

WEDDING POLICY

The wedding policy of Faith Lutheran Church, 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*). 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." Our pastor will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with these beliefs, and our church property may not be used for any marriage ceremony, reception or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy.

- 1. Generally speaking, the pastor of Faith Lutheran Church may perform weddings for non-members, those divorced, and/or those who are living together. However, his final approval to solemnize a pending union will be given only after he has evaluated the request in light of God's Holy Word.**
- 2. Ordinarily, the pastor of Faith will officiate at weddings performed in the church. Exceptions may be allowed, however, but only when the participating clergyman is a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or with the approval of the pastor. It is understood that these clergymen will abide by congregational guidelines.**
- 3. A wedding ceremony is in fact, a worship service. The pastor will provide several options to couples concerning their ceremony. Any variations must have his approval.**
- 4. Couples are required to attend four premarital counseling sessions with the pastor. These are designed to assist the couple in exploring their unique relationship in light of God's Word.**
- 5. No church furnishings or equipment may be moved/removed without approval.**
- 6. Flowers may be secured to the pews with clips that leave no permanent marks. No arrangements are allowed on the piano.**
- 7. Due to slip-and-fall hazard, rice and bird seed are not to be thrown. Bubbles may substitute.**
- 8. The Fellowship Hall may be decorated for the event; however no thumb tacks, nails, or pins are to be used. The renter is responsible for the removal of all decorations immediately following the event.**
- 9. All candles must be contained in glass holders for safety and to protect surfaces.**
- 10. Rearrangement of tables and chairs is permitted, but all should be returned to their original positions after the function.**
- 11. Should the kitchen be used, it is the responsibility of the renter to clean all counter tops, along with any utensils, carts, coffeepots, etc. that were used.**
- 12. Disposable supplies, such as tablecloths, cups, paper plates, napkins, utensils, etc., must be supplied by the renter.**
- 13. All food and beverages must remain in the Fellowship Hall and kitchen area.**
- 14. Children must have adult supervision at all times.**
- 15. Church phones are for emergency use only.**
- 16. Use of alcohol or illicit drugs is expressly forbidden on church property.**
- 17. Smoking is not permitted inside of church facilities.**

FACILITY USAGE & STAFF FEES

CHURCH RENTAL		No fee
ORGANIST		\$125.00
SOUND TECH	for wedding -	\$50.00
	for reception -	\$50.00
CUSTODIAN		\$75.00

All fees must be paid at least seven (7) days prior to the date of function.