

*Celebrating Marriage at  
Trinity Lutheran Church*

38460 Lincoln Trail

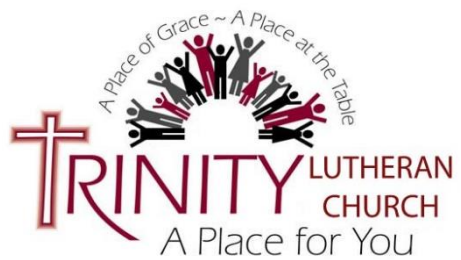
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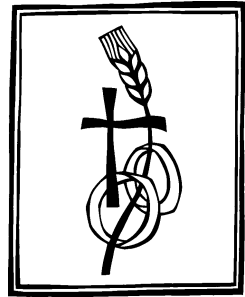


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# One In Christ



## *Your Wedding at Trinity Lutheran Church*

A church wedding is a service of worship celebrating the marriage of a man and a woman. It is not merely a ceremony. By choosing to be married in a Christian church, you are inviting Christ to be present at your wedding and a part of your new life together.

You are also making a statement of faith. Planning your wedding, therefore, is also a good time to think about what your faith means to you and how you as a couple will practice and express your Christian faith. It can be a time to recommit yourselves to Jesus Christ and the Church and seek God's grace in your new life together through regular worship, prayer, study of the Bible, and serving others.

To be married at Trinity Lutheran, it is expected that at least one of you is an active member of the congregation and that you are committed to have Jesus Christ and the Church as a part of your life together. An active member is someone who is currently worshiping regularly and participates in the community of faith at Trinity Lutheran.

We are here to help you plan a beautiful wedding that expresses your hopes and dreams. We are also here to see that everything is appropriate for a service of Christian worship and that Jesus Christ is honored in all that is said and done. This booklet is designed to help you with the details of a wedding day at Trinity Lutheran and to help you plan a wedding service that honors Christ.

## *How do we understand marriage as Christians?*

Choosing to be married in the Church is a reflection of your Christian faith and recognition that the Church is the community where Christians gather to worship, learn, witness, and serve. It is also recognition that the Church is your spiritual home and the place where many important steps in your life are celebrated and affirmed. Finally, you are stating that Jesus Christ and the Church will be a part of your Life-long commitment to each other.

In coming to be married, it is important to recognize that much more is happening than simply a wedding, important as that is. You are being married. The wedding is the public celebration of your life-long commitment before God and to one another. It begins the marriage. You are invited to make your focus not so much on the wedding as on the marriage.

Marriage has been around since the beginning of time! There is nothing essentially "Christian" about it. People of all faiths and cultures join in marriage. And yet, we as Christians celebrate the holiness of marriage by joining husband and wife together under the blessing of God.

As Lutherans we hold that marriage is a promise of faithfulness between a woman and man made with society's sanction and grounded in the steadfast love of God in Christ. As God is faithful to us, so we can be faithful toward each other.

Marriage is a social contract, the basis of which is the public and legal commitment a man and a woman make to each other. Contrary to popular understanding, the fundamental basis of marriage is not Love, for human love is changeable. The

*Praise the Lord,  
all you nations!*

fundamental basis of marriage is the promise of faithfulness. You cannot promise to be "in love" years from now, but you can make a commitment to be faithful.

*Extol him, all you  
peoples!*

For us as humans, faithfulness and love unfortunately do not always go together. But in God the two are joined! *It is in God's steadfast love that we seek to root our promise of faithfulness as well as our emotions of love. In the midst of all of life's experiences, the vows of faithfulness grounded in the love of God will last.*

*For great is his  
steadfast love  
toward us, and the  
faithfulness of the  
Lord endures  
forever.*

With the love of God in Christ as a part of their life, a couple can be both faithful and in love throughout the marriage.

*Praise the Lord!*

Marriage is also a gift from God. God created us male and female, and gave us marriage so that husband and wife may help and comfort each other, living faithfully together in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, throughout all their days.

God gave us marriage for the full expression of the love between a man and a woman. In marriage a woman and a man belong to each other, and with affection and tenderness freely give themselves to each other.

God gave us marriage for the well-being of human society, for the ordering of family life, and for the birth and nurture of children. Marriage is a place where the most basic care of the world and the neighbor takes place. Marriage becomes a place where men and women are supported and nurtured while they work as instruments of God's kingdom in a broken world. In short, thriving marriages foster Life within the greater society and act as agents of blessing.

## *Initial Steps*

### WHO MAY BE MARRIED HERE?

- ❖ One party must be a worshipping member of the congregation or be a member of a family that worships regularly here.

- ❖ If neither are members, one or both may take instruction and join the congregation. Such instruction and membership must take place before the marriage is scheduled.
- ❖ Where neither is a member and it is deemed appropriate that the wedding be performed at Trinity, as per the pastor, there is a fee set by Trinity. The fee must be paid prior to the rehearsal.

#### INTERFAITH MARRIAGES

Where one of the parties is a member of the Roman Catholic Church, there are special concerns to be aware of:

- 1) If permission for the marriage is not granted by the Roman Catholic Church to the Roman Catholic party, that person will be excommunicated for marrying “outside the church.”
- 2) If a priest’s presence is requested for the Service, the Roman Catholic party should make contact with the priest and invite him. The role of the priest in the Service will be that of Assisting Minister.
- 3) For a priest to participate in a wedding outside of the Roman Catholic Church, the bishop must provide him with a dispensation. For the priest to receive that dispensation, the Roman Catholic party in the marriage will be asked to sign a statement stating that he/she will “do all in my power to share the faith I have received with our children by having them baptized and educated as Catholics.”

#### ARRANGE A DATE

- 1) Contact the Trinity office to express your desire to be married at Trinity and check on possible dates,
  - ❖ Ideally the date should be set a minimum of six months in advance.
  - ❖ A rehearsal date and approximate time must also be set.
  - ❖ The date of the wedding should not be firmly set until it is confirmed by the pastor.
  - ❖ Weddings are usually not allowed during Holy Week.
  - ❖ Remember, scheduling a wedding does not mean that you have exclusive use of the church for the entire day.
- 2) Submit the Marriage Application/reservation form included with this booklet to secure the church for the date you have chosen.
  - ❖ It is very important to return your reservation promptly. Your date is not reserved until we receive your form and the date is confirmed with the Pastor.

- 3) Confirm the availability of the Fellowship Hall if you wish to have your reception at Trinity. (For more information on receptions at Trinity, see page 11.)

## THE PASTOR

Trinity is committed to providing a strong base of support for you as you embark on a life of love and faithfulness as a Christian couple. To that end, you will meet with the pastor who will be presiding at your wedding for Pre-Marriage classes. Your time spent with the pastor helps us get to know you as a couple so that we may better support you in your married life.

If you wish to invite the presiding pastor and spouse to your wedding reception, please include them on your regular invitation list, sending them a formal invitation so they know of your desire. Busy schedules may preclude their attendance.

The marriage service allows for participation by an assisting minister. This person may be ordained or may be a layperson. The presiding minister at the service is the pastor of the congregation. Only upon approval by the Church Council can a pastor from another congregation perform a wedding at the church.

## MUSICIANS

If you plan to have organ or piano music at your wedding, you will need to arrange with our musician as soon as the date is set. Contact Deb Aulich by calling her directly at 651.674.7047, ext 14 or 651.674.7969.

## MARRIAGE LICENSE

Minnesota law requires a couple to secure a license to marry. Marriage licenses are currently \$115.00 and may be obtained from any courthouse or government center in the state of Minnesota up to six months in advance of the wedding date. There is a five-day waiting period and you must return to pick up the license. Only one person needs to apply, but must show proof of age for both.

In 2000, MN Statue, section 517.08 was passed making you eligible to receive a discount on your license if you met certain criteria. The statue read:

(c) The marriage license fee for parties who have completed at least 12 hours of premarital education is \$40. In order to qualify for the reduced license fee, the parties must submit at the time of applying for the marriage license a statement that is signed, dated, and notarized or marked with a church seal, from the person who provided the premarital education on their letterhead confirming that it was received. The premarital education must be provided by a licensed or ordained minister or the minister's designee, a person authorized to solemnize marriages under section or a person authorized to practice marriage and family therapy under section 148B.33. The education must include the use of a premarital inventory and the teaching of communication and conflict management skills.

Please contact the pastor if you are interested in completing this requirement.

Bring your marriage license to Trinity office at least two weeks prior to the wedding date.

## *Arranging Your Wedding Day*

### WEDDING COORDINATOR

Shortly after you secure a date for your wedding, you should contact one of Trinity's wedding coordinators: Jane Magnison at 651.674.8434 or Lori Peterson at 651-402-2568. Your wedding coordinator will guide you through the process of having a wedding at Trinity. She will assist you in planning the details, help with arrangements at Trinity, and conduct the rehearsal. Technical questions about the wedding, facilities, fees, etc. should be addressed to her.

### REHEARSAL

The rehearsal is typically held the evening before the wedding. The entire bridal party should be present - bride, groom, maid/matron of honor, bridesmaids, best man, groomsmen, flower girl, ring bearer, ushers, parents of the bride and groom, grandparents, and readers. The organist is not typically present, but will meet with the soloist(s) at another time.

The wedding coordinator is generally the person who will direct the rehearsal. Please be sure that everyone is at the rehearsal on time. The rehearsal will begin within 15 minutes of the announced starting time even if others are late. A map to Trinity Lutheran is included on the last page of this booklet. It is expected that all participants in the rehearsal be on time.

### SOUND BOARD OPERATOR

If you intend to have any special music or video as a part of your wedding service, including soloists or by compact disc, it is to your advantage to have one of our trained sound technicians operating the sound system. The sound technician will be able to properly mix the sound levels for any readers, soloists, and musicians, providing you with quality sound for your wedding worship service.

Our expectation is that for anything more than the pastor's microphone and the pulpit microphone, you will work through the wedding coordinator to hire one of our sound board operators. See "Summary of Honoraria and Fees" for details.

### USHERS

There should be a minimum of two ushers for the wedding service. If you are expecting many guests, it is helpful to have one usher for every 50 guests.

The ushers should be at Trinity at least one hour before the service begins.



## ACCESS TO TRINITY LUTHERAN ON YOUR WEDDING DAY

*Please note: the building is not available to you until three hours before the wedding.*

The parts of the building that are available for your use are the Sanctuary, Narthex, the Fellowship Hall if you have food, the main restrooms and Nursery Room unless other prior arrangements have been made.

Please do not let children run around the building.

## PARAMENTS

The paraments (altar cloths) are designed and used according to the church year calendar. They each have meaning, highlighting the particular season of the church year for which they were designed. All occasional services of worship fall within the greater context of the season in which they occur.

As a part of the context of the church year, other appointments are used in the front of the church to emphasize the liturgical seasons. You may want to pay attention to these things, as well as the appointed liturgical colors, in making your wedding plans so that these colors and appointments can enhance the day of your wedding. If you have any questions about colors or seasonal appointments to be in place at the time of your wedding, please contact your wedding coordinator.

## FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Select the florist of your choice and confer with our wedding consultant about decorating the church. Flowers on the altar are to be fresh, not silk or artificial. Silk flowers may be used anywhere else. The purpose of flowers on the altar is not merely decorative, they are a symbol of thanksgiving and sacrifice and often in memory of someone. Altar flowers are not required.

Flowers should be delivered no earlier than three hours before the wedding, e.g. at 1:00 p.m. for a 4:00 p.m. wedding. This information should be shared with the florist so they do not arrive early to a locked building. Be sure the florist knows the exact location of Trinity.

There are 11 rows of pews on the left of the center and 10 on the right. Guests are typically seated in the two middle sections. The two center sections seat about 200 people.

## CANDLES

Trinity has 12 pew candelabra, each holding one candle 6 inches long. These candles are provided by the church at the bride and groom's expense. Only the custodian or wedding consultant sets up the pew candleholders. The two altar candles are provided by the church. The 3 large golden brass candelabra hold 15 candles each. These are provided by the church at the bride and groom's expense if you want to use them.

Many couples use a unity or marriage candle to symbolize the action of two uniting to become one. If you desire to use this in your wedding service, please tell your wedding coordinator. The Unity Candle holder may be provided by Trinity. The candles, a unity candle and two tapers are provided by the bride. Please purchase quality candles, so there is minimal drippage.

Please discuss all decorations with your wedding consultant. **Only the custodian or the wedding consultant moves and arranges the candelabra, flowers and equipment in Trinity Lutheran Church.**

#### PHOTOGRAPHER

If you are using a professional photographer, you will also want to make these arrangements early. Be sure your photographer knows the exact location of Trinity. Tell the photographer that there will be 2 ½ hours available for photography at Trinity on the day of your wedding. It is also helpful if you would make a list of the pictures you want taken. We ask photographers to be finished no less than 45 minutes before the start of the service and to have all equipment put away.

Flash photography is permitted during the processional and recessional only.

***No flash photography is allowed during the service.***

Videotaping is allowed if it will not interrupt or distract from the service. If so, please use discretion regarding the number of cameras. Check with the wedding coordinator regarding camera placement.

#### ROOMS FOR DRESSING

Women may dress in Nursery Room, which has an adjoining bathroom.

The men usually dress at home; however, a room will, be provided if necessary.

#### REFRESHMENTS

Since the wedding party will be at Trinity for several hours some provide snacks and beverages. Such things as crackers, cheese or fresh fruit work well. We recommend clear beverages such as 7-Up, Sprite or mineral water as colas can produce dark stains if dribbled or spilled. NO food or beverages may be brought into the sanctuary.

#### MISCELLANY

Most weddings have their guest book at both Trinity and the reception site.

We ask that rice, birdseed, confetti or anything else not be thrown in the building or outside. Balloons should not be released since they have been found to be an environmental hazard, especially to birds, and are often objectionable to neighbors.

## ALCOHOL AND SMOKE FREE FACILITY

To insure a happy and memorable wedding service, please ask your wedding party to refrain from consuming alcohol prior to your wedding service.

Use of any alcoholic beverages anywhere in the Trinity building or on the grounds is prohibited. Smoking is permitted outside only. Please do not leave cigarette remains anywhere on the Trinity grounds, including the parking lot.

## RECEPTION AT TRINITY LUTHERAN

If you have a reception at Trinity, you may use an outside caterer or prepare and furnish your own food.

To facilitate serving, friends or relatives who will assist at the reception should be present immediately as the reception begins to perform the following functions:

- ✧ Act as hostess in dining area
- ✧ Preside at the punch bowl
- ✧ Cut and serve cake
- ✧ Pour coffee

## *Summary of Honoraria and Fees*

As you will discover, a wedding involves much planning and work by many people. It is only right and proper that the work of others involved in your wedding be recognized and appreciation expressed. All gifts and fees described below are to be delivered to the wedding coordinator the night of rehearsal. Checks for the pastor, wedding coordinator, organist, and sound room are payable to the individual. ALL other checks are payable to Trinity Lutheran Church.

### **PASTOR**

An honorarium is an expression of gratitude for the extra hours of work done by your pastor on the occasion of a wedding. A typical gift is currently \$200 - \$300.

### **WEDDING COORDINATOR**

The use of our wedding coordinator is required for all weddings with the exception of those involving less than 50 guests and no more than four total in the wedding party, including the bride and groom, in which case there will be no rehearsal. A typical gift is currently \$100 - \$125.

**MUSICIAN** - Deb Aulich, Phone 651.674.7047 ext. 37 or 651.674.7969.

Since playing for weddings is not part of the church's contract with our musician, you are asked to compensate the musician for her/his services. The fee includes both playing and consultation. Fee \$150-\$200.

### **SOUND BOARD OPERATOR**

If you are having any special music that requires the use of the sound system, you will need to use one of our trained Sound Board Operators. That person will arrive 1 hour prior to the wedding. Fee \$ 60

### **BUILDING USE FEE\***

Option 1. Weddings with Less than 50 guests and/or no more than four in the wedding party (including bride and groom) - \$100.00

Option 2. Weddings with 50-125 guests and no more than eight in the wedding party - \$175.00

Option 3. Weddings with more than 125 guests and/or more than eight in the wedding party - \$275.00

\*Includes custodial care and clean-up, lighting, heating, air-conditioning, use of pipe organ and grand-piano, use of sanctuary for up to four hours, use of dressing rooms for bridal party, the main restrooms, and Fellowship Hall for beverages and food.

### **FOR RECEPTION**

\*Fellowship Hall           \$150.00

\*Kitchen                   \$ 50.00

\*Note: *Due within two weeks of scheduling your reception. Kitchen does not include food preparation, serving or cleaning. You must obtain you own qualified caterer.*

### **CANDLES**

If you choose to use Trinity's candelabras:

\$1.50 each candle

### **WEDDING BULLETINS**

The cost of wedding bulletins set-up and printed by the Trinity office staff is \$35.00 per 100.

### **OFFSITE WEDDINGS:**

Please reimburse your pastor \$.50/mile round-trip from North Branch for offsite weddings.

### **NON-MEMBER FEES**

While it is an exception that non-members are married at Trinity, the following fees apply in such exceptions. They are based on the fact that it is the members who, through their regular offerings, provide the beautiful facilities as well as the staff.

## Honoraria

Pastor	\$ 250
Coordinator	\$125
Organist	\$ 200

## Use of the Sanctuary

Fee for use of the Sanctuary*	\$ 350
Custodial Fee (4 hours)	\$ 100
Chapel	\$ 150

\*Note: *Due within 10 days of the time your wedding is scheduled.*

## Use of Fellowship Hall and Kitchen

Fellowship Hall*	\$300
Kitchen	\$150

\*Note: *Due at the time of scheduling your reception. Kitchen does not include food preparation, serving or cleaning. You must obtain your own qualified caterer.*

## *Planning the Wedding Worship Service*

### THE SERVICE

Typically the order of worship is that which is found on page 286 in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)*. A copy is found later in this booklet. Please review the service to get familiar with it. Additions and changes can be made in the service as long as they are liturgically and theologically appropriate.

Where the Service of Holy Communion is included in the Marriage Service, the sacrament is always for the entire gathered congregation. The couple may wish to provide the bread and wine for the Service.

### THE ORDER OF SERVICE

The following outline may be used in order to develop a bulletin for your wedding worship service. A sample bulletin is included at the back of this book.

- Procession (organ, instrumental, or congregational hymn)
- The Greeting
- Prayer of the Day
  - Hymn or Solo (optional)*
- Bible Reading (usually two selections)
- Homily
  - Hymn or Solo (optional)*
- The Exchange of Promises and Rings
- The Pronouncement of Marriage
- Blessing of the Marriage
  - Lighting of the Unity Candle (optional)*
  - Hymn, Solo, or Instrumental (optional—during lighting of the unity candle)*
  - Blessing by parents and wedding party (optional)*
- Prayers
- Holy Communion (optional)*
- The Lord's Prayer (sung or spoken)
- Benediction

*Introduction of the Couple (optional)*

Recessional (organ, instrumental, or congregational hymn)

**BIBLE READINGS**

Because the marriage is a gift from God and the Christian marriage service is also a statement of faith, we ground the celebration and the promises of marriage in God's holy word. Unless approved by the presiding pastor, the readings in your service should be from the Bible.

The liturgy requires at least one scripture reading in addition to the gospel reading. You may choose to have a person or persons significant to you read the scriptural passages, or the pastor may read them. You may choose from the list or find others by searching through the Bible on your own.

The texts you choose for your wedding will reveal something about your relationship. What drew you to select these passages? How does this text speak to your shared commitment and your hopes for the future? How does the passage speak of God's blessing and activity in marriage? Does it reveal a vision for your married life? Be sure to share with the pastor why you have chosen the texts you have.

*Old Testament*

Genesis 1:26-28    Woman and man created in the image of God  
Genesis 2:18-24    Companionship rather than loneliness  
Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67    The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah  
Proverbs 3:3-6    Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart  
Song of Solomon 2:10-13    The voice of the beloved  
Song of Solomon 8:6-7    Many waters cannot quench love  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12    A threefold cord is not quickly broken  
Isaiah 63:7-9    God's steadfast love lifts up the people  
Jeremiah 31:31 -34    The new covenant of the people of God

*Psalms*

Psalms 33    May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord  
Psalm 67    May God be merciful to us and bless us  
Psalm 100    We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture  
Psalm 117    The steadfast love of the Lord  
Psalm 121    The Lord keeps watch over you  
Psalm 127    Unless the Lord builds the house  
Psalm 128    Blessed are those who walk in the Lord's ways  
Psalm 150    Let everything that breathes praise the Lord

## *New Testament*

- Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 If God is for us, who is against us
- Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 A living sacrifice and genuine love
- 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 The greatest gift is love
- Ephesians 3:14-19 The breadth, length, height and depth of Christ's love
- Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33 Walk in love, as Christ loved us
- Philippians 2:1-11 Your attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus
- Philippians 4:4-9 Rejoice in the Lord always
- Colossians 3:12-17 Clothed in compassion, kindness, meekness and patience
- 1 John 3:18-24 Let us love in truth and action
- 1 John 4:7-16 Let us love one another for love is of God
- Revelation 19:1, 5-9 Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the lamb.

## *Gospels*

- Matthew 5:1-10 The beatitudes
- Matthew 5:14-16 You are the light, let your light shine
- Matthew 7:21, 24-29 A wise person builds upon the rock
- Matthew 19:4-6 What God has united must not be divided
- Matthew 22:35-40 Love, the greatest commandment
- Mark 10:6-9 They are no longer two but one
- John 2:1-11 The wedding at Cana
- John 15:9-17 Love one another as I have loved you

## THE PROMISES

The vows or promises that you make to one another are at the center of the wedding service. It is by your promises that you bind yourselves together as husband and wife. You may choose between the following options for the wording of your promises or you may adapt the wording in consultation with the pastor.

- Option 1. I take you, name, to be my *wife/husband* 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. (ELW)
- Option 2. In the presence of God and this community, I, name, take you, name, to be my *wife/husband*; 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. (ELW)
- Option 3. I, name, give myself to you, name. By the grace of God, I promise to support and care for you. In the love of Christ, I promise to love and cherish you. With the Spirit's help, I promise to be faithful to you, as long as we both shall live.
- Option 4. I take you, name, to be my *wife/husband*, and these things I promise to you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect, trust, help, and care for you; I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will share my life with you, through the best and worst of all that is to come, until death parts us.
- Option 5. I, name, take you, name, to be my *wife/husband*, and I promise before God and these witnesses to be your loving and faithful *husband/wife*; in plenty and want; in joy and in sorrow; in sickness and in health; as long as we both shall live.

## WEDDING SERVICE MUSIC

The selection of music for a wedding service is a very important part of planning your wedding. We ask that all music chosen be appropriate for a Christian service of worship. Secular love songs and much popular music, while often pleasing and appealing, are not typically appropriate. If you have questions, consult with the pastor or organist/pianist who is working with you.

Unless previously approved, we ask that you use our church musician. If another organist or pianist is used, they must be accomplished musicians and familiar with church weddings. We ask that your musician(s) clear any practice time with the church office so that it will not interfere with other plans for use of the sanctuary space and instruments.

The following list of appropriate wedding music is intended to assist you as you plan your wedding. The musician at Trinity has copies of all the music listed on the following pages and will help in your selection as needed.

### *Suggested Wedding Processionals*

Bach, J.S.                      Jesu, Joy of Mans Desiring (piano or organ)



Beethoven	Arioso Hymn to Joy*
Campra	Rigaudon*
Clarke, Jeremiah (Henry Purcell)	Trumpet Voluntary* (Prince of Denmark's March) Trumpet Tune*
Handel, G.F.	Hornpipe from Water Music*
Hopson, Hal	Processional in CM
Johnson, David	Trumpet Tune in CM Trumpet Tune in DM Processional in E Flat

*\*Can be used for either processional or recessional*

### *Suggested Wedding Recessionals*

ALbinoni, Coretti, Telemann	Trumpet Tunes from the Italian Baroque
Bach, J. S.	In Thee Is Gladness
Handel, G.F.	Recessional in GM Sinfonia from Solomon
Manz, Paul	Partita on St. Anne Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Marcelto	Psalm IX
Mendelssohn	Wedding March
Mouret	Rondeau

### *Vocal Solos*

Please consult with the church musician for appropriateness of your chosen solos before giving them to your soloist/s.

### *Use of Congregational Hymns*

The simplest way to give united voice to the praise and thanksgiving of the wedding service is to sing hymns. You may wish to think carefully about hymn singing if the friends and family attending the ceremony are non-singers, but hymns may also be performed by a soloist.

A wonderful and joyous way to begin a Christian wedding ceremony is to sing a hymn during the procession of the bridal party. Hymns may also be sung after the homily and at the close of the service. The hymns can be easily printed and inserted in your bulletin.

The following hymns from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)* are a sampling of some hymns fitting for weddings.

Hear us now, our God and Father	ELW 585
Joyful, joyful we adore thee	ELW 836
Love divine, all loves excelling	ELW 631
Now thank we all our God	ELW 839, 840
Beautiful Savior	ELW 838
For the beauty of the earth	ELW 879
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	ELW 858, 859
The King of Love my shepherd is	ELW 502
Go, my children, with my blessing	ELW 543
I was There to Hear Your Morning Cry	ELW 732

## HOLY COMMUNION

The wedding worship service is centered on God's Word, your promises, and the blessing of your marriage. It is appropriate but not customary to celebrate Holy Communion as a part of the service. Marriage often involves a festive meal. Holy Communion is a festive meal in which we receive God's gift of grace and forgiveness.

As Holy Communion is a sign of unity, it must be open to the congregation and not limited to the bride and groom or wedding party. Please consult with your pastor if you plan to have Holy Communion as a part of your wedding worship service.

## BULLETINS

If you wish to have bulletins prepared by the church office, please make arrangements with the wedding coordinator. She has a selection of sample covers that may be ordered through the church office or visit the following web-sites to pick out your bulletin:

- ❖ [www.concordiasupply.com](http://www.concordiasupply.com)
- ❖ [www.hermitageart.com](http://www.hermitageart.com) – church/general worship bulletins/wedding

- ❖ [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org) – church supplies/bulletins & offering envelopes/wedding bulletins.
- ❖ [church.woolverton.com](http://church.woolverton.com) – bulletins/wedding church bulletins or prestige wedding bulletins.

Please allow 3 weeks for ordering and delivery and an additional week for printing.

## *Find Delight in Each Other and Grow in Holy Love*

*“The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, establish and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life’s end. Amen.”*

This marriage blessing from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship reminds us that it is God who establishes and sustains us in marriage and that it was created so that we might be blessed by it throughout our lives.

Remember, this day is important for the promises you make to one another for your life together. Gathering with friends and family to celebrate and honor these promises help make it a day of joy. When you get to your wedding day, set aside your worries about every little detail of your wedding, and enjoy!

## *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Marriage Service* (From the ELW Pages 286-291)

### **ENTRANCE**

*The assembly stands as the ministers and the wedding group enter. Music—hymn, song, psalm, instrumental music—may accompany the entrance.*

### **GREETING**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **DECLARATION OF INTENTION**

*The minister addresses the couple in these or similar words, asking each person in turn:*

*Name, will you have name to be your wife/husband, to live together in the covenant of*

marriage?

Will you love *her/him*, comfort *her/him*, honor and keep *her/him*, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to *her/him* as long as you both shall live?

*Response:*

I will.

Will all of you, by God's grace, uphold and care for *name* and *name* in their life together?

**We will.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The presiding minister leads the following or another prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to reveal your love to all people. Enrich *name* and *name* with every good gift, that their life together may show forth your love; and grant that at the last we may all celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no end; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **READINGS**

*The assembly is seated. Two or three scripture readings are proclaimed. When the service includes communion, the last is a reading from the gospels. Responses may include a psalm in response to a reading from the Old Testament, a sung acclamation preceding the reading of the gospel, or other appropriate hymns, songs, and psalms.*

## **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection follows.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*A hymn of the day may be sung.*

## **VOWS**

*The couple may join hands. Each promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words.*

I take you, *name*, to be my *wife/husband* 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.

**OR**

In the presence of God and this community, I, *name*, take you, *name*, to be my

wife/husband; 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.

## **GIVING OF RINGS**

*The couple may exchange rings with these or similar words.*

Name, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

**OR**

Name, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow. With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

## **ACCLAMATION**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Name and name, by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have joined themselves to one another as husband and wife.

Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly may offer acclamation with applause. A sung acclamation, hymn, or other music may follow.*

*Other symbols of marriage may be given or used at this time.*

## **MARRIAGE BLESSING**

*The couple may kneel. The presiding minister may extend a hand over the couple while praying for God's blessing in the following or similar words.*

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to endure the cross for our sake, that we may have abundance of life.

By the power of your Holy Spirit pour out the abundance of your blessing on name and name. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let your love be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads.

Bless them so that their lives together may bear witness to your love. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death.

Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast forever in your

heavenly home, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Parents or others may speak additional words of blessing and encouragement at this time.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The assembly stands. Prayers of intercession for the world and its needs may be prayed.*

*Each petition may end:*

Gracious and faithful God,

**hear our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds **Amen.***

*A service with communion continues with the peace. After the presiding minister greets the assembly, the couple may greet each other with the kiss of peace, and the assembly may greet one another in peace.*

**OR**

*A service without communion continues as follows.*

*The Lord's Prayer is prayed by all.*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **PEACE**

*If it has not been included earlier in the service, the greeting of peace may be shared.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The couple may greet one another with the kiss of peace. All present may greet one another with a gesture of peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

## **BLESSING**

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing in these or similar words.*

The blessed and holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every

side, and guide you in truth and peace, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**OR**

God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

*An assisting minister may send the assembly forth in these or similar words.*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*A hymn may be sung or instrumental music played as the wedding group and the ministers depart.*

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*Sample Bulletin*

<i>The Marriage Ceremony of Bride's full name &amp; Grooms full name Day, Date, Year Time</i>		<i>The Wedding Party</i>	
Prelude	Invocation and Prayer	Parents of the Bride .....	
Processional		Parents of the Groom .....	
Giving of the Bride		Maid of Honor....., Sister of Bride	
Scripture Reading		Best Man ....., Brother of Groom	
Worship Song		Bridesmaids....., Sister of Bride	
Scripture Reading		, Sister of Bride	
Meditation		, Friend of Bride	
Marriage Promises and Vows		Groomsmen....., Friend of Groom	
Exchange of Rings		, Brother of Bride	
Wedding Prayer		, Friend of Groom	
Solo		Flower Girl....., Niece of Groom	
Lighting of the Unity Candle		Ushers ....., Friend of Groom	
Declaration of Marriage		, Brother-in-Law of Bride	
Lord's Prayer		Soloist....., Friend of Groom	
Benediction		Scripture Reader..... Brother-in-Law of Bride	
Introduction of the Bride and Groom		Organist.....	
Recessional		Officiant.....	
Postlude		Wedding Coordinator.....	
		<i>The flowers on the altar are in memory of our loved ones who could not be with us today.</i>	



## *Wedding Checklist & Timeline*

Because there is so much information to digest and so many tasks to attend to, here is a Timeline and Checklist to help you manage the details pertaining to Trinity.

**At earliest possible time**, reserve a date through the Trinity Lutheran Office.

- ❖ Indicate the date and approximate time of the rehearsal.
- ❖ If you are having the reception at Trinity, also reserve Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ Submit Reservation Form within 10 days of requesting date.

**3-4 months** Contact the Trinity Lutheran office to arrange a time to complete the Prepare Premarital Inventory.

- ❖ When notified that the results are available, schedule your first appointment with the presiding pastor to begin premarital counseling.
- ❖ Remember, your sessions with the pastor should be completed before meeting with the wedding coordinator.

**3 months** Contact the wedding coordinator and schedule a time to meet.

**3 months** Contact musician for availability on wedding date.

**6-8 weeks** You should have completed your premarital counseling with the pastor.

**6 weeks** Order bulletin covers if you are planning on having the church office prepare your bulletins.

**4-6 weeks** Meet with wedding coordinator to review wedding book, tour facilities, and confirm exact time of wedding and rehearsal.

**3-4 weeks** Meet with organist and soloist(s) about music selections.

**2 weeks** Submit bulletin with scripture, vows, and music selections to presiding pastor for final review and approval. (If you are having the church office staff prepare your bulletins, also submit other bulletin information, including order of service, wedding party names and any special message to your guests).

**2 weeks** Bring your marriage license and any outstanding fees and honoraria to the Trinity Church office.

**1 week** Be sure your florist and photographer know where Trinity is located and that the earliest they may have access to the church is 3 hours prior to the wedding.

## Map to Trinity Lutheran Church

### From I-35

Take the North Branch Exit (147) to Highway 95. Head East through the business district to Grand Avenue/Co. Rd. 14 and turn Right. Proceed to Lincoln Trail (County Road 14) and turn left. Trinity Lutheran Church is located directly on the corner.

### From the West (Cambridge Area)

Take Highway 95 East through the North Branch business district to Grand Avenue/Co. Rd. 14 and turn Right. Proceed to Lincoln Trail (County Road 14) and turn left. Trinity Lutheran Church is located directly on the corner.

### From the East (Taylors Falls Area)

Take Highway 8 West through Lindstrom to Lincoln Trail (County Road 14) and turn right. Head north towards North Branch. Trinity Lutheran Church is located...

### From the South (Stacy Area)

Take County Road 30 north to Highway 95. Turn right to Grand Avenue/Co. Rd. 14 then turn Right. Proceed to Lincoln Trail (County Road 14) and turn left. Trinity Lutheran Church is located directly on the corner.

### From the North (Rush City Area)

Take County Road 30 south to Highway 95. Turn left to Grand Avenue/Co. Rd. 14 then turn Right. Proceed to Lincoln Trail (County Road 14) and turn left. Trinity Lutheran Church is located directly on the corner.

