

WEDDING POLICY

Trinity Lutheran Church Ishpeming, Michigan

Adopted by the Church Council, December 13, 1988
(revised 2/97, 4/02, 5/03, 9/03, 8/10)

A Wedding is a celebration of God's gift of family. All worship services and receptions that occur within the church building shall reflect the Christian understanding of marriage.

1. The pastor shall be the wedding coordinator. All planning and conduct of the wedding will occur with his/her approval.
2. Time and dates of all wedding activities are subject to the approval of the pastor. Couples must contact the church office to reserve a possible wedding date.
3. All couples are required to participate in pre-marital counseling to the satisfaction of the pastor.
4. At least one person of the wedding couple must be a member of the congregation. Exceptions will be made with the consent of the pastor.
5. Every wedding under the authority of this congregation shall be performed by the pastor and this congregation. If an additional clergy person is requested, he or she shall be approved by the pastor at Trinity.
6. There is no charge to use the church for a wedding service for members. Non-members are asked to make a donation. The winter months require an additional expense to the congregation to heat the building. Non-member couples must note this in their decision to contribute.
7. Musical selections shall be approved by the pastor. The organist is given the right to first-refusal before another organist can be employed. Trinity's pipe organ demands someone who is qualified to play such a delicate instrument.
8. If a Unity Candle is desired, it must be secured by the couple themselves.
9. FLOWERS are encouraged. Only natural flowers may adorn the altar. Vases are available for use during the wedding at no cost.
10. PHOTOGRAPHY: Flash photography is not allowed during the worship service. The balcony may be used for a photographer to set up equipment for natural lighting photography. Video tape photography is allowed. All arrangements for photography are subject to the approval of the pastor.
11. If a white runner for the church aisle is desired, each couple is responsible for securing it from a florist themselves. (Note for couples: The aisle is approximately 44 feet from just inside the sanctuary door to the step.) **continued on the next page....**

12. Couples are allowed to use the Fellowship Hall for their reception. Rules Governing this Hall are:
 1. A Serving Committee may be made up of members of Trinity. There is no requirement that this group serve a wedding. An honorarium to the group may be offered.
 2. There is no-smoking within the Fellowship Hall.
 3. All china/silverware/chairs and tables must be properly returned to their location.
 4. Laundering of tablecloths and towels are the wedding couple's responsibility.
13. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the premises at ANY time.
14. NO rice or birdseed shall be thrown on the church property.
15. **COSTS:**
 1. The bulletins must be purchased by the wedding couple and brought to the church office 1 week prior to the wedding so that the secretary can finalize and print the bulletin. There are many nice wedding bulletins available at Ezekiel Christian Bookstore, which is located in downtown Ishpeming or the couple can secure bulletins from a vendor of their choice.
 2. The organist shall receive an honorarium of \$90 for his/her services. If a soloist is not part of the service, the fee shall be \$75.

Please note: It is up to the couple to contact Trinity's organist. This should be done early in the planning. Our organist is Diane Aquino-Perez who can be reached at 226-7298.
 3. The vocalist(s), accompanist, or instrumentalist should receive an honorarium. Common practice suggests \$50 for each person performing special music.
 4. The janitor shall receive an honorarium of \$20 for each wedding. If the reception is held in the Fellowship Hall, the fee shall be \$40.
 5. The pastor shall receive an honorarium of a minimum of \$100.
 6. There may be a cost for pre-marital counseling material. This will be discussed with the couple by the pastor.
 7. All costs will be paid to the church before the wedding.

COSTS

Organist _____

Musician(s) _____

Janitor _____

Pastor _____

Counseling Material _____