



Trinity Lutheran Church
1010 Sill Street
LaCrosse, Wisconsin
782-6200

Trinity Lutheran Church Wedding Info

A Christian Wedding: Set in the context of a Christian worship service, your wedding is a time to proclaim your love and lifelong commitment to each other before God and God's people, and to pray God's blessing into the beginning of your new family's life. Working together, we want to make your wedding ceremony meaningful and celebratory!

Music as part of your celebration: Good music enhances any worship service, and a wedding is no different! Some choose not to have much, if any, music as a part of their wedding...and that's quite alright. If you do, however, plan to include music in your wedding, here are some pointers:

1. Live music is almost always preferable to recorded music. It's simply more personal and "real." Whenever possible, get live musicians and/or vocalists. It's money well spent!

2. Make arrangements with musicians well in advance of your wedding date! Don't leave this detail till last. You need to get on their calendars early! Make arrangements for payment directly with your musicians, as rates vary.

3. When selecting music for your wedding, please keep in mind that this is essentially a worship service, in which we're praying God's blessing into the start of your married life together. Some music is simply more appropriate for the reception hall than for the sanctuary. Most church musicians can give you some guidance in the selection of quality music for your wedding. If you have certain pieces in mind, simply run them by the pastor. A good rule of thumb: Don't select something that will embarrass you twenty years from now as you look back at your wedding.

Setting the Date: It's very important that each wedding couple arrange a wedding date with one of the pastors at the earliest possible time. Promptness and forward planning allows for ample time to prepare properly for your marriage (that thing you live with long after the wedding)! Also, it's necessary to plan early in order to serve the entire congregation and make facilities of the church open to all on an equal basis. **Please note: In order to set the date on our calendar, you must remit a security deposit of \$100.00, which will be applied to your final total. Cancellations within six months of your chosen date will forfeit the deposit.**

Before you marry: Having set the date, we ask each couple to meet with one of the pastors for some pre-marital work. Typically, we will use the PREPARE relationship inventory... a great tool for enhancing communication and gaining added perspective on your relationship. It's actually kind of fun, believe it or not!

The Marriage License: A valid marriage license is required by the pastor to officiate at a marriage service. The license is obtained by the wedding couple via the proper government agency at the courthouse of the county in which you reside. It's recommended that you obtain the license as soon as is practical... one month prior to the wedding in Wisconsin, six months prior in Minnesota. (One less thing to think about as zero-hour approaches!)

The Rehearsal: Generally, rehearsals will be conducted the evening before the wedding. As a rule, the earlier the better in terms of what time to schedule it, to allow you plenty of time in the evening for other events (i.e. rehearsal dinner, etc.) Everyone in the wedding party (particularly those who will be in the processional) as well as ushers should be on hand for the rehearsal. It's not essential for singers to be there (we won't go through special music as part of the rehearsal), but they may want to be there anyway, just to get a feel for how things will go at the wedding. Musicians are welcome to come early and rehearse, if they wish, to get a feel for the room. Tell everyone to be there early! (It never happens, but we can dream...)

Ushers: The time announced for the wedding is the time the service should begin, out of respect for your guests. The selection of "take charge," mature ushers is important. They have the task of moving people into and out of the sanctuary, and greeting your guests.

Flower Girls and Ring Bearers: Some couples choose to include children in their wedding service. Out of fairness to the children, it's best if those under six years old are allowed to sit with parents or other relatives during the ceremony.

The Wedding Party: One man and one woman are required by law to be witnesses to your wedding. They sign the marriage license immediately after the ceremony (usually the Best Man and Maid/Matron of Honor). The total number of bridesmaids and groomsmen is the choice of the wedding couple... but don't go nuts!

Others in the wedding: You may choose to have an assisting minister, scripture reader(s), etc. in your wedding. Simply talk to the pastor about your wishes, have them listed in the bulletin and invite them to the rehearsal.

Guest Clergy: Other Christian clergy are welcome to assist with a wedding upon invitation of the Trinity pastor. Discuss this with the pastor early in the process in order that the planning may be done properly.

Flowers and Candles: Fresh flowers add a nice touch to any special occasion, particularly a wedding...but you needn't go overboard. Flowers may be placed on the altar or on the chancel steps (no artificial flowers on the altar). Should you choose to leave an arrangement for the weekend worship services following your wedding (always a nice touch!), just let the church office know in advance so we can include a word about it in the bulletin. The candles on the altar are liquid-oil filled. You don't need to acquire extra candles. If you desire the use of a Unity Candle in your wedding, you must purchase one on your own. Trinity does have a Unity Candle holder that you may use, if you wish. The pastor will help you determine a location for its use in the service.

Other decorations: We regard our church sanctuary as an inherently beautiful worship space, and thus discourage the use of too much extra decorating. We do have 25 holders for pew-end bows, which you may use if you choose... but please do not use tape to attach any decorations to the pews! It's best to simply check with the pastor regarding any decorations. Please notify the church secretary when you plan to set up any decorations. Please remove all decorations immediately after your service.

Some folks choose to use an aisle runner. Our aisle, which is 75 feet long, is carpeted, so a runner isn't a necessity. But should you choose to obtain one, you may. We simply need to instruct your ushers in its deployment during the processional.

Personal Items: Trinity cannot be responsible for any personal items left at the church after your service. Please take all gifts, cards, clothing, etc. with you. (A good job for one of your personal attendants!)

Seating: Trinity has a comfortable seating capacity of approximately 400. The Fellowship Hall can accommodate about 200.

Pictures: You are encouraged to have at least a good portion of your formal pictures taken before the service when you, your clothes and flowers are fresh and crisp. Flash pictures during the ceremony aren't in good taste, and are not permitted from the Invocation through to the Benediction. (Coming in and going out is fine.) Videography is allowed, but should be done discreetly. The pastor will suggest some guidelines.

Rice and what-not: The throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti or anything similar after the wedding is not allowed at Trinity. It presents a significant hazard on steps and sidewalks, and it makes a ton of extra work for the custodian. “Just say no...” There are always bubbles, or bells, or whistles, or... Be creative!

Bulletins: The church secretary can print your wedding bulletin for you, if you choose, for a small fee. Please purchase enough blank covers (8.5 X 11 inches) and have them into the church office with all the necessary information at least two weeks prior to your wedding. The secretary can help you locate a wide selection of wedding bulletin covers, if you need assistance.

Custodian: A Wedding Custodian will be on hand the day of your wedding to make sure the church is clean and ready to go, and to be of general assistance.

And last but not least: *No alcoholic beverages may be served or consumed on church grounds at any time. Anyone found under the influence of alcohol on the wedding day will not be allowed to participate in the service, including the bride and groom. A general rule of thumb is this: save the celebrating for the reception, and everything will go smoother! We want your wedding to be the best it can be!*

Questions? The pastors and the church secretary are here to help you. Ask!



Fee Schedule

Member Fees:

Security Deposit: \$50.00

Sanctuary: \$50.00

Fellowship Hall (optional): \$75.00

Wedding Day Facilitator: \$75.00

Bulletin Preparation (optional): \$25.00

Organist: (rates vary)

Clergy: \$125.00 (off-site weddings will require a mileage charge based on current IRS rates per mile to and from the site, including rehearsal travel.)

Non-Member Fees:

Security Deposit: \$100.00

Sanctuary: \$200.00

Fellowship Hall (optional): \$200.00

Wedding Day Facilitator: \$75.00

Bulletin Preparation (optional): \$25.00

Organist: (rates vary)

Clergy: \$200.00 (of-site weddings will require a mileage charge based on current IRS rates to and from the site, including rehearsal travel.)

*Membership status is determined at the time you set your wedding date and have it reserved on our church calendar. Reservations for a non-member wedding may not be made more than 12 months in advance of the desired date. (This is simply a courtesy to our members, ensuring them fair access to our facilities.)

**All fees are payable one week before your wedding. You may bring them in with your wedding license. Please put each separate fee in its own envelope, marked accordingly. The security deposit will be refunded to you after the wedding.

***Security deposit is due at the time you set your wedding date and have it entered on our church calendar. The security deposit will be applied to your final total. If you should cancel your wedding within six months of your wedding date, the deposit will be forfeited.



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