

██████████ LUTHERAN CHURCH **MARRIAGE POLICY**

The marriage policy of ██████████ Lutheran Church ██████████, a member Congregation of Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is and always has been consistent with the Scriptural definition of marriage. That is, as a Congregation which is deeply rooted in God's Word, 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). We further support 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"), in 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). Our Pastor will not officiate over any marriage inconsistent with these beliefs, and our church facilities and property may not be used for any marriage ceremony, reception or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy.

A man and woman desiring to be married on church property must willingly and obediently submit to marriage counseling with our Pastor. The marriage counseling process is designed to equip and empower the couple for a committed joyful life together. Marriage counseling will always focus on covenant with God and each other, love, communication, finances and other areas that are identified in conversation.

The number of Pre-marital counseling sessions and the duration of such sessions will differ with each couple. The minimum number of visits will total four (4) hours with more sessions required depending upon the needs of the couple or if faith counseling is required for persons who are not yet confessing Christians. The pre-marital counseling process may begin as early as one year, but no later than four months, prior to a proposed marriage date.

This premarital counseling process consists of:

1. The couple meeting personally with the Pastor as noted above.
2. Additional counseling may be necessary prior to or following the approval of the marriage.
3. Once the counseling is successfully complete by the couple the wedding date is confirmed on the church calendar as well as the date and time for the wedding rehearsal.

For costs associated with the wedding and the use of the facility, please refer to the "Ministry Center Usage Policy". We recommend discussing the details of your wedding, reception and other particulars with the Pastor or ██████████'s Wedding Coordinator.

If the above noted requirements are not met by the couple, then the wedding will not be approved. It is further noted that at the end of the Pre-marital Counseling Sessions, the Pastor reserves the right to refuse to officiate the wedding or approve the wedding on ██████████ property.

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