

# Wedding Planning at Trinity Lutheran Church

A summary of the *Wedding Policies & Guidelines at Trinity Lutheran Church* - approved Mar 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## *The Basic Process*

- 1) Contact Pastor as soon as possible (please allow 6 months if possible)
  - Before you can reserve a date for your wedding at Trinity, you must meet with our pastor.
- 2) Develop a plan with Pastor for pre-marital counseling and to discuss wedding logistics.
- 3) Work with Pastor to schedule a wedding date suitable for the congregation and your families.

## *What is a Christian Marriage?*

Marriage is God's idea. At the beginning of time it was the Lord who said, "it is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him..." (Genesis 2:18-24). And He made Eve as Adam's partner. This is why we define marriage as a union between one man and one woman as husband and wife.

## *The Biblical Doctrine of Holy Matrimony*

You'll explore these ideas more fully in your premarital counseling with Pastor.

- 1) Marriage was instituted and blessed by God.
- 2) The Lord blessed the first marriage and still blesses all marriages made in His name.
- 3) God gives us instructions regarding the conduct of spouses toward each other.
- 4) God intends that marriage is to endure until He breaks that bond through death.
- 5) Christian spouses must remember that because of sin, there will be inconveniences, pains, frustrations, and sorrows in marriage.
- 6) Christian spouses will find forgiveness, comfort, & support through Christ

## *Counseling before your Wedding*

Premarital counseling is a part of our wedding practices at Trinity Lutheran Church. After talking with Pastor and reserving your date, we ask that you and your fiancé meet with Pastor for 3-6 sessions of Premarital Marriage Counseling. The primary goal of premarital marriage counseling is to be an opportunity for a couple to work together with their pastor in order to understand God's gift of marriage, to resolve conflict, and to enhance and enrich their marriage.

## *Wedding Timeline for Trinity Lutheran Church*

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| <b>Earliest convenience</b> | Initial meeting with Pastor, Reserve Church & Pay Usage Fees<br>Set up follow-up meetings with Pastor                                    |
| <b>Min. 4 weeks prior</b>   | Musician approval by Pastor & Organist (if not him/her providing the services)<br>Final musical selections approved by Pastor & Organist |
| <b>Min. 3 weeks prior</b>   | Bulletins and program information to the church  |
| <b>Min. 1 week prior</b>    | Marriage license to the Church Office and any additional wedding fees due  |