

Marriage Policy for St. Paul Lutheran Church (LC-MS)

The marriage policy of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Utica, Nebraska, 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.