

The cost is \$30.00.

The people involve in a wedding spend many hours consulting, planning, preparing, and rehearsing to make your wedding special. Good etiquette requires that they be compensated accordingly. For members there is no charge for the church facilities for the wedding service.

Suggests fees are:

Organists	\$75.00
Accompanists	\$50.00
Soloists	\$50.00

For non-members there is a charge of \$375 which covers the use of the facilities and clean-up costs. For Trinity Families the cost is \$150.

Pastor: There is no set fee for the pastor's services. However, an honorarium is customary.

The Wedding Booklet



**of
Trinity
Lutheran
Church**

INTRODUCTION

This handbook explains the basic principles and guidelines for wedding solemnized and celebrated at Trinity Lutheran Church, 331 West George Street, West Chicago, Illinois.

The Wedding is an exciting time in which a couple publicly professes their commitment to each other. When the wedding is conducted in a church there is an extra public witness of God and the church. Needless to say that the church wedding is a worship service. The major focus is to give glory and praise to God. The couple making their commitment to each other is secondary to that of worshipping God. So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

The church is a house of God, designed to worship God, because of this anything that doesn't give glory to God is not permitted. Examples of this include: use of music, where there is a focus other than God, intoxication, and anything that would distract during the worship service. Please discuss your plans with the pastor ahead of time so that all will be done to give glory to God.

conveniently placed in the narthex of the church. The person(s) in charge should be at the church at least one-half hour before the worship service begins. Closing the book 5 minutes before the service help to keep it on time.

7. White aisle runner may be used. This is the responsibility of the wedding party. The church aisle is approximately 45 feet long.

8. Special Candelabra may be used. This is the responsibility of the wedding party.

9. Unity candle may be used. The candle is the responsibility of the wedding party. The church does not have a holder available for use.

10. Flowers/Plants add to the beauty of the service. Flowers/Plants may be left at the church for the following worship service. If this is being done, please sign the flower chart.

11. Ushers/Acolytes: Recommended is a minimum of 2 ushers. If ushers light the candles, this may be done up to 30 minutes prior to the start of the service. If separate acolytes are used, the candles are lit at the start of the service.

FEEES

All couples will participate in "PREPARE an Inventory" to help couples discuss issues relating to marriage.

5. **Vocal Music:**
Hymns: Congregational singing is encouraged. Those present are thereby reminded that they are not spectators but participants in the worship service.
Solos/Duets and other vocal music that fits the above criteria are appropriate.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS

1. **No flash pictures are to be taken after the processional and before the recessional. The flash distracts from the worship of the congregation.**
2. **Video taping is permissible if it is not distracting. Check with the pastor.**
3. **Wedding Service Folders: If printed folders are desired, they are the responsibility of the bridal couple. A sample of the cover and the draft of the content are to be approved by the pastor.**
4. **Clean Up Service: There is a charge for the cleaning of the church before and after the wedding.**
5. **Rice/Birdseed: Rice is not permitted. Birdseed is discouraged. If used, it must be kept outside and swept up afterward. Bubbles are permitted, as long as they are kept outside.**
6. **Guest Book: This should be**

THE BIBLICAL BASIS

While the laws of the state regulate marriage as a civil contract, God's Word declares that it is much more than a legal agreement. In fact, Scripture tells us that marriage was established by God Himself.

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18)

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)

Marriage is a divine institution in which God Himself joins the lives of two people. He has designed marriage for the welfare and happiness of the people He has created.

Jesus also taught this same view of marriage, as we read in Matthew 19:6 which says, "There what God has joined together, let not man separate." Jesus taught that God instituted marriage to be a lifelong union.

The New Testament teaches how this marriage relationship is to exist each day in the life of husband and wife.

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. Now

as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. (Ephesians 5:21-33)

On the basis of Scripture, Trinity Lutheran Church has established the following policy.

MUSIC

Every wedding at Trinity Lutheran Church is a worship service. The music for the wedding service will reflect our Christian faith and should be selected carefully.

- 1. The early selection of music and musicians in consultation with the pastor will ensure that the necessary rehearsal time is available and that the music expresses our Christian faith. The use of theatrical and "pop" music, while not offensive in itself, does not focus the attention of the worshippers on Christ, and therefore is not appropriate for the wedding service. It may be used at the reception.**
- 2. Ordinarily, Trinity organists will NOT play for the wedding service. Other organists may play if approved by the pastor. The pastor can provide a list of Trinity organists. The bridal couple is responsible for contacting the organist.**
- 3. Pre-service and Post-service music sets the mood for Christian worship. Organ, piano, instrumental, or vocal music may be appropriate.**
- 4. The Processional and Recessional: Our organists can help you with excellent suggestions. The use of Lohengrin's "Wedding March" ("Here Comes the Bride") as well as the traditional recessional by Mendelssohn is not appropriate since it does not reflect our Christian faith.**

THE WEDDING SERVICE

A Christian wedding is a worship service. It honors Christ and implores the blessings of God upon the assembled congregation, and especially upon the bridal couple. This is the basic principle which guides the planning of all weddings at Trinity. For this reason your wedding service deserves careful planning in consultation with the pastor. The general outline follows:

**Pre-service Music
The Processional
The Invocation
The Scripture Readings
The Wedding Message
The Exchange of Vows and Rings
The Marriage Declaration and Blessing
The Marriage Prayer
The Benediction
The Recessional
Post-Service Music**

This is an outline of the basic elements of the service. There are many options, such as: special music, hymns by the congregation, unity candle, etc.

MARRIAGE GUIDANCE POLICY

We believe that a Christian Wedding is one of the privileges of church membership, therefore:

- 1. Trinity Lutheran Church performs weddings when at least one of the parties is a member of the congregation, or with the approval of the pastor.**
- 2. Members of a church in fellowship with us may make an application to be married with Trinity's pastor. They must have a valid reason for wanting to be married at Trinity, and they must notify their home pastor(s) of their intentions.**
- 3. Those who have no church affiliation must express a genuine interest in church membership to the pastor.**

We believe that marriage is a lifelong union of one man and one woman unto one flesh. Marriage has been instituted by God, therefore:

- 1. We require that every couple seeking to be married at Trinity participate in a premarital counseling program as prescribed by the pastor regarding the practical and spiritual aspects of a Christ centered marriage.**

We believe that a wedding ceremony is a worship service, therefore:

- 1. The pastor, or a pastor on the clergy roster of a church in fellowship with us approved by the pastor of Trinity, shall be the presiding minister.**

2. All elements of the service including the vows, the music, service folders, photographs, flowers, and the conduct of the wedding party shall seek to honor Christ and implore God's blessings upon the couple. For this reason the wedding service requires careful planning in consultation with and approved by the pastor.

SCHEDULING

To avoid scheduling problems for all concerned, contact the pastor as early as possible, certainly before any other arrangements are made. consideration must be made for premarital counseling, wedding date, availability of church facilities, pastor's schedule, arrangement of music, musicians and other groups that may be involved.

The Marriage License must be obtained from the Clerk of Courts in Du Page county of Illinois. The license is valid for 60 days. Both parties need to be present to pick up the license. There is a one day waiting period for the license, so please have the license ahead of time. The cost of the wedding license is \$30.00.

The license MUST be delivered to the church office at least 4 days prior to the wedding.