

Wedding Policy

- As part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Trinity Lutheran Church and our ministers provide for weddings that are inclusive of all people, regardless of gender or orientation. Marriage ceremonies are among the many means by which we as a congregation live out our mission statement: ***Together in Christ, we welcome, love, and serve all.***
- Weddings at Trinity typically last 20 to 40 minutes. Wedding rehearsals, generally scheduled the evening before a wedding, normally take one hour.
- Trinity will only schedule one wedding at the church building per day. Pastors may determine whether it's possible to schedule weddings on subsequent days or whether one wedding precludes another from having a rehearsal on the same day.
- Weddings are typically not scheduled on Sundays. The approval of a pastor, in communication with a couple, is needed to grant an exception.
- Trinity's ministers may officiate offsite weddings. Ministers' fees apply, along with necessary travel expenses.
- A couple may request a particular minister of Trinity to officiate a wedding, but the requested officiant's availability may not allow for this.
- In general, weddings must be requested and scheduled at least three months before the determined date of the ceremony. A pastor may grant an exception.
- The officiating Trinity minister will generally meet with a couple twice for counseling and preparation for the ceremony. This includes the facilitation of a premarital inventory/survey and discussion of its results.
- A guest minister may officiate a wedding at Trinity with approval and contact from a Trinity' lead pastor.
- Worship-appropriate music is chosen in consultation with Trinity's director of music ministries, who has the first option to provide music and must approve guest musicians. For wedding ceremonies held in the Sanctuary, the music minister or a designee will manage sound for the ceremony even if others provide music. Couples must be in direct contact with the music minister as well as the officiating minister.
- The officiating minister **must receive a valid marriage license before the ceremony to officiate the wedding.**
- Fees are summarized below. At least one of the two people being married in the ceremony must be an active Trinity member for at least six months prior to the wedding date in order for member fees to apply. Fees may be negotiated based on need, as ultimately approved by the officiating minister.
- Smaller wedding ceremonies with no more than 40 people on hand may be held in the Chapel, with or without music. Associated fees are likewise noted below.
- For weddings held in the Sanctuary, Trinity provides a wedding coordinator to assist in the facilitation of the ceremony and rehearsal.
- Trinity also provides video recording and streaming of weddings in the Sanctuary for an additional fee.

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- The creation of any printed wedding bulletins is the responsibility of the couple. The officiating minister will offer an outline of the wedding to assist with this.
- Opening and closing times for the church building on the day(s) of the wedding and rehearsal will be determined by the officiating minister in consultation with the couple.
- Dressing rooms will be provided. Water, snacks, and other food items are allowed in these spaces.
- Wedding parties may also host a meal onsite. Reservations must be made in accordance with Trinity's Facility-Use Policy.
- It is customary at weddings to use paraments/banners already on display in the Sanctuary for the current time in the church year. Additional wedding banners are available if requested.
- Any additional decorations must be approved by the lead pastor or administrator and must be cleaned up following the ceremony.
- The throwing of rice or birdseed or the use of confetti or glitter is not allowed on church property. Bubbles are only permitted outside the church building.
- Photography is permitted before, during, and after a wedding ceremony, but only photography without a flash is allowed during the ceremony.
- No participant in a wedding or immediate family member of the couple should use or consume any alcohol or non-prescription substance before the wedding ceremony or rehearsal.
- Provisions of Trinity's Facility Use Policy also apply for weddings, and couples will agree to abide by that policy as well as the Wedding Policy. Notably, weapons, firearms, fireworks, open fires, smoking, vaping, alcohol, and controlled substances are all prohibited on church property. Animals are also not allowed in the church building, with the exceptions of service-and police animals. Overnight parking is prohibited as well.

Weddings in the Sanctuary	Weddings in the Chapel
Member Fee Total: \$800 This includes fees for use of the building, the officiating minister, a wedding coordinator, setup/cleanup, and music/sound. For an additional \$100, you can add video recording/streaming.	Member Fee Total: \$400 This includes fees for use of the building, the officiating minister, and setup/cleanup. For an additional \$100, you can add music.
Non-Member Fee Total: \$1,400 This includes fees for use of the building, the officiating minister, a wedding coordinator, setup/cleanup, and music/sound. For an additional \$100, you can add video recording/streaming.	Non-Member Fee Total: \$600 This includes fees for use of the building, the officiating minister, and setup/cleanup. For an additional \$100, you can add music.

A \$200 non-refundable deposit is required to hold the date. This payment will go toward the total amount due. The full fee is due at the second premarital meeting.



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To arrange for music/sound, please call or text Wanda Eikenbary, director of music ministries, at 715-281-1716.

For an **offsite wedding**, the officiating minister's fee is \$350 for a Trinity member, or \$500 for non-members, plus travel expenses.

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