

## **Proposed Facility Use Policy** *Adopted at Voter's Meeting 11/20/2016*

The pastor or his official designee must approve all uses of church property and facilities. Generally, priority shall be given to church members, their immediate families, and organized groups that are part of the ministry, organization, or sponsored activities of the church.

The church believes that its property and facilities are to be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and to bring glory to God. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we sometimes make our facilities available to approved non-members as a witness to our faith, in a spirit of Christian service that is consistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with the church's faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the church's constitution and bylaws, and on the website of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, *lcms.org*.

This facility use policy is consistent with our belief that allowing our property and facilities to be used for purposes that we determine are contrary to this church's beliefs would be an endorsement of those purposes and a contradiction and grave violation of the church's faith and religious practice (2 Cor. 6:14; 1Thess. 5:22). Further, it is important that the church present a consistent message to the community and that the church staff and members conscientiously maintain that message as part of their Christian life and as a witness to others that is consistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, in no event shall persons or groups who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate, or engage in practices that contradict the church's faith use any church facility. Nor may church facilities be used in any way that contradicts the church's faith. This policy applies to all church facilities and property, regardless of whether the facilities are connected to the church's sanctuary, because the church understands all of its facilities and property as a gift from God to be received with thanksgiving and to be set apart and used to the honor of Jesus' name in ways that are consistent with our faith in Him (Col. 3:17).

No worship services or religious ceremonies may be performed at Faith unless officiated solely by ordained members of the Synod. The pastor of Faith must review the form and content of all such services or ceremonies in advance to confirm that they are in accordance with Holy Scripture and the confessional and doctrinal positions of the Synod.

Consistent with this policy, church property, facilities and equipment may be made available to non-members or outside groups which affirm that their beliefs and practices and planned uses of the facilities are consistent with the church's faith and practice.