested Hymns for Congregational Singing**

- \*ELW #308 O Morning Star, How Fair And Bright!
- \*ELW #585 Hear Us Now, Our God And Father
- \*ELW #631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- \*ELW #789 Savior, like A Shepherd Lead Us
- \*ELW #802 Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus
- \*ELW #816 Come My Way, My Truth, My Life
- \*ELW #840 Now Thank We All Our God
- \*ELW #836 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
- \*ELW #867 In Thee Is Gladness
- \*ELW #732 I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry
- \*ELW #787 On Eagle's Wings

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

LOVE  
does not  
delight  
in evil  
but  
rejoices  
with  
the  
TRUTH  
1 Corinthians 13:6

### **Suggested Scripture Readings**

Usually two or three readings are chosen. At least one should be selected from Gospel Readings. The full texts of all scripture readings is available from the Pastor. Those marked with an \* are suggested by the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book* (ELW).

**Old Testament:** \*Genesis 1:26-31, \*Genesis 2:18-24, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, \*Song of Solomon 2:10-13, \*Song of Solomon 8:7, Isaiah 61:10-11, \*Isaiah 63:7-9

**Psalms:** \*33, 89, \*100, \*117, 118, \*127, \*128, \*136, \*150

**New Testament:** \*Romans 12:1-2, \*1 Corinthians 12:31--13:13 (13:4-13), \*Ephesians 5:21-33, \*Philippians 4:4-7, Colossians 3:12-15, \*1 John 4:7-12

**New Testament: Gospels:** \*Matthew 19:4-6, \*John 2:1-10, \*John 15:9-12

**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 driplless 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.



**Wedding Vows**

1. (ELW) I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my *husband/wife* from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.
2. (ELW) I, \_\_\_\_\_ take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my *husband/wife* to have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.
3. I, \_\_\_\_\_, to you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband (wife) to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, to honor, to be faithful until death parts us.
4. I, \_\_\_\_\_, to you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife (husband); to love and respect you; to honor and to trust you; sharing all that I am and all that I will become. I commit myself to you for the rest of my life.

Because the marriage vows are personal promises made by the bride and groom to one another, you may write your own vows. This should be done with the guidance of the Pastor to insure that the vows reflect the complete sharing which marriage implies, and the commitment that is life-long and Christ-centered.

