

WEDDING GUIDELINES



CONTACTS

Pastors

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Wedding Coordinator

Carla Norelius

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Church Office Administrator

Bette Braun-Auten

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Guidelines and fees effective June 2013

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA

13025 Newell Ave, PO Box 768

Lindstrom, MN 55048

651.257.5129

www.trinitylindstrom.org

HISTORY of Trinity English Lutheran Church

At the beginning of the 20th century, there was no Lutheran church in Lindstrom. The Swedish pioneers traveled by horseback, buggy and sleigh to Chisago Lake Lutheran in Center City to worship and hear God's word preached in their native tongue. Their children learned the Swedish Catechism.

Some were concerned that young people were leaving the church for English speaking congregations. On "Trinity Sunday," June 2, 1901, a group of Lindstrom residents gathered in the Opera Hall (now the site of the Chisago County Press) to hear Rev. S.W. Kuhns preach in English. Five weeks later on July 11, 1901, Trinity Lutheran of Lindstrom was incorporated as part of the English Synod of the Northwest. It became the area's first English-speaking Lutheran congregation, comprised of "fifteen grown persons and eleven families."

Since that time, Trinity has grown to be a congregation of over 1500 members. While we have grown, the sanctuary remains quite visibly the same Swedish structure that was first erected. Various remodeling and building phases have been attuned to the original Swedish architecture and it remains one of the most beautiful Lutheran churches in the area.

GOD'S BLESSINGS

We pray God will bless you as you plan for your marriage and begin your new life together. We welcome continued ministry with you in the name of Christ our Lord.

WEDDINGS

Wedding ceremonies are an integral part of our congregation's ministry and reflects the whole life and purpose of our community: to worship God, giving God thanks for God's love for us in Jesus Christ. The wedding ceremony is one of the worship services of a Lutheran congregation in which we receive God's blessings and is a small part of our lifelong walk with God in Christ. Faithfulness in worship is an important part of our overall faith journey. All weddings performed at Trinity will be conducted in ways compatible with and traditions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

If you are not now members of a congregation of faith, we invite you to seriously consider becoming one. We also invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:00 for our traditional worship (choir, organ and special music) or our 10:30 contemporary worship (featuring a children's message, band and a more casual worship style).

A guest pastor is welcome to take part in the ceremony (scripture reading, homily) but a Trinity clergy person will perform the vows and sign the marriage license. The guest pastor's name, number and email (if available) is needed so conversation can be set up for all to visit. Please provide these to the church office.

Schedule your date! The church is used for a variety of programming and outreach ministries. Knowing the tentative date and time of your ceremony allows us to make scheduling commitments to other ministries. Please contact the church office as many months in advance as possible.

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

1) *Set the Date and Time of the Ceremony*

Call the Office Administrator to schedule the ceremony for your desired day and time. You will be asked to provide basic information, a signed disclaimer, and a non-refundable wedding deposit fee of \$50.00. This deposit amount will be deducted from your final payment. Phone number, address of both parties and separate email addresses are **necessary** for both participants for future communication.

2) *Meet with the Wedding Coordinator*

Couples wanting to be married at Trinity should plan on meeting with the wedding coordinator at least one time. This meeting should occur at least 3-5 months before the wedding. It is your responsibility to contact the wedding coordinator. The wedding coordinator will discuss various aspects of the wedding service, help you plan and prepare, and give you a tour of the church. Much communication can also take place via email, so again, updated emails are essential.

3) *Contact the Pastor:*

When couples preparing for marriage wish to have a wedding ceremony at Trinity, they should plan to meet with the pastor for pre-marital counseling and wedding preparation. The counseling session lasts approximately 2 hours. *Prior to* the time spent with the pastor, the couple is required to do the following:

- ❖ Contact the Office Administrator to set the date and time of the wedding. Church office: 651-257-5129 x21
- ❖ Send the \$50 deposit *and* disclaimer to Trinity at PO Box 768 Lindstrom MN 55045 Attn: Bette
- ❖ Contact the Wedding Coordinator to introduce yourself. Carla's phone number is 651-257-1293.
- ❖ Complete the online pre-marriage inventory. The pastor will send this to you once a meeting time has been scheduled.
- ❖ Meet with the pastor to discuss the inventory and:
 - The importance of Christian faith and life in Christ in the marriage
 - Maturity and readiness for marriage
 - The spiritual meaning of the wedding ceremony
 - Specific plans for the order of service, vows, lessons, etc.
 - Musical selections
 - Readings for the wedding ceremony

MUSIC

Though permitting a fairly wide discretion, the music selected for use during the service should 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. Sentimental, non-Christian, pop artist musical selections are usually inappropriate for use in a worship setting.

For many reasons we only allow "live" music at the marriage service. Thus, ***no pre-recorded music*** is allowed during the marriage service. We encourage you to use favorite songs sung by popular artists at the reception, or another celebration. Questions of musical appropriateness may be directed to the pastor or the organist of Trinity. The couple is encouraged to choose music from a wide variety of church music, both traditional and contemporary. We will assist you in this process and have organists, musicians, soloists and others to assist you.

You are welcome to provide your own musicians and soloists, but all music must be approved by the pastor performing your ceremony.

FLORIST

Flowers are permitted in our sanctuary space. It is only permissible to have flowers strewn down the aisle during the wedding service if a wedding runner is in place. Flower petals may not be thrown either inside or outside the church building. If there are questions about flowers, please talk to the coordinator or officiating pastor.

REHEARSAL

The rehearsal is scheduled the day before or two days before the wedding ceremony. To alleviate anxiety on the part of the bride and groom, the pastor, coordinator, and organist work as a team, doing their best to be aware of the needs of the worship service and plans of the couple and are responsible for seeing that the wedding is celebrated in good order, reflecting the dignity required of any worship service conducted in the facilities of Trinity Lutheran Church. The Wedding Coordinator leads and directs the wedding rehearsal.

Wedding Rehearsals are a rehearsal of the wedding ceremony and typically last 1 hour. However, we will start ***at the scheduled time***, so all members of the wedding party are encouraged to arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the rehearsal.

PHOTOGRAPHER

In keeping with the worshipful mood and context of a worship service, pictures only by the photographer (no flash) are permitted during the service. Guests at the wedding, family or friends, are requested not to take pictures during the service. *(It is helpful to make note of this in the wedding bulletin, along with the request to please turn off cell phones.)*

Times for taking pictures prior to the wedding must be scheduled with the coordinator at least 1 month prior to the rehearsal date. Persons videotaping the service and photographer must speak with the coordinator regarding when and where pictures may be taken, before, during and after the wedding ceremony.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

To ease last-minute pressure before the wedding, we ask that you bring your marriage license to the church office sometime during the week prior to the wedding service. If this is not possible, the marriage license ***must*** be presented to the wedding coordinator on the day of the rehearsal. Please contact the county in which you reside for more information about fees, timeliness of acquiring, etc.

OTHER CHURCH POLICIES

- ❖ Trinity is a smoke-free environment. There is to be no smoking allowed anywhere on the church property.
- ❖ Use of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on church premises. Any drinking of alcoholic beverages is strictly forbidden (other than Holy Communion) and may result in the wedding being cancelled.
- ❖ Food, snacks, sandwiches, etc. may be eaten during the hours prior to the ceremony. We request that all food and drink items be placed in a trash receptacle for the ease of custodial clean up. No food is allowed in the Kirvida Lounge.
- ❖ For environmental, safety, and custodial considerations, we ask that you do NOT use bird seed, rice, glitter or rose petals on church premises.
- ❖ The church will be opened three hours prior to the wedding ceremony and not more than two hours following the ceremony's conclusion. All personal or rented property must be promptly removed from the premises during this time and is not the responsibility of Trinity Lutheran or its representatives.

FEES

A non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 will be required to reserve the date for the wedding. Please note on the check or envelope the date of the wedding and the last names of the marrying couple.

Sanctuary (approximate seating capacity of 425)

	Member ¹	Non-member
Church fee	No fee	\$100.
Custodial fee	\$ 75.	\$ 75.
Fellowship Hall for reception	\$ 50.	\$150.
Pastor ²	\$310.	\$410.
Wedding Coordinator (required)	\$150.	\$150.
Sound	\$ 40.	\$ 40.
Organist	\$125.	\$125.
Soloist	\$ 50.	\$100.

All fees are to be paid at least **two (2) weeks in advance** of the event.

A \$200.00 damage deposit is required if the church kitchen is used. Please write a separate check payable to **Trinity Lutheran Church**. The damage deposit will be returned within two weeks of the event if there are no damages.

SUGGESTED READINGS FOR THE CEREMONY

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 100

Song of Solomon 7:6-7

Matthew 19:4-6

John 15:9-12

Romans 12:1-3, 9-13

I Corinthians 13

Ephesians 3:14-19

Ephesians 5:21-33

Philippians 4:8-9

Colossians 3:12-17

1 John 4:7-12

¹ *Members* are those who are contributing and active members of Trinity Lutheran for 6 months or more, or their children.

² Includes fee for online pre-marriage inventory

THE WEDDING CEREMONY

Suggested *Order of Worship* for the wedding ceremony

Prelude	<i>(Hymn / Solo – optional)</i>
Processional	The Lord's Prayer
Invocation	Blessing
<i>(Hymn - optional)</i>	Declaration of Marriage
Greeting	Recessional
Blessing	Postlude
Prayer	
<i>(Hymn / Solo – optional)</i>	
Scripture Readings	
Wedding Homily	
<i>(Hymn / Solo – optional)</i>	
Vows of Intention	
Vows of Commitment	
Exchange of Rings	
Blessing of the Rings	
<i>Lighting of the Unity (optional)</i>	
<i>Solo (optional)</i>	
Prayer	



PLEASE SIGN:

I (PRINT name) _____

and (PRINT name) _____

Date of wedding _____

have read the Wedding Guidelines for Trinity Lutheran Church.
We agree to all fees, deposits and policies governed by the church.

SIGNED _____

SIGNED _____

Date _____

Please return this page with a \$50 non-refundable deposit to:

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Attn: Bette, Office Coordinator
PO Box 768
Lindstrom MN 55045

Upon receipt of this signed page and your deposit, your wedding date will be reserved at Trinity. Balance of the payment will be due two weeks before the ceremony.

Thank you.