



1300 East Main Street  
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[www.holytrinityonline.org](http://www.holytrinityonline.org)

## WEDDING POLICY

Congratulations! We are grateful faith is important to you and that you are considering having your wedding through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We believe that a marriage celebration is a worship service and the primary focus will be on God's blessing of your marriage. We are here to be of service to you and to help you prepare for this event. The pastors at Holy Trinity are committed to helping couples prepare for their wedding, but even more importantly, their marriage.

### **SCHEDULING A WEDDING THROUGH HOLY TRINITY**

Holy Trinity is available to serve for both on-site and off-site weddings. Weddings are scheduled based on the availability of the church to all members and non-members of Holy Trinity and are subject to the availability of a pastor. A pastor of Holy Trinity will preside in all weddings held at the church. Please contact the office manager to check for the church and pastor's availability at 952-758-3513, or [office@holytrinityonline.org](mailto:office@holytrinityonline.org). Holy Trinity can seat approximately 350.

### **PREMARITAL COUNSELING**

To help you grow in faith and strengthen your relationship as you begin your marriage life, we require pre-marriage counseling. Typically, a pastor will meet with a couple 3 times for pre-marital counseling sessions. These sessions also include some homework to be completed on your own time. While trained and certified in Prepare and Enrich counseling tool, in some situations a pastor may suggest or recommend additional counseling from a licensed counselor. These 3 meetings are not typically enough hours to qualify for the discount on a marriage license in the state of MN. Please discuss with a pastor if you have questions. The pastor reserves the right to refuse to perform a marriage if they feel they cannot in good conscience be involved.

### **REHEARSAL**

A rehearsal the day before is recommended for both on and offsite weddings. A rehearsal can be held at the church for offsite weddings. The purpose of the rehearsal is for the wedding party and participants to learn their respective roles in the wedding services. Please ask all involved to arrive 15 minutes early.

## **MARRIAGE LICENSE**

Weddings are regulated by the state of Minnesota. You need to apply for a marriage license through the county. No wedding will be conducted without a valid marriage license. The license must be given to the Office Manager in the church office at least one week prior to your wedding date.

## **USE OF FACILITIES AND GUIDELINES**

The church can be open by 8:30 a.m. on the day of a wedding. Dressing areas are available for the wedding party. We suggest that these areas be emptied prior to the ceremony so no personal items remain. Holy Trinity is not responsible for any lost or stolen property. It works well to appoint someone to oversee the clean-up of the designated areas to make sure nothing is left behind. Please do not leave wedding materials in the building before or after the wedding unless specific arrangements have been made.

If gifts or cards are brought to the church, the church assumes no responsibility for them. Someone should be in charge of the gifts/cards at all times, including during the wedding.

## **BULLETINS**

Wedding bulletins can be a welcomed addition to the wedding ceremony. There are a number of businesses in the area/online that print beautiful wedding bulletins. If you choose to print bulletins, please have the pastor performing the wedding ceremony review the proof before printing. Please let us know if you'd like recommended resources or examples.

## **DECORATIONS**

Flowers, candles, or other decorations may be used as long as they are attached in such a way as to prevent damage to paint or varnish. Liability issues can arise if placing anything that narrows the aisle, including aisle runners. While we do not place items on the altar, separate table(s) can be set up for a unity symbol or other items. When the couple leaves the church, you are welcome to celebrate by blowing bubbles, throwing birdseed, or flower petals outside.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY**

It is your responsibility to secure a photographer and/or videographer. If you do so, please remind them that it is our goal to provide a meaningful service and we appreciate their cooperation in doing so.

## **FLOWERS**

It is a couple's choice whether to work with a florist. If you do so, please make sure that all flowers are delivered and set up at least two hours before the service. It is the

responsibility of the wedding party and florist to set up all flowers. Silk flower petals are permitted on the sanctuary floor.

### **ALCOHOL/SMOKING/DRUGS**

Drug or alcohol use is not permitted anywhere on the church campus, including the parking lot. Smoking is allowed in the parking lot provided you dispose of waste properly. Alcohol exceptions may be made for special church events if approved by leadership and proper precautions are taken.

### **WEDDING EXPENSES**

Please pay wedding fees one week prior to the wedding:

- \$ 600 - Paid to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (includes building use, ceremony coordinator, pianist/organist, pastor, and custodial)
- \$ 350 - Paid to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for offsite weddings (includes pastor only, not including travel and accommodations, if necessary) *\*An assigned wedding coordinator must be provided by the couple.*

The above includes three pre-marriage preparation meetings, rehearsal, and wedding ceremony. An additional minimal fee is charged when the marriage assessment tool is completed online.

If you are unable to afford the above expenses, please speak with a pastor.

Affirmation of Marriage/Renewal of Vows may be requested to celebrate a wedding anniversary or to mark a significant life passage within a marriage. There is no fee for a renewal of vows.

### **WEDDING SERVICE**

The organist/pianist of Holy Trinity will normally play at all weddings where organ or piano music is desired. It is the responsibility of the wedding couple to contact the church musician to schedule the date and discuss the music. Any final decisions regarding the worship service and music rest with the pastor and church musician.

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

SCRIPTURE READING(S)

MESSAGE

DECLARATION OF INTENT

MARRIAGE VOWS

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

MARRIAGE BLESSING  
UNITY SYMBOL (optional)  
PRAYER  
THE LORD'S PRAYER  
BLESSING  
RECESSIONAL

## SCRIPTURES TO CONSIDER

- [Genesis 1:26-31](#) – God creates humankind, blesses them, and declares creation as very good
- [Genesis 2:18-24](#) – God creates man and woman for each other
- [Psalm 33](#) – A psalm about the greatness and goodness of God
- [Psalm 100](#) – A psalm of thanksgiving calling all earth to praise God
- [Psalm 117](#) – A short psalm calling all people to praise God
- [Psalm 127](#) – A psalm asking for God's blessing in the home
- [Psalm 128](#) – A psalm of blessing for a happy home
- [Psalm 150](#) – A psalm praising God's surpassing greatness
- [Ecclesiastes 3:1-8](#) – For everything, there is a time and a season
- [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#) – Two are better than one
- [Song of Solomon 8:6-7](#) – Describes the power of love
- [Isaiah 63:7-9](#) – Rejoice because God has saved us
- [Matthew 7:24-29](#) – Jesus tells people to build their lives on God
- [Matthew 19:5-6](#) – Two will become one flesh
- [Matthew 22:34-40](#) – The two greatest commandments: Love the Lord and love your neighbor
- [John 2:1-10](#) – Jesus blesses the wedding at Cana with his presence and performs his first miracle by turning water into wine
- [John 15:9-17](#) – Jesus commands us to love one another as he has loved us
- [Romans 12:1-2](#) – Paul writes about our new life in Christ and being transformed in Christ
- [Romans 12:9-18](#) – Marks of a Christian include genuine love for each other, hope, and patience
- [1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13](#) – The gift of love and a Christian description of love
- [Galatians 5:13-14](#) – We are called to serve one another in love
- [Galatians 5:22-25](#) – The fruits of the Spirit
- [Colossians 3:12-17](#) – A description of our new life in Christ and how it impacts our relationships
- [1 John 4:7-16](#) – God is love and a description of how God's love is at work in our lives