



St. John's Lutheran Church **Marriage Policy**

St. John's Lutheran Church of Fallon, Nevada believes and teaches that marriage belongs to God. Therefore, 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.” Pastors of St. John's 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.

Your wedding day is one of the most important days of your life. All the riches of the world cannot equal a home filled with love. We believe that at this point and time in your lives you have many hopes and dreams for your Christian marriage.

Premarital counseling is the starting point in preparing for this special day. Every couple is expected to meet with the pastor for six premarital sessions. These sessions will be on a weekly basis and should be completed at least two months before the wedding date. Each of the sessions will last approximately one hour. At least one week before the first session, complete and return the attached “Wedding Application.”

Music planned for the service must be approved by the pastor prior to the end of the premarital counseling. Given that St. John's does not have an organist/pianist on staff, the cost of musicians and or soloists is to be the responsibility of the wedding party. There is also a set fee of \$250.00 for the use of the facility and the services of the pastor to be paid to the church upon the completion of premarital counseling. All of the conditions stated above apply to members and non-members of St. John's. In addition, off-site weddings officiated by St. John's pastor are subject to the same conditions.

We, as a congregation, pray that as you enter into marriage you will prayerfully implore the Triune God--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--to be present in your lives and in your marriage. We look forward to meeting you and pray our Almighty God's continued blessings upon your lives!