

CHURCH PROPERTY USE POLICY

The Church Property Use Policy of [*Insert Church name here*], a member congregation of Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is a gathering place for people to come together in common worship of our gracious God. On this property we receive holy communion, absolution, and hear the Word of God proclaimed in all its purity; we welcome people into the body of Christ through Holy Baptism; we celebrate the lives of those who are have gone to be with the Lord; we pray for our members, friends, families, our Country, our Synod and its workers; we fellowship with other believers and minister to the hurting and lost. [*Insert Church name here*] truly is a Holy place, set apart to do God's work among his people as it equips, empowers, and engages people to be the Masters business of connecting people to Jesus. For those reasons, and as good stewards of all that God has blessed [*Insert Church name here*] with, we have established this policy for anyone seeking to use Church property.

We believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God: the Father, creator of all that exists; Jesus Christ, the Son, who became human to suffer and die for the sins of all human beings and to rise to life again in the ultimate victory over death and Satan; and the Holy Spirit, who creates faith through God's Word and Sacraments. The three persons of the Trinity are coequal and coeternal, one God. Our Church accepts and preaches the Bible-based teachings of Martin Luther that inspired the reformation of the Christian Church in the 16th century. The teaching of Luther and the reformers can be summarized in three phrases: Grace alone, Faith alone, Scripture alone.

For the purpose of this policy, "Church property" includes the land and/or building, in whole or in part, including the sanctuary, narthex, offices, classrooms, bathrooms, kitchen, fellowship hall, etc., parking lot, sidewalks, ingress and egress or easements.

[*Insert Church name here*] seeks to make our Church Property available for parish ministries and activities and to community groups and organizations as part of its outreach program to the community. Our Church property may not be used for any purpose or activity that would be inconsistent with our mission, beliefs, and practices. Church property is available for non-profit community gatherings that meet the criteria established by the Church Council. This criterion includes, but is not limited to, recognizing that the Church property is the church "home" for the members of [*Insert Church name here*] and that all are welcomed in our home without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, economic or social status, or sexual orientation.

Church property use will be coordinated through our Church Office and approved by our Church Council. A calendar of Church property use is kept by our Church Secretary. Priority for building use will be given to ministry groups within [*Insert Church name here*]. Groups apart from [*Insert Church name here*] may request the use of our building. However, groups requesting building use must meet the following criteria:

1. The group requesting access to Church Property must be consistent with our Ministry and Vision; and
2. Requesting groups must include either a member of our congregation or have sponsorship from a ministry group or member of [*Insert Church name here*]; and
3. Building use will include space appropriate fees to cover maintenance and utilities.

These fees are scalable, based on the space requested, and gauged upon comparable property use fees within [*Enter County/City name*].

The requesting party must complete and sign a Church Use Agreement. The individual signing the Church Use Agreement must agree to be responsible for the costs of any repairs or extraordinary cleaning needed as a result of their use of the Church property. A deposit may be required to hold a specific date for an event. [*Insert Church name here*] shall have a priority for use in the event of a conflict. Such conflicts arise from time to time to accommodate our members when needed for memorial services, weddings, and other celebratory events. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any event and smoking is strictly prohibited within any building located on Church property.

As set forth in the Church Use Agreement, the requesting party is responsible for setting up and cleaning the portion of the Church property subject to the use including, without limitation the restrooms and hallways.

I, representative of _____, agree to the terms & conditions stated above and any special terms stated in any attached sheet. I understand that [*Insert Church name here*] must be compensated for any damages/theft to the church caused by my group, especially due to non-compliance with the above terms and conditions. By signing below, I acknowledge receipt of this Church Property Use Policy and agree to abide by its terms and the terms of the Church Use Agreement which is incorporated by reference herein.

Representative

Date