



Official Acts at Trinity Lutheran, Girard KS

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

The Role of the Pastor

The Pastor is called to the local congregation as the spiritual leader. Normally, the Pastor will be involved in these major life milestones.

The Role of the Family

A family which desires to have an “Official Act” in our church should begin by contacting the Pastor to discuss arrangements. The Pastor, in concert with the family (and funeral director/marriage coordinator if applicable) will make preparations for the service in accord with these congregational policies and with sound pastoral practice consistent with the LCMS.

Parish Policies

A family seeking official acts from our church should understand the following practice. Any request for exceptions should be brought before the Pastor and the Board of Elders.

Honorariums and Facility and Janitorial Costs

Trinity does not require financial compensation from its members to perform official acts. Members of Trinity are encouraged to fund Trinity’s ministries with faithful and generous tithing. Services rendered to non-members, however, may require financial compensation. The value of such compensation will depend on the size of event and its preparation. The pastor, elders and other parties involved will seek the counsel of Trinity’s board of trustees for a fair quote.

Clergy other than Trinity’s pastor

Clergy other than Trinity’s pastor(s) of this congregation may participate in an official act, provided that he is from a Lutheran Church in fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Under special circumstances, another pastor may lead/officiate a service. These circumstances must be approved by Trinity’s pastor and board of elders.

Christian Baptism

1. Members of Trinity Lutheran are encouraged to have their baptisms done on Sunday, as part of the regular Divine Service, in the sight of the congregation, performed by the called pastor.
2. Extraordinary situations may require a baptism to occur elsewhere, and be performed by someone other than the pastor.
3. When possible, a Christian man should perform the baptism, saying the words “[Name of person], I baptize you, in the Name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Reciting the Lord’s Prayer and the Apostles’ Creed are also recommended

Christian Marriage Service (Wedding)

1. The marriage policy of Trinity Lutheran Church, Girard, Kansas a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is and always has been consistent with the Synod's beliefs on marriage. We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32).
2. The official position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as set forth in 1998 Res. 3-21 ("To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions"), is that homosexual unions come under categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testaments (Lev. 18:22, 24; 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-10) as contrary to the Creator's design (Rom. 1:26-27). These positions and beliefs can be found on the LCMS website, along with other statements, papers and reports on the subject of homosexuality and same-sex civil unions and "marriage."
3. Trinity pastors will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with these beliefs, and the Trinity church property may not be used for any ceremony, reception or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy.
4. The couple who wishes to be married should meet with Trinity's pastor for pre-marital counseling. The content and duration of such counseling will be agreed upon by pastor and couple.

Christian Funeral

As with any liturgical service, Christ is the central focus of worship. This is especially important as a Pastor and congregation seek to bring the comfort and peace of our Lord's Resurrection to families grieving at the death of a loved one. It is the earnest prayer of the Elders of Trinity Lutheran that these guidelines will be of service to our congregation in preparing funerals that bear witness to the salvation we have in Christ and the joy of His Resurrection.

1. The deceased must have been baptized in the Triune Name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is not appropriate for the church to provide a Christian funeral for those who did not confess Jesus Christ as their Savior during their lifetime.
2. *However*, occasionally, a Pastor may provide spiritual comfort toward the end of a person's life that is used by the Holy Spirit to bring them to faith in Jesus Christ, and thus the hope of paradise, without formal church membership before death. If such care was given to the deceased, the pastor may confer with the Board of Elders and, possibly, other LCMS clergy before giving consent to the funeral.
3. It is highly encouraged that funeral services be conducted in the sanctuary of the church. However, the Pastor may speak to the family in regard to a service of prayer and preaching at an alternate location.
4. Trinity understands every funeral to be a Divine service which takes place in the sight of Almighty God. As such, all funerals held at the church should conform in all particulars to the revealed Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions, which are a true exposition of the Word of God. Therefore, music selections for each funeral should include hymns from the approved hymnals of the Synod. All other vocal and instrumental selections shall be reviewed with the Pastor in conformity with the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions. It is appropriate that the music proclaim what God has done for us in Christ

through His death and resurrection. Organists and singers/soloists should be approved by the Pastor. See below for recommended hymns.

5. All military or civic rites (i.e. police, fire, or armed forces) do not relate to the deceased's faith but to his commitment and loyalty to community and country. Therefore, if such rites are desired, they should not involve any prayers or religious function unless approved by the Pastor. A rite such as the presentation of the flag and military salute should *precede or follow* the committal service and not be regarded as part of the funeral service of the church. Rites associated with fraternal organization are similarly precluded from the funeral service. Our Synod's bylaws state: "The Synod has declared itself firmly opposed to all societies, lodges, and organizations of an unchristian or antichristian character." This would include any organization that promotes universalism, works righteousness, salvation apart from Christ, accepts other gods, considers the Bible a mere moral code, and/or causes one to compromise their Christian confession and witness
6. Photography of any kind, including video, should not be taken during the funeral liturgy except as permitted by the Pastor after consultation with the photographer. Other photography, if desired, may be posed before or after the funeral liturgy.
7. The family will decide whether to have an open or closed casket for the visitation. The casket should be closed during the funeral service.
8. All services conducted in connection with the death of a Christian are highly encouraged to be referred to in media, print, bulletins, etc. as "funeral" services, not "celebration of life," "memorial," "remembrance," as they detract from the hope we receive in the resurrection offered only in Christ.
9. If the family desires a eulogy to be spoken, it is highly encouraged that this happens during the reception following the funeral service.

Funerals at the Funeral Home

It is to be preferred that the funerals of congregation members be conducted in the church. However, situations vary and a funeral may be held at a funeral home. All funeral home services officiated by Trinity's pastor must comply to the policies set above. Other funerals may be conducted at the discretion of the Pastor and the Board of Elders as situations warrant.

Recommended Hymns from the *Lutheran Service Book* (Concordia Publishing House)

438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth	395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
878 Abide with Me	449/50 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized	679 Oh, How Blest Are They
753 All for Christ I Have Forsaken	675 Oh, What Their Joy
601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized	598 Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters
477 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven	671 Sing with All the Saints in Glory
633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing	508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near
467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness	709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
697 Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death	710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

676 Behold a Host, Arrayed in White
725 Children of the Heavenly Father
509 Christ Is Surely Coming
458 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands
420 Christ, the Life of All the Living
605 Father Welcomes
677 For All the Saints
742 For Me to Live Is Jesus
607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee
594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It
740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb
461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives
486 If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death
724 If God Himself Be for Me
745 In God, My Faithful God
938 In Peace and Joy I Now Depart
755 In the Very Midst of Life
672 Jerusalem the Golden
741 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense
490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won
743 Jesus, Priceless Treasure
708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
484 Make Songs of Joy
747 No Saint on Earth Lives Life to Self Alone
880 Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow
552 O Christ, Who Shared Our Mortal Life

758 The Will of God Is Always Best
762 There Is a Time for Everything
482 This Joyful Eastertide
516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
760 What God Ordains Is Always Good
730 What Is the World to Me
764 When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love
763 When Peace, like a River
483 With High Delight Let Us Unite

Settings of the NUNC DIMITTIS from the Divine Service

397 As with Gladness Men of Old
364 Away in a Manger
347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
349 Hark the Glad Sound
380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice
334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide
376 Once in Royal David's City
348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns
402 The Only Son from Heaven