



**Trinity Lutheran Church**

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Weddings

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Hayfield, Minnesota

**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 his people. Working together, we seek to make the wedding ceremony meaningful and memorable.

**Setting the date:** It is very important that each wedding couple check with the pastor at the earliest possible time regarding the wedding date. Remember that you are planning not only a ceremony but also a lifetime commitment to each other. Promptness allows for ample time to examine the marriage relationship. Also, it is necessary to plan early in order to serve the entire congregation and make the facilities of the church available to all on an equal basis.

**Before you marry:** Having set the date, it is the policy of the pastor to meet with the bride and groom a number of times before the wedding takes place. During these meetings, the pastor will assist you in planning your wedding service and will conduct pre-marital counseling. The instrument entitled "Prepare/Enrich" is required of all couples that marry at Trinity and has a processing fee of \$35.00. It is a meaningful tool for the couples and pastor to utilize in preparation for marriage. After enough pre-marriage counseling hours, couples receive a \$70 discount on their marriage license.

**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, through application at the office of the Clerk of the District Court located in the county government building. A license is valid for six months from the day it is obtained. It's recommended that you get the license as soon as is practical, and bring it to the church office for safekeeping. (One less thing to think about later on!)

## WEDDING FEE SCHEDULE

	MEMBER*	NON-MEMBER*
<u>Use of Facilities</u>	\$0.00	\$200.00
Security Deposit**	100.00	100.00
 <u>Professional Services</u>		
Pastor	125.00	200.00
Organist	100.00	150.00
Custodian	75.00	90.00
Bulletin	35.00	50.00

\*Membership status is determined at the time you set your wedding date and have it officially entered on the church calendar.

**\*\*Security Deposit is due at the time you set your wedding date and have it officially entered on the church calendar.**

Security deposit will be returned within a week of the ceremony unless 1) evidence of alcoholic beverages is found on the church premises, 2) rice or birdseed or a similar substance is found in the building or on the steps or sidewalk outside the church, or 3) other significant damage occurs.

**ALL FEES PAYABLE ON LAST PLANNING MEETING WITH PASTOR**  
**Separate checks to pastor, organist and custodian is preferred.**



**Ushers:** The time announced for the wedding is the time the service should begin, out of respect for the guests. The selection of “take charge” ushers is important. They have the task of moving people, lighting candles, 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 is best if those under six years old were allowed to sit with parents during the ceremony.

**The Bridal Party:** One man and one woman are required by law to be witnesses to your wedding (minimum of 16 years old). They sign the marriage license immediately after the ceremony. These are usually the Best Man and Maid/Matron of Honor. The total number of bridesmaids and groomsmen is the choice of the wedding couple.

**Others in the service:** You may choose to have an assisting minister, readers, etc. in your wedding. Have them listed in the bulletin and invite them all to the rehearsal.

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

**Flowers:** Flower stands are available. Should you choose to leave the flowers for the Sunday worship services following your wedding, please notify the church office to include a word about them in the worship bulletin.

**Candles:** You may use any of the candelabras owned by Trinity, with the oil-filled candles that go with them. A small fee is charged to use them, but it is cheaper (and nicer!) than buying your own candles that drip. A unity candle stand is also available.

**Decorations:** Plan ahead to decorate the church in a tasteful and attractive manner. Please notify the church secretary when you plan to set up your decorations. You are responsible for removing all decorations after the service.

**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.

**Seating:** Trinity has a comfortable seating capacity of about 400, which includes the balcony. The Fellowship Hall has a seating capacity of 200.

**Pictures:** You select your photographer. You are encouraged to have most of the formal pictures taken before the service when you, your clothes and flowers are fresh and crisp. Flash pictures during the service are discouraged. Videotaping is allowed, but should be done discreetly. The pastor will suggest some guidelines.

**Rice:** The throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti or anything similar after the wedding is not allowed at Trinity. It presents a significant hazard on the west steps leading into the church building, and all such substances make extra work for the custodian. The security deposit will be retained by Trinity if any such substance is used.

**Bulletins:** The church secretary will print bulletins for you, if you so desire, at a per copy fee. Please purchase enough blank covers and have them brought to the church office with all the necessary information at least one week prior to the service. The church secretary can help you locate a wide selection of wedding bulletins, if you need assistance. The pastor will help you plan your order of service.