

## **Marriage Policy of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School**

The marriage policy of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is consistent with the Synod 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.” We expressly reject any conclusion or implication that our affirmative belief in the sacred union of one man and one woman arises from hostility or ill-will toward, or desire to injure or impugn, any person or class of persons, or arises from any source other than the religious beliefs of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In accordance with this affirmative belief, and our right to the free exercise of religion under the United States Constitution, our pastors will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with this belief, and our church property may not be used for any ceremony, whether or not purporting to constitute marriage, that would be inconsistent with this belief.

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School Wedding Policy

## Principles:

1. A wedding is the service of Christian marriage in which a man and a woman pledge to each other and to God their commitment to a life-long, exclusive relationship.
2. A wedding may be performed only after the State of Wisconsin authorizes it and required certificates or licenses are obtained.
3. A marriage shall always take place within a standard service of worship.
4. The marriage policy of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, Janesville WI, 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 (Genesis 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Ephesians 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 (Leviticus 18:22, 24, 20:13, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 1 Timothy 1:9-10) as contrary to the Creator's design (Romans 1:26-27).

These positions and beliefs can be found the LCMS website, along with other statements, papers and reports on the subject of homosexuality and same-sex civil unions and "marriage."

Our pastors will not officiate 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.

Procedures:

1. Only couples that include at least one member in good standing of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School or another LCMS congregation may be married in the church and school facilities.
2. Premarital Counseling must be completed before the date of the wedding ceremony. The counseling will be conducted by the pastor.
3. Couples to be married at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School shall be required to attend five regularly scheduled worship services prior to their wedding.
4. Music used in a wedding service will contain explicit religious content. Non-religious music is best reserved for the reception.
5. The pastors in residence will preside at the wedding service.
6. No alcohol may be consumed in the building or on the church and school grounds.

7. Fees and the marriage license are to be presented and received at the time of the wedding rehearsal.

HONORARIUM AND FEE SCHEDULES

MEMBERS --

PASTOR: \$200.00

ORGANIST: \$150.00

CUSTODIAN: \$75.00

CHURCH USE FEE: \$100.00

NON-MEMBERS --

PASTOR: \$500.00

ORGANIST: \$200.00

CUSTODIAN: \$150.00

CHURCH USE FEE: \$200.00