

Weddings at Trinity Lutheran Church



Participating in God's Mission of Life!

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Kenosha, WI 53142
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Trinity Lutheran Church Wedding Staff

Pastor — Tom Smith -262-964-5050

Wedding Coordinator – Donna Dezoma, 262-298-5464

Musicians-Jurg Oggenfuss, Minister of Worship and Music:

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(Please call Jurg first before contacting other musicians)

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Introduction

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! Preparing for your marriage is an exciting time and we are happy that you have decided to take this important step through the church. As you begin your preparation for marriage, I want to provide you with my perspective on Christian marriage.

At Trinity Lutheran Church, we know that you are planning not only for your wedding but also for your marriage. Of course, your wedding day is very important. But the wedding ceremony lasts less than an hour while your marriage is intended to last a lifetime. Accordingly, the blessing of a Christian marriage is that Christ is the foundation for your life together. So that your marriage will be all that God intends for it to be, caring for your faith together will deepen your love for one another and for God. At Trinity, individuals and couples **deepen their faith through regular worship attendance** before their marriage and are invited to participate fully in the various ministries of the church. Through this involvement, faith is nurtured and wonderful friendships made!

Shared worship is a time of rest and renewal in your relationship. In addition, we strive at Trinity to make worship an opportunity for social support and spiritual refueling. Hearing the Word of God proclaimed through scripture and preaching, singing hymns and sharing in the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion while being with friends who share similar concerns and joys are all ways that God blesses and encourages us.

Whether you intend to participate in the life of the faith community at Trinity or choose to participate in another faith community, I pray you make faith in Christ and love for God an important part of your marriage commitment.

Celebrating with you in Christ,

Pastor Tom

Scheduling Your Wedding

To ensure that the church and pastor are available for your wedding, we recommend you schedule your wedding at least **six months** (preferably one year) in advance. Below are helpful hints regarding scheduling your wedding:

- Weddings at Trinity are for members of this faith community. Therefore, at least one of the partners in the wedding must be a baptized member.
- Schedule your wedding with the church before you schedule a location for your reception by contacting the Church Office (262-694-5050). We cannot guarantee the availability of the church or pastoral staff for a specific date on which you have already booked a reception site. To hold a specific date, 50% of the fee (\$100) is required.
- Shortly after you have scheduled your wedding, please contact Donna Dezoma, Trinity's wedding coordinator to discuss the details of your wedding. Donna is your primary contact for questions and concerns about your wedding day and is here to help you make it a day of celebration and joy with the least amount of stress!
- One of the listed musicians for Trinity is the preferred accompanist for weddings in our sanctuary. **If you wish for other accompanists or musicians for your wedding ceremony, he or she should be in touch with the wedding coordinator as soon as possible.** All fees for musicians are above and beyond the church fee and should be paid directly to the musician.
- There are various times during the year when the church is unavailable for wedding ceremonies. These include:

New Year's Eve and Day	Thanksgiving Eve and Day
Holy Week/	Monday legal holidays
Easter Weekend	Christmas (12/23-25)
July 4 th	We do not schedule
Confirmation weekend in	Sunday weddings.
May	
- At the time you schedule your wedding, it is expected that divorce decrees from any prior marriages will be final.
- **PREMARITAL PREPARATION** This is an important part of having your wedding at Trinity. **Please refer to the Lutheran Social Services website for dates and locations that best serve your needs www.lsswis.org or call 1-888-248-6020. Sessions fill up so please schedule at least four months in advance of your wedding.**

- Please schedule a time to meet with Pastor Smith following your pre-marital workshop.

Wedding Planning

Every wedding service must be planned in consultation with both the pastor who marries you and a wedding coordinator.

The Pastor

All weddings held at Trinity Lutheran Church are presided by Pastor Smith.

The Wedding Coordinator's Role: *To Help!*

Lost buttons, misplaced corsages and other incidents at times are part of the wedding day. Donna Dezoma, your wedding coordinator, is here to **help** make this day as stress free and as enjoyable as possible! From assisting you with the general format of the service to communicating with the pastor and musician, your coordinator is your primary contact as questions or concerns arise regarding your wedding. Donna is here to help!

- Shortly after you have scheduled your wedding date, you should arrange to meet with Donna so that questions concerning the order of service, music, flowers, candles, and general church policies can be discussed.
- Donna will attend the wedding rehearsal and will also be present on your wedding day for any help you may need. Consider your coordinator to be your on-site expert here to help you and your guests.
- If pictures are to be taken before the ceremony, your wedding coordinator and the church will be available up to **three (3) hours prior to the service** on your wedding day.
- If formal pictures are taken after the ceremony, your wedding coordinator and the church will be available up to **two (2) hours** after the service.

The Wedding Rehearsal

Most weddings require a rehearsal so that all people involved will feel comfortable with the service and able to participate fully in worship. The wedding rehearsal time must be scheduled through your coordinator and lasts about 45 minutes. Everyone involved in the service must be present for the rehearsal. Those attending should include:

- Wedding coordinator.
- Soloists or other musicians—optional, please discuss with wedding coordinator.
- Persons performing readings during the ceremony.

- Bridal party-due to space constraints, no more than 8-10 people, including bride and groom
- Ushers.
- Parents.
- Photographer (if possible)
- The organist does not attend rehearsals unless requested
- Pastor Smith

IMPORTANT *Please make every effort to schedule your rehearsal time so that all those participating in the service can make it to the rehearsal in a timely manner.*

Remember to bring the following to the rehearsal:

- Three (3) copies of your program (bulletin).
- The unity candle and/or unity sand if you are using them.
- Check for the wedding fees (typically submitted one week before your wedding) made out to Trinity Lutheran Church.

Also remember: You cannot be married legally without a license. In the state of Wisconsin, a license must be obtained at least 10 days but not more than six months prior to the date of the wedding. You will need an official birth certificate to obtain a license. Please bring the license with you to the rehearsal.

Your wedding rehearsal will go smoothly and quickly if the number of people attending is kept to a minimum. This is a true walk through of your ceremony. Please invite your parents, family and wedding party to sit in the first few pews closest to the altar. It is important to take the rehearsal seriously so that everyone is prepared on your wedding day. Children are welcome to attend.

The Wedding Ceremony

Your wedding ceremony is a service intended to worship the God who will shape you into a new family. The service may have traditional or contemporary elements, but everything said and done—the music, the Scripture readings, the clothing worn, etc.—should be suited to a context of worship.

Suggestions for the order of worship for a formal wedding ceremony:

Candles are lit approx. 30 minutes before the start of the service.

Prelude

- Grandparents and/or special guests are seated
- Groom's parents are seated
- Bride's mother is seated

Processional

- Bridal Party
- Aisle cloth/runner is extended if one is used
- Bride and Father/Escort(s)

Welcome

Invocation and Prayer

Scripture Readings

Homily/Sermon

Solo/Duet/Instrumental (Optional)

Marriage Address

Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Pronouncement of Marriage and Blessings

Lighting of the Unity Candle/Unity Sand

Solo/Duet/Instrumental (Optional)

Promise of Support by Parents (Optional)

Promise of Parental Faithfulness in Blended Family (Optional)

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Presentation of the Couple

Recessional

Postlude

Receiving Line in Narthex or by row or at Reception Site

Elements of the Wedding Ceremony

A. Music

Our church musicians are prepared to help you plan the music for your wedding. Discuss your music selections with your wedding coordinator. Music that is unsuitable for a worship service is unsuitable for a wedding service. All

musical arrangements including other musicians must be discussed with the wedding coordinator.

B. Scripture Readings

Scripture readings provide a foundation for worship. They serve to reflect God's everlasting covenant with us as a model for marriage. The pastor will be happy to discuss them with you. For your convenience, a list of suggested readings is provided below. The Scriptures may be read by members of the wedding party, relatives or friends, or you may ask Pastor Tom to read them. We recommend that you choose two to three different readings for your marriage service, drawing from both the Old and New Testaments.

Old Testament Psalms

Psalm 33
Psalm 34
Psalm 37
Psalm 100
Psalm 103
Psalm 117
Psalm 127
Psalm 128
Psalm 136
Psalm 145
Psalm 150

Other Old Testament Readings

Genesis 1:26-31
Genesis 2:18-24
Song of Solomon 2:10-13
Song of Solomon 8:6-7
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Isaiah 63:7-9
Isaiah 54:5-8
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hosea 2:16-20

New Testament Gospels

Matthew 5:13-16
Matthew 19:4-6
Mark 10:6-9
Mark 12:28-31
John 2:1-11
John 15:9-17

Other New Testament Readings

Romans 8:31-39
Romans 12:1-2
I Corinthians 13:1-8a, 13
Philippians 4:4-7
Ephesians 5:21-33
I John 4:7-12
Revelation 19:1, 5-9a
Colossians 3:12-17

C. Wedding Vows:

The following vows express the promise of a couple's life-long commitment to one another. Please select one:

1. I take you _____, to be my _____, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect, trust, help and care for you; I will share my life with you; I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will try with you better to understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and worst of what is to come until death parts us.

2. I take you _____, to be my _____. I promise before God and these witnesses to be faithful to you, to share with you in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, to forgive and strengthen you and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.
3. _____, I take you to be my _____ from this time onward, to join with you and share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being until death parts us.
4. I _____, take you _____, to be my wedded _____, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, and thereto I pledge you my faith.
5. I take you, _____ to be my _____ from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

E. Unity Candle/Unity Sand Ceremony

Many couples desire a unity candle or unity sand ceremony as part of their service. The Unity Candle involves three candles, two of which are lit before the service, typically by the mothers of the bride and groom but not always. During the ceremony the bride and groom each take one of the burning candles, and together they light the third candle as a symbol of their new unity.

Couples provide the unity candle, the two taper candles and the stand.

The Unity Sand ceremony has become popular recently and involves a central vase that is filled by the pastor, the bride and groom and children of either the bride or groom may have from a previous relationship. The pastor begins by pouring white sand in first, followed by the bride, groom and children who each pour a different color of sand into the vase. The pastor then pours white sand on top. The white sand symbolizes Christ's love, embracing and surrounding the family. The couple provides the vases and sand.

F. Promise of Support by Parents (Optional)

This promise invites participation of the parents of the bride and groom and can be especially meaningful to both families in developing healthy boundaries between the families of origin and the new family created by marriage.

Will the parents of _____ and _____ please stand.

In the past you have known and loved your son/your daughter as individuals. Now they have joined another in marriage. Will you give them your blessing as

they have committed themselves to one another? And while respecting the priority of this new relationship, will you nonetheless assure them of your continuing love, good wishes and prayers, and will you do all that you can to encourage them and affirm them in their new life together? If so, please respond, “We Will.” **Response: We will.**

G. Promise of Parental Faithfulness in Blended Family (Optional)

This promise provides a powerful opportunity for the bride or groom to affirm his or her love for the child (ren) of their spouse as well as to involve the child(ren) in a meaningful way in the service. The children involved are invited forward and the following words are spoken:

Child’s name, I promise to receive you into my life, my prayers, and my care. I will love you and strive to be an example of God’s grace for you. I will support decisions made by your mother/father on your behalf and always encourage your happiness. Your mother/father and I love you. (A cross on a chain may then be placed around the neck of each child.)

Things to Consider Prior to the Ceremony...

As you consider your wedding ceremony and read through this section of the booklet, there are a number of items for you to consider.

Please take time to think about these issues prior to the rehearsal and feel free to share ideas with your coordinator.

- While the prelude music is being played, usually grandparents and parents who are not entering during the processional are ushered in and seated. Are there any others whom you wish to enter during the prelude?
- If parents and/or family members are divorced and/or remarried, have you considered the seating arrangements?
- As the prelude closes, often the groom will walk to the chancel area (up front by the altar) and the officiating pastor will also enter. Is this how you want this to take place or will the groom enter with his parents? With the other groomsmen? Best man?
- Will the bride enter with her father only, or both parents, or another escort?
- Will the groomsmen enter separately with the pastor or will bridesmaids and groomsmen enter together as couples?
- Will you be using an aisle runner? (this is not necessary)
- Which scriptures will be read during the ceremony? By whom?
- Will you be using a vocalist, and what will they sing? The piano and organ are located in the balcony.
- Is there specific information you would like the pastor to include in the homily?
- Which vows will you choose?

- Will you light a unity candle? Unity Sand? Will children be involved? Where will they be seated?
- If you light a unity candle, will parents be involved in the ritual?
- How do you want to be introduced at the close of the marriage service?
- Are there other items you want to include in the service (For example: hymns or special prayers?)?
- Are their deceased family members you would like to remember by having candles or flowers present in their honor?
- Will there be a receiving line at the church or will you return to the sanctuary and greet each person by row?

Other Matters to Consider

A. Capacity

Our worship center can seat 200 comfortably. An elevator is available.

B. Air Conditioning

Our sanctuary **does not** have central air conditioning.

C. Bulletins/Programs

Wedding service bulletins can help your guests follow the service. In addition, they may be kept as mementos and mailed to friends and relatives that were unable to attend. The wedding couple is responsible for creating and printing the bulletin.

D. Aisle Runner

An optional item which may be secured through a florist or bridal shop. A 100-foot runner is needed for the aisle. We do not supply aisle runners.

E. Ushers

It is recommended that you appoint two ushers for every 100 guests you expect at your wedding service. Your ushers should be available to seat guests 30 minutes prior to the service. Often, ushers are also asked to serve as acolytes and to be available for other tasks such as pulling down the aisle runner and dismissing your guests.

F. Decorations

In general, while tastes in decorating will differ, we suggest simplicity and dignity be your guiding principles. The seasons of the church year determine the color of the altar, pulpit, and lectern paraments. While these paraments may not be changed, we can inform you what color the paraments will be on your wedding date. Consult with the wedding coordinator if you have questions.

- Floral or plant arrangements are not placed on the altar. We have available for your use a number of plant stands. Consult with your wedding coordinator about placement of flowers.

- Please do not use adhesives on any surfaces in the sanctuary – including heavy tape or duct tape for attaching decorations.
- To attach decorations to the pews we recommend plastic clips, ribbons or rubber bands. Chancel furniture may not be removed without the expressed permission of your wedding coordinator.
- We do not allow rice or bird seed to be scattered inside or outside of the church.
- **It is the responsibility of the couple and/or their florist to remove all decorations from the church immediately after the ceremony. All decorations must be removed (whether the couple wishes to keep them or not).** We appreciate your consideration as this will more readily enable us to prepare the sanctuary for Sunday worship services.

G. Music

Pre-recorded music is strongly discouraged for your service at Trinity. Live music is in keeping with a wedding ceremony and sounds beautiful. Please discuss any concerns with your wedding coordinator.

H. Refreshments

You may bring light snacks and refreshments the day of the ceremony. They may be kept in the lower level kitchen area. Please note the following:

- No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the church or on the church grounds at any time-before or after the ceremony. Alcohol use prior to or immediately following the service is not in keeping with a Christian wedding and is forbidden. **Should any member of the wedding party be intoxicated on the day of the wedding, the bride or groom will be asked to ask that individual to immediately leave church grounds.**
- Food or beverages in the sanctuary are discouraged. Exceptions include snacks/juice for small children or water during extremely hot weather.
- No smoking is allowed in the church.

I. Wedding Party

Due to space constraints, no more than 8-10 people, including bride and groom.

Fees

The building use fee: \$200 (Payable to Trinity Lutheran Church)

Custodian: \$75 (Payable to Sue Torres)

Wedding Coordinator: \$75 (Payable to Donna Dezoma)

Pastor Honorarium: Discretion of couple. Typical gifts range \$125-\$150

Musicians: Fees are negotiated directly with them as they vary by musician

Photography and Videotaping

PLEASE REVIEW THIS WITH POLICY WITH YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER AND VIDEOGRAPHER PRIOR TO THE WEDDNG DAY

Trinity seeks to strike a balance between recording this special day for you with maintaining a worshipful atmosphere. Your coordinator is open to suggestions but we have found the following works well:

Videos are acceptable if the cameras and operators are not intrusive. Flashes are not permitted during the ceremony – you may want to mention this in your bulletin/program. A photographer may use flash during the processional and recessional, but then must turn it off during the ceremony.

Neither photographers or videographers are allowed to be in the center aisle during the ceremony – they may use the center aisle during the processional and/or recessional.