

## Marriage Policy ratified by Voter's Meeting, January 19, 2014:

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod recently sent out some excellent information concerning the issue of same-sex marriage that is facing our modern world. It appears that most of our society has accepted as "normal" the whole agenda being forced on America by the homosexual community. The LCMS understands that some will attempt to make life difficult for conservative (orthodox) churches when it comes to our biblical stance toward the homosexual lifestyle (Note: Our argument is not against a person being homosexual, but the hedonistic homosexual lifestyle which the Bible condemns). Because of the confusion found in our society the LCMS has prepared a proposed marriage policy concerning this important issue. St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Perham recently voted to accept this as a policy for our congregation.

The marriage policy of St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Perham, MN, a member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, is and always has been consistent with the Synod's beliefs on marriage. We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24-25 <sup>1</sup>), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32 <sup>2</sup>). 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 <sup>3</sup>; Lev. 20:13 <sup>4</sup>; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 <sup>5</sup>; 1 Timothy 1:9-10 <sup>6</sup>) as contrary to the Creator's design (Romans 1:24-27 <sup>7</sup>). These positions and beliefs can be found on the LCMS website ([www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)) along with other statements, papers and reports on the subject of homosexuality and same-sex civil unions and "marriage." **Our pastors will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with those 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.**

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<sup>1</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame." Gen. 2:24-25

<sup>2</sup> "This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church." Eph. 5:32

<sup>3</sup> "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable...Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled." Lev. 18:22, 24

<sup>4</sup> "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads." Lev. 20:13

<sup>5</sup> "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Corinth. 6:9-10

<sup>6</sup> "We also know that law is made not for good men but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers – and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me." 1 Tim. 1:9-11

<sup>7</sup> "Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion." Rom. 1:24-27