

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

51900 Mayflower Road ♦ South Bend, IN 46628 ♦ (574) 271-2000
holytrinity@holytrin.com

The Wedding Book

April, 2009 revision

1 Introduction

Marriage is a Liturgy of the Church

2 Getting Started

1. Initial Arrangements
2. Marriage Preparation
3. The Pastor
4. The Wedding Coordinator
5. The Organist
6. The Custodian
7. Musicians
8. The Rehearsal
9. The License
10. Inactives and Non-members

“That you have chosen to be married in the Christian Church means your wedding at Holy Trinity will be a worship service.”

- page one

3 Planning the Wedding Worship Service

1. Outline of the Marriage Worship Service
2. Decorations
3. Unity Candle
4. Recorded Music
5. Instrumental Music
6. Vocal Music
7. Suggested Scripture Readings
8. The Exchange of Promises
9. Holy Communion

4 Additional Notes

1. Ushers
2. Bulletins
3. Photography
4. Alcoholic Beverages
5. Smoking Policy
6. Pet Policy
7. Throwing Rice or Bird Seed
8. The Reception
9. Fees
10. Invitations to pastors for receptions and rehearsal dinners
11. Things to bring with you to the rehearsal (checklist)

5 Marriage Service

6 Standards for Photography and Video at Weddings

Introduction

❖ Marriage is a Liturgy of the Church

We rejoice that you have chosen to be married at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. After years of guiding couples through the process of preparing for marriage, we realized the need for a set of uniform guidelines. Our staff has created this booklet to help you plan your wedding at Holy Trinity.

People from all cultures and all religions get married. As a result, marriage is not the sole possession of the church. That you have chosen to be married in the Christian Church means your wedding at Holy Trinity will be a worship service. Therefore, as is the case in all Christian worship, our primary focus is on God. We come together to praise and thank God for the good gifts that the Creator has showered upon the human family and upon the church. God gives us marriage as the foundation for human community. Marriage brings us a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

As you come before the altar to pledge your love and life-long faithfulness to each other, the Church offers what it has been authorized by Christ to give: God's blessing. As you bow your heads you will hear the words which make a Christian wedding unique: "The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, establish and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life's end. Amen."

Getting Started

As you read through this wedding booklet you will notice that some traditions associated with weddings are no longer practiced at Holy Trinity. Some practices have been discontinued for practical reasons and others for theological reasons. In each case we have tried to explain why these traditions have been discontinued.

The following arrangements should be made before making further plans for your wedding:

1. Initial Arrangements

Your preparation for a wedding at Holy Trinity began with your initial consultation with the Pastor. At that time you were given this Wedding Book and Wedding Information Sheet. You also received some verbal information regarding the nature of weddings at Holy Trinity, expectations regarding marriage preparation and fee schedule.

When reserving a date, please remember that Holy Week (the dates of which change each year) begins on Palm Sunday and concludes on Easter Sunday. Since this is a period of time when all the attention of the church is directed toward the mystery of redemption, no weddings take place at Holy Trinity.

PLEASE NOTE:

Normally, only ONE wedding is scheduled per day. In the rare instance that a second wedding is scheduled, that wedding party must comply with Holy Trinity scheduling needs.

2. Marriage Preparation

Couples being married at Holy Trinity are expected to participate in marriage preparation activities. This includes the Prepare/Enrich inventory that is administered by the pastor or a member of the office staff. The Prepare/Enrich inventory may take up to three follow-up sessions and is designed to assist couples in exploring several different areas of their relationship in an intentional yet personal manner. The pastor reserves the right to ask for additional counseling activities if it is deemed necessary.

In addition to the premarital counseling sessions, couples may be required to attend an evening workshop led by Holy Trinity pastors and staff. These workshops will be offered periodically, you will be notified by mail, and may be attended 6 to 9 months prior to your wedding date. During these times you will meet other couples who are also getting ready to be married at Holy Trinity and explore together the nature of Christian marriage and family life, as well as receive input into the planning of your wedding ceremony.

3. The Pastor

The Pastor who will officiate at your wedding service has been called by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to “preside at rites of the church.” That means it is the responsibility of the Pastor to see that your marriage service is performed in keeping with the policies of the congregation and within the tradition of the Christian Church.

If you would like a particular pastor to officiate at your wedding, please say so at the time you make reservations for your wedding. We will try to honor your request, but cannot guarantee that it will be granted. The pastors also reserve the right to substitute for one another when necessary.

If you would like to invite another pastor to participate in your wedding service please remember that the pastor from Holy Trinity will be the officiant and will decide the extent of participation by the guest pastor.

4. The Wedding Coordinator

Weddings at Holy Trinity may utilize the services of a wedding coordinator (WC) who will be assigned to your wedding approximately six weeks in advance of your wedding day. The WC should not be confused with a personal attendant. Rather, the WC is primarily a pastoral assistant. They can be of assistance to you by answering many questions regarding the wedding process if and when the pastors are not available. The primary task of the WC is to assure that your wedding service flows as smoothly as possible. They will conduct the rehearsal, and be on site to assist the pastor and wedding party on your wedding day until the service is over.

5. The Organist

The regular church organist administers use of the organ at Holy Trinity. Normally, the organist of Holy Trinity will play at all weddings where organ music is desired. We will provide you with the name of the organist and **it will be your responsibility to contact her/him directly to discuss the music.** If our organist is not available, she/he will suggest a substitute. Should you desire another organist, she/he should be trained and have experience with a pipe organ. Permission for the substitute must be obtained from the church organist.

6. Custodian

While most of the activities of our church custodians take place behind the scenes, they are an essential part of the wedding team. They are responsible to make sure that the physical plant is in order for your wedding and for worship the day after your celebration.

7. Musicians

In addition to an organist, some couples like to incorporate a vocalist or instrumentalist (e.g. flute, trumpet, etc.) within the ceremony. Please discuss this with the organist in your initial phone contact. This will allow plenty of time to schedule extra rehearsals.

Vocal and instrumental musicians are responsible for checking to see that their microphones are on and working properly.

8. The Rehearsal

Rehearsals are usually held the evening prior to the day of the wedding. The rehearsal normally takes between 30 and 45 minutes. *All* persons involved in the wedding should be present and on time. Ushers should be present to learn of their special responsibilities. Parents should also attend so they know escorting procedures and seating placement.

All arrangements for the wedding service must be made with the pastor prior to the rehearsal; rehearsals are not the time for last minute changes in the service.

9. The License

For all but the blessing of a civil marriage, couples must secure a license to marry from the state of Indiana. The License may be obtained by contacting the St. Joseph County Clerk's Office, 101 S. Main Street, South Bend, Indiana 46601, phone: (574) 235-9635. The license should be brought to the church office a week before the wedding.

10. Inactives and Non-members

Those who have no congregational affiliation or who are Holy Trinity inactives are welcome to be married at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Those non-members or inactives who attend a minimum of six Sunday morning worship services prior to the date of their wedding will have all non-member fees waived. This “discount” is offered not in order to save couples money, but to encourage couples to see what the worship life of our congregation has to offer. We trust that God comes to us in the gathered community of faith with a Word of grace and life and with Sacraments which nourish and strengthen. We believe God has something wonderful in store for you! If you are a non-member or inactive, we would like to invite you into an ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ and the church.

Planning the Wedding Worship Service

The order for marriage in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship is not a rigid form. The liturgy, like marriage itself, is meant to open doors to possibilities, not to exclude creativity. The pastor will discuss liturgical options with you as you meet to plan your wedding.

1. Outline of the Marriage Worship Service

You may use the following outline in order to develop a bulletin for your wedding service. (Please see the complete service printed at the end of this booklet.)

Gathering

Procession (*organ, instrumental or congregational hymn*)
The Greeting
Prayer of the Day
Hymn or Solo (*optional*)

Word

First Lesson
Psalm (*optional*)
Second Lesson (*optional*)
Gospel
Sermon
Hymn or Solo (*optional*)
The Exchange of Vows and Rings
Pronouncement of Marriage
Blessing of the Marriage
Prayers

Meal (*optional*)

Words of Institution
Distribution

Sending

The Lord's Prayer (*sung or spoken*)
Blessing
Presentation of the couple
Recessional (*organ, instrumental or congregational hymn*)

The pastor presides at the wedding worship service and is therefore the final judge as to what is appropriate. Assisting ministers may be used in the service to read the statement about marriage, to read the lessons, or to assist in the prayers. These assisting ministers may be lay people. Readers may also

be designated for certain of the readings, with the exception of the Gospel.

Any changes from the standard liturgy must be cleared with the pastor prior to the rehearsal.

2. Decorations

The paraments (altar cloths) at Holy Trinity are designed and used according to the church year. They are not decorations. Thus the paraments may **not** be changed for your wedding in order to coordinate with colors you have chosen. At times, other appointments are used in front of the church to emphasize liturgical seasons. These too, are **not** to be changed for weddings.

No decorations will be allowed which would obscure the central symbols of the Christian faith, including the cross, altar and baptismal font. Decorations may not use nails, tacks, or wire on walls. Chair bows may be attached with large rubber bands or elastic ribbon; no adhesives may be used. All decorations should be removed after the wedding.

For safety reasons, the use of aisle runners has been discontinued at Holy Trinity. The flooring is not conducive to safe use of an aisle runner. The center aisle must be left open for the seating of guests.

Floral decorations may be used. Real flowers are encouraged for use in the chancel area. It is especially appreciated if flowers may be left for Sunday worship services; please make such arrangements in advance with the building supervisor.

Holy Trinity has two 7-candle floor candelabras and two 7-candle reredos candelabras. Arrangements to use these should be made in advance with the pastor.

3. Unity Candle

The Unity Candle is a recent innovation in the marriage service. Lighting the candle visually symbolizes the joining of two lives in marriage. Symbols make a lasting impression; it is important that we use them with care. You are invited to light a unity candle during your marriage ceremony if you desire. The pastor officiating at your wedding will discuss the most appropriate methods of lighting the candle and the messages these methods denote to the congregation. **Note: You are responsible to provide your own unity candle along with two tapers (side candles and holders).**

4. Recorded Music

Some couples ask to use recorded music. While there is nothing inherently wrong with recorded music, you should know that live accompaniment can head off many of the technical difficulties associated with recordings. Missed cues and long pauses are uncomfortable for everyone, and ultimately detract from the beauty of the occasion. We strongly suggest that you refrain from recorded music.

5. Instrumental Music

Throughout the centuries music has been one of the primary vehicles that the church has employed to praise and thank God. There is a vast selection of music that is particularly appropriate for wedding ceremonies. Remember that your wedding is a worship service. Therefore it is important to choose music that emphasizes our praise and thanks to God. Purely secular music is best left to be used at your reception or wedding dance.

In addition to the suggestions listed below, the congregational organist has many selections and will assist you in your musical selections. If the organist has a question regarding the appropriateness of a song you will be asked to contact the pastor who is presiding at your wedding for final determination. Please remember: "Whenever music is employed in the service and by whatever instruments or voices, it should be of high quality and not cloud the mood of the service with triteness or sentimentality. It should moreover be within the ability of the performers at hand to play or sing with assurance." (*Manual on the Liturgy* p. 348).

Examples of appropriate organ music for processions:

Canon in D	Pachelbel
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring	Bach
March (from Occasional Oratorio)	Handel
Prince of Denmark's March (Trumpet Voluntary)	Clarke/Purcell
Processional in C	Hopson
Processional (from Water Music Suite)	Handel
Trumpet March	Lully-Wolff
Trumpet Tune in C	Lau
Solemn Processional (from Water Music Suite)	Handel
Wedding Processional and Air	Bach-Leupold

Examples of appropriate organ music for recessions:

Allegro (from Symphony #4)	Boyce
Allegro Maestoso (Walter Music)	Handel
God of Grace	arr. Manz
Hornpipe (from Water Music)	Handel
Psalm 19	Marcello
Prelude in Classic Style	Young
Now Thank We All Our God	Post
Rigaudon	Campra
Rondeau ("Theme from Masterpiece Theater")	Mouret
Trumpet Tune	Clarke/Purcell
Trumpet Finale	Manfredini-Wolff

Please consult with your organist for additional suggestions. The following pieces are **inappropriate** for use in the church, as they are not in keeping with a worship service of the church and have become banal from overuse: Wagner's Wedding March from the opera *Lohengrin*, and Medelssohn's Wedding March from *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

6. Vocal Music

If you are wondering about whether or not a vocal selection is appropriate for your wedding, here is a tip: If you can answer "yes" to any of the following questions, the music is probably appropriate:

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Does the music/text reflect praise and/or thanksgiving to God?2. Is the song based on, or does it reflect a scriptural theme?3. Is this song in the form of a prayer? |
|--|

While there are appropriate contemporary songs, it should be remembered that recordings of such music are made under ideal conditions with sophisticated electronic equipment and mixing devices.

Renditions of these selections on an organ or by the most talented amateurs, especially in a non-studio setting, will not sound like the recorded selections.

Examples of acceptable vocal music:

A Nuptial Blessing	Proulx
Love	Van Dyke
The Greatest of These	Moe
Wedding Hymn (Ptolemy)	Handel
Wedding Prayer	Dunlap
On Eagles Wings	Joncas
My Heart Ever Faithful	J.S. Bach
The Gift of Love	Arr. Hopson
And Now We Join	Halfvarson
All The Glory	Gaither
Author of Love	Clark
Where There is Love	Haas
Wedding Song	Stookey
Two Candles	Salsbury

God, A Woman and a Man	Green
Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us	Bradbury
Household of Faith	Lamb/Rosasco
The Lord's Prayer	
Parents' Prayer	Davis
Irish Blessing	Stookey
In This Very Room	Harris
The Prayer	Sager & Foster

The following selections are examples of vocal music that are inappropriate for use during a wedding worship service:

I Swear	You're my Hero	Endless Love
Speak Softly, Love	The Wind Beneath My Wings	Love Can Build a Bridge
Keeper of the Stars	Amazed	

Congregational Hymns:

*Since the wedding service is a worship service, it is appropriate for those gathered to sing together. A hymn also adds to the sense of participation in the service by those attending. Hymns may be sung in place of other vocal music or instrumental procession and recession. The following hymns from the **Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW)** are suggested for your consideration.*

At the beginning of the service, during the processional or immediately following the opening prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now	LBW #253
We Praise You, O God	LBW #241
Holy God, We Praise Your Name	LBW #535
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	LBW #543
Beautiful Savior	LBW #518
Here in This Place	WOV #718
God is Here!	WOV #719

During the service following the lessons or homily or during the lighting of the unity candle:

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	LBW #315
Jesus, Still Lead On	LBW #341
O Perfect Love	LBW #287
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father	LBW #288
Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus	LBW #487
Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer	LBW #289
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	LBW #456
Bind us Together	WOV #748
When Love is Found	WOV #749
Blessed Assurance	WOV #699
Borning Cry	WOV #770

At the end of the service or for the recessional:

On Now What Has Been Sown	LBW #261
Now Thank We All Our God	LBW #534
Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven	LBW #549
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	LBW #551
Let All Things Now Living	LBW #557
Oh, Sing to the Lord	WOV #795

For additional hymns please check the sections of the LBW, WOVS, or ELW for "Beginning of Service," "Marriage" and "Praise and Adoration."

7. Suggested Scripture Readings

The scriptures you choose to have read at your marriage service are a way of telling others about your own faith, love, and understanding about marriage. Usually two scripture lessons are read during the wedding worship service; you may choose to have more. The following suggestions do not preclude other readings you may choose.

From the Old Testament:

Genesis 1:26-31
Genesis 2:18-24
Isaiah 61:10-11
Isaiah 63:7-9
Jeremiah 32:38-41
Hosea 2:19-20
Ruth 1:16-17
Song of Solomon 2:10-13
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
Proverbs 3:3-6
Jeremiah 31:31-34

General Theme of the Lesson:

Male and female created by God
God created man and woman
“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord”
The steadfast love of God
God’s faithfulness
“And I will take you for my wife forever”
“Do not press me to leave you”
Love in the spring
“Two are better than one”
Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart
The new covenant of the people of God

The Psalms:

Psalms 29, 33, 34, 63, 67, 95, 100, 117, 121, 127, 128, 136, 150

From the New Testament Letters:

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
Colossians 3:12-17
Philippians 2:5-11
Philippians 4:4-9
1 John 3:18-24
1 John 3:16, 4:7-19

A living offering
The song of God’s love
Live in love and thanksgiving
Attitudes to build a marriage
Rejoice in the Lord always
Let us love in truth and action
Teaching on love

From the Gospels:

Matthew 5:1-10
Matthew 7:21, 24-29
Matthew 19:3-6
Matthew 22:35-40
John 2:1-11
John 15:9-17

The beatitudes
A wise person builds upon the rock
Faithfulness in marriage
Love, the greatest commandment
The wedding at Cana
Love one another

You are welcome to select a reading from each category. Ideally psalms are sung or read responsively by the congregation. The order of worship suggests at least one scripture reading; at minimum, a Gospel passage should be selected. You are encouraged to do the selecting of the readings, so as to reflect your understanding of the day.

The above are suggestions, but many others are appropriate. Please inform the pastor of the lessons you have chosen at least 10 days before the wedding. In addition to readings from the Bible, a selection from a secular source may be used **if it is in harmony with the spirit of a Christian service of worship and with the biblical understanding of marriage**. Be especially careful with poetry. Many love poems are personal and private expressions not appropriate for public reading at a wedding. The pastor reserves the right to prohibit any reading(s) deemed inappropriate.

8. The Exchange of Promises

You have the option to choose from several different vows. Please inform the pastor of your choice at least 10 days in advance of your wedding.

1. In the presence of God and this community, I, (name), take you, (name), to be my wife/husband; to have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship.*)
2. I take you, (name), to be my wife/husband, from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us. (*Lutheran Book of Worship.*)

There are other forms which you may want to consider:

3. I take you, (name), to be my wife/husband, 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.
4. I take you, (name), to be my wife/husband, I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful husband/wife, to share with you in plenty and in want, in joy and 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.
5. (Name), I take you to be my wife/husband, from this time onward, to join with you and to 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.

You may wish to write your own promises. They should be consistent with the biblical understanding of marriage, and should make clear that the promises are a life-long commitment. The pastor must approve the wording you choose if it is not a form found in the *Lutheran Book of Worship* or this booklet, since it is the pastor who, as a representative of the church, must certify that a marriage has taken place. (For this reason, “spontaneous” vows are not appropriate in our worship services.) If you write your own vows, be careful not to promise the impossible!

9. Holy Communion

As baptized Christians, you may request that your marriage be set in the context of the celebration of Holy Communion. Celebrating marriage in the context of Holy Communion enriches the meaning of marriage and our understanding of the sacrament. Marriage often involves a festive meal; Holy Communion always does. Marriage is a sign of intimacy and union and communion; so is Holy Communion. The Holy Communion abounds in festive marriage imagery in which Christ the bridegroom celebrates with his bride, the Church, the heavenly wedding banquet which knows no end. (from *In Love and Faithfulness*)

Holy Communion is a sign of unity, and the Sacrament is not appropriate unless the congregation is invited to participate, for the body and blood of Christ belongs to the whole church. The *Minister’s Desk Edition* of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* says firmly, “Under no circumstances should the bread and wine be received by the bride and groom to the exclusion of the congregation. The Sacrament is for the gathered congregation.” The Communion is not exclusively yours, not even on your wedding day; the body and blood of Christ belongs to the whole church.

If you plan to have Holy Communion as a part of your wedding service, please indicate your intent as you talk with the pastor during your planning session.

Additional Notes:

1. Ushers

A minimum of two ushers (more if more than 150 guests) are necessary in order to seat and dismiss worshipers. Ushers should be mature people, as the nature of their task requires confidence and decisiveness.

2. Bulletins

It is helpful, but not necessary, to have printed bulletins to inform members of the congregation of the order of worship and the names of participants in the worship service. You should discuss the use of the bulletin with the pastor. Purchase of bulletin covers and printing are the responsibility of the couple. The church office is available to type and reproduce your bulletins for a fee; please see the “Wedding Information Sheet” for details.

Note: The bulletin is the best place to remind the worshipers that no flash pictures should be taken during the service.

3. Photography

You are welcome to have the wedding photographed or video-taped within the “Standards for Photography and Video at Weddings.” It is important not to mar the worship with distractions, therefore limits have been established to make sure nothing detracts from our worship. All photographers and videographers are required to closely follow the established guidelines. You are to give a copy of the “Standards for Photography and Video at Weddings” to the photographer and/or videographer prior to the wedding. [The “Standards” are included near the end of this publication.]

We strongly suggest that formal pictures be taken **before** the service, especially if the reception is planned for immediately afterwards. There are several reasons for this. First, it is a matter of courtesy to your guests who would be kept unduly waiting for the wedding party at the reception. Second, other activities are sometimes scheduled in the church following weddings. Finally, photographers report that careful “staging” of the first viewing of the bride and groom can lead to better photographs.

Some may object because of the tradition of “not seeing the bride” before her march down the aisle. However, the origin of this tradition dates back to the 1800's and arranged marriages where the groom was not allowed to see the bride's face before the ceremony was completed to ensure that he would not back out of the arrangement. This tradition is no longer necessary.

Please inform your photographer that pictures will be taken before the ceremony and that the time needs to be limited to one hour and fifteen minutes.

No flash pictures may be taken during the wedding service. Please include the following notice in your wedding bulletin:

Please refrain from using cameras with flash during the ceremony. Thank You.

4. Alcoholic Beverages

It is not uncommon for alcoholic beverages to be consumed at the occasion of a wedding. Should you choose to have your wedding at Holy Trinity, we ask you to inform your friends and family that **no alcohol or mood-altering substances may be consumed on the premises, in the parking lots or on the streets adjacent to Holy Trinity.** Ask your friends to take it easy with alcohol at your rehearsal dinner and to abstain completely prior to the rehearsal and wedding ceremony. While weddings are cause for celebration, they are also solemn occasions of worship, requiring a certain standard of behavior. Weddings at Holy Trinity are a privilege; therefore, the pastors and wedding coordinator may

dismiss any persons in the wedding party who appear intoxicated. The only beverage allowed in the sanctuary is water.

5. No smoking is allowed inside the church building.

6. No pets allowed in the wedding service.

7. Throwing Rice or Bird Seed

We ask that **NO rice or birdseed be thrown on Holy Trinity premises**. The practice of throwing rice dates back to a time when rice was associated with fertility, and thus throwing rice was understood to increase a couple's fertility. However, the association of rice with fertility is a symbol long since passed out of our culture. More recently, when it was discovered that rice was fatal to the birds that cleaned up the sidewalks after weddings, people began to throw birdseed instead of rice – which of course loses the original symbolism completely. Now it has been noticed that birdseed is extremely slippery and a potential hazard to pedestrians using the sidewalks. Therefore we ask that this custom not take place on church premises. If you feel the need to be showered with something as you leave the church, we suggest bubbles (outside the building only).

8. Other myths

While your wedding should be a joyous and memorable event, some traditions are best understood before you make detailed plans for your wedding. While it is permitted, even encouraged, for fathers, mothers, or other significant persons to escort their children up the aisle, the ceremony of “giving away the bride” by her father is not done at weddings held at Holy Trinity. This practice dates back to the day when marriages were arranged and brides had no say in who they married. Young women were possessions of their fathers, and thus the father “giving away” his daughter to a young man was a literal “giving away” of his property. Therefore, wedding ceremonies at our churches will not include the question, “Who gives this woman to be married to this man?” or any form thereof.

Throwing rice, “giving away” the bride, not seeing each other before the service – these are some traditions which persist even today, despite no longer being an appropriate or desirable symbol. You are urged to understand all aspects of your wedding and the reasons for doing it. The pastor reserves the right to have final say in all aspects of your wedding at Holy Trinity.

9. The Reception

Arrangements for wedding receptions at the church must be made with the church office. A Kitchen Supervisor provided by the church is required for all receptions which utilize silver service, table cloths, or kitchen equipment or utensils; the Kitchen Supervisor assists in locating utensils and operating kitchen equipment, but does not make arrangements for the reception, the serving or the clean-up. When caterers are used, the caterer is subject to the supervision of the Kitchen Supervisor. The women of Holy Trinity are not available to serve at wedding receptions.

Couples are responsible for providing all food and drink, coffee, paper products, decorations, servers and clean-up.

Out of consideration to our custodial personnel, we ask that receptions at the church conclude at a reasonable hour. Remember, most weddings are on Saturdays and the custodian must prepare the church facilities for Sunday morning use. We do not wish to rush you, but ask only for sensitivity to the needs of the church and its custodial staff.

9. Fees

There are a variety of fees charged and appear on the Wedding Information Sheet that you received when you were given this booklet. Since many wedding dates are reserved over two years in advance the church reserves the right to change fees without notification. **Note: Fees are based upon the couple's membership status at the time the wedding is scheduled.** (However, see page 4 for an exception.)

You are responsible for making separate checks payable to the Organist, other musicians and soloists, the wedding coordinator and the custodian, and to the W/ELCA if you hold a reception at the church. All checks must be brought to the church AT THE REHEARSAL. Since the organist, custodian and wedding coordinator have already made preparations and scheduled their time, your checks to these persons are not refundable should your wedding be canceled within seven (7) days of the scheduled date.

10. Invitations to pastors for receptions and rehearsal dinners

Many times it is impossible for the pastor to attend either your rehearsal dinner or your wedding reception if it is held away from the church. If you would like either the Pastor or the Pastor and his/her spouse to attend such events, they must receive a printed invitation, and that invitation should be received well in advance (at the same time you send your other invitations is customary). This will give the pastor time to respond to your invitation and avoid surprises.

11. Things to bring with you to the rehearsal

- Rings License
- Bulletins Unity Candle and tapers
- Decorations Clothing you wish to have locked up over night

Payment of all fees are to be made the night of the rehearsal. The list below is provided for your organizational purposes. The amount of the specific fee is listed on the “Wedding Information Sheet” and checks should be made payable to the specific person assisting with your wedding.

- Wedding Coordinator Organist
- Custodian Building Usage*
- Pew Candles* Candelabras*
- Pastoral Fee

*Checks for these items are payable to Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and may be combined into one check.

The Wedding Service

- Note that optional components are indicated by a *gray background*.

Gathering

Prelude

Processional

The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to reveal your love to all people. Enrich Husband and Wife with every good gift, that their life together may show forth your love; and grant that at the last we may all celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no end; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sit, including wedding party

Music, Solo, Hymn

Word

Lesson(s)

Sermon

Music, Solo, Hymn

Address

Dear friends: We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of Husband and Wife, to surround them with our prayers, and to share in their joy.

The scriptures teach us that the bond and covenant of marriage is a gift of God, a holy mystery in which two become one flesh, an image of the union of Christ and the church. As Husband and Wife give themselves to each other today, we remember that at Cana in Galilee our Lord Jesus Christ made the wedding feast a sign of God's reign of love.

Let us enter into this celebration confident that, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now also; we pray that this couple may fulfill God's purpose for the whole of their lives.

Wedding party to front

Declaration of intent

Husband and Wife, if it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

Husband, will you have Wife to be your wife, to live together in a holy marriage?

Will you love *her*, comfort *her*, honor and keep *her*, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to *her* as long as you both shall live?

I will.

Wife, will you have Husband to be your husband, to live together in a holy marriage? Will you love *him*, comfort *him*, honor and keep *him*, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to *him* as long as you both shall live?

I will.

Families stand

Will you, the families of Husband and Wife, give your love and blessing to this new family?

We will.

Congregation stands

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold and care for Husband and Wife in their life together? **We will.**

Congregation sits.

Exchange of vows

Husband and Wife, I invite you to join your hands and declare your vows.

Face each other and join hands.

In the presence of God and this community,
I, Husband take you, Wife, / to be my wife;
to have and to hold / from this day forward,
in joy and in sorrow, / in plenty and in want,
in sickness and in health, / to love and to cherish,
as long as we both shall live. / This is my solemn vow.

In the presence of God and this community,
I, Wife take you, Husband, / to be my husband;
to have and to hold / from this day forward,
in joy and in sorrow, / in plenty and in want,
in sickness and in health, / to love and to cherish,
as long as we both shall live. / This is my solemn vow.

Community vow

A marriage is never formed in isolation, but only with the support and prayers of the community surrounding it. I now ask you, as representatives of Husband & Wife's community, to promise yourselves to them. Please stand and repeat after me.

As today / you have promised yourselves to each other / I hereby promise / to support and strengthen you. / May your lives be filled / with love and happiness. / May your hearts be filled / with joy and laughter. / May your days be filled / with caring and growth. / I promise to be / your caring community, / loving and empowering / your life together.

Congregation sits

Music, Solo, Hymn

Exchange of Rings

What symbols do you bring of your love?

Best Man has rings, hands to Pastor.

Let us pray. Gracious God, these symbols have little value except that they are signs of faithfulness. Bless those who wear them, that they may live in love and fidelity. When they look on these rings, let them be reminded of their love and commitment to each other.

Amen.

Husband then Wife

I give you this ring / as a sign / of my love and faithfulness.

Announcement of the marriage

Couple joins right hands; I put hand on theirs

Husband and Wife, by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

Amen.

Blessing of the Marriage

The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, establish and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other, and grow in Holy love, until your life's end. May the Lord bless you and keep you in his grace. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Amen.

Music, Unity Candle, Hymn

Prayers

Congregation stands.

Seeing how greatly God has loved us, let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for the joy that Husband and Wife have found in each other and pray that the strength of their love may reflect your gracious love and enrich our common life.

From your great store of strength give them power and patience, affection and understanding, courage, and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world. Make them gentle and patient, ready to trust each other, and, when they fail, willing to acknowledge their fault and to give and receive forgiveness.

Use us to support Husband and Wife in their life together. Give us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you.

Strengthen and bless friends and family gathered here, call to mind those separated by distance, console those who mourn the loss of loved ones, and be present with those for whom love is a stranger.

Look graciously on the world you have made and for which your Son gave his life. Strengthen marriages, families, and communities everywhere. Defend and guide all who suffer want or anxiety.

Most gracious God, you have made us in your image and given us over to one another's care. Hear the prayers of your people, that unity may overcome division, hope vanquish despair, and joy conquer sorrow;
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Meal

Communion

Sending

Blessing

God Almighty send you light and truth
to keep you all the days of your life.
The hand of God protect you;
the holy angels accompany you;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

Presentation of the Couple

Couple turns

It is my privilege to present to you for the first time in their new relationship, Mr. and Mrs.
Husband and Wife Lastname. You may kiss the bride.

Applause

Recessional

Postlude

Standards for Photography and Video at Weddings

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

51900 Mayflower Rd., South Bend, IN 46628 (574) 271-2000

(To be given to the photographer / videographer prior to the wedding)

In order to ensure dignity and respect for weddings within the context of Christian worship, all photographers and videographers are required to abide by the following guidelines as established by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Arrival Time Photographers are to be at the church no later than 30 minutes preceding the appointed time of the wedding. Videographers should have equipment completely in place no later than 30 minutes prior to the starting time of the wedding. All photographers and videographers are to speak with the officiating pastor or Wedding Coordinator well in advance of the starting time of the service.

Dress As is befitting the dignity and beauty of a worship service and wedding, all photographers and videographers shall wear attire which is professional and formal.

Limits At no time during the service is the photographer permitted any further than the tenth row of pews on the main floor of the sanctuary. This will allow ample room for taking pictures as guests and wedding party enter and leave the sanctuary.

All photos taken during the wedding service (excluding the processional and recessional) must be taken with available light. No flashes are allowed during the wedding service.

Following the service, photographers are welcome to pose any portion of the wedding rite. The pastor will be available for such posing, if desired. Pictures including the pastor should be taken before group photos of the wedding party and families.

If the schedule at the church permits, and the couple agrees, pictures can be taken prior to the wedding service but must be concluded at least 30 minutes prior to the starting time of the wedding.

Video equipment will be set-up in a location as directed by the pastor or Wedding Coordinator. No artificial light is permitted. All video cameras are to be placed on a tripod. Moving about the sanctuary is not permitted under any circumstance.

Thank you for your cooperation.