

Your decision to be married in our church shows you want God to bless your marriage and you want a Christian home. It is our prayer that God will richly bless you. We believe marriage in the church is an honorable occasion and should be respected by all people.

A church wedding is more than a beautiful and dignified setting for an important and memorable occasion. It is a worship service in which a marriage is solemnized. As with other services of worship, nothing should be done to destroy or distract from the spirit of reverence or keep the Lord Jesus Christ from being pre-eminent.

To help you plan your church wedding, we have prepared this booklet. It will be a handy reference to answer questions about what is proper and permissible.

Before the Wedding

Requesting a Wedding Date

Wedding fees must be received by the church office in order to reserve your special day. When a wedding date is requested, a deposit of one half of the total fee is due within two weeks. The balance is then to be paid no later than six months before the wedding. If the wedding is within six months of the request, the entire fee is due within two weeks of the request. In the event that a wedding reservation is cancelled, all paid fees will be refunded up to six months before the wedding date.

Weddings will not be held on the following days or dates:

Holy Week (the weekend prior to Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday)

Thanksgiving weekend

December 23 through January 2

Confirmation Saturday

The wedding rehearsal is usually the evening before the wedding at 5:00, 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. A Saturday wedding should be scheduled for 4:00 p.m. or before. For special time and date requests, please contact the church office.

Requesting a Pastor

Since a pastor is an important part of your ceremony, we encourage you to request one of our pastors to officiate your wedding. However, due to church planning and other events, a pastor may not be able to commit until six months prior to your wedding date. Requests will be kept on file until a pastor is assigned to you and we will do our best to fulfill your initial request.

A visiting LCMS pastor can officiate at your wedding if approved by the Senior Pastor.

It should not be assumed that a pastor of a different denomination can participate with our pastor in a wedding service at Gloria Dei. These situations should be discussed with the pastor honestly and frankly.

Premarital Classes with Pastor

One of the most important facets of marriage preparation is premarital counseling. If one of the pastors at Gloria Dei officiates your wedding, you are required to receive premarital counseling. Special arrangements can be made if you have been approved to use a visiting LCMS pastor.

The purpose of premarital counseling is to equip you with relationship management techniques to help nurture and flourish a lasting marriage. Premarital counseling will address common issues and challenges that you are most likely to face in your marriage. The benefits of premarital counseling are a healthier and happier marriage as you become familiar with each others' attributes, wants, outlook on life, etc. It also reduces the risk of divorce by thirty percent.

The counseling consists of a series of six sessions and is offered three times during the year. Check with the church office regarding the dates of the next series. If you have any other questions, please feel free to ask the office staff or one of our pastors.

Arrangements with the Wedding Coordinator

The wedding coordinator is in charge of the wedding service as a representative of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Any extra-ordinary details need to be approved by the coordinator.

When the wedding fee is received in the church office (no later than six months prior to the wedding), a wedding coordinator will be assigned and contact you.

You will meet with the wedding coordinator at least five months prior to your wedding to review the wedding location, the music, the church's policies, etc., and to answer further questions.

Arrangements for Music

The names and phone numbers of musicians recommended by the church are in the back of this booklet. Each musician will provide their own fee schedule and should schedule rehearsals through the church office. Songs during the wedding ceremony may be from a CD, but pre-recorded music may not be used for the processional music.

Gloria Dei reserves the right to approve or disapprove of vocal selections to be sung during the ceremony. Some songs are not Christian in character and not appropriate for a church wedding. Music chosen should serve to glorify God and edify the congregation. A wide selection of hymns and spiritual songs are available that are both proper and beautiful.

When a Gloria Dei organist or pianist is used, please consult with them regarding approved music selections.

If an outside organist or pianist is used, please have your music selections approved by the Director of Worship Ministry at least eight weeks prior to the printing of any wedding programs. You may reach the Director of Worship Ministry through the church office at (515)276-1700.

If an outside organist or pianist is used, they must meet with a representative of Worship Ministry or the Executive Director prior to scheduling practices through the church office.

Arrangements with the Civil Authorities

The bridal couple should obtain their marriage license in due time from the County Clerk's office. The pastor, by law, must have possession of the marriage license in order to perform the ceremony. One copy of the marriage license remains on file at the church office and the other copy is for the couple's personal files.

The Certificate of Marriage is filled out by the pastor and signed during or after the wedding ceremony. The pastor returns the Certificate of Marriage with the appropriate signatures to the County Clerk's office.

The packet containing the marriage licenses and the Certificate of Marriage should be brought with you to the rehearsal.

Arrangements with the Florist

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church does not own extra equipment often used at weddings. These may be obtained from a florist, who handles such items as candelabras, white aisle runners, and pew ribbons on a rental basis. The bridal couple and/or florist should consult the wedding coordinator if any unusual arrangement or placement of the flowers is planned.

If candelabras are used, the florist should use dripless candles and place sheets of plastic underneath to protect the carpet. The candles are usually lit and extinguished by a member of the

wedding party. The wedding coordinator will give instructions at the rehearsal or the day of the wedding.

If ribbons, bows, or flower arrangements are used on the pews, plastic clips are provided for you to borrow.

If the florist needs to be in the church at a certain time on the day of the wedding, arrangements should be made with the wedding coordinator so that the doors can be unlocked.

You may leave your flowers to beautify Sunday services if no one else has asked for this privilege first. If this is your preference, please notify the wedding coordinator as early as possible.

Arrangements with the Cleaning Service

The wedding fee covers the cost of cleaning after your wedding. Please collect all of your belongings and leave the rooms as you found them. To reserve the use of the kitchen or rooms other than those scheduled for weddings (Sanctuary, narthex, cry room or rooms 130/132) please contact the church office at (515)276-1700. If you reserve other rooms or the kitchen for lunch or snacks, please make sure that they are cleaned up before the wedding begins.

Arrangements with the Photographer/Videographer

There are to be NO flash pictures taken during the service. (You may want to make a note of this in your wedding program for your guests.) This rule applies to professional photographers as well as guests with cameras. There are few things as disruptive to the solemnity and dignity of a wedding as the taking of pictures. The photographer may photograph the bridal procession from the rear of the church, and the bride and groom as they reach the rear of the Sanctuary after the ceremony. Time exposures from the back may be taken during the service.

Pictures may be taken before the ceremony, as well as after, including reenactment of certain significant parts of the ceremony. Those taking photographs are, of course, expected to conduct themselves with respect due the house of God. Please keep in mind that the wedding party and guests should be finished by 5:00 p.m. in order to make the parking lot available for our 5:30 p.m. worship service.

Video taping and audio recordings may also be taken during the wedding service, but only from approved areas. Your wedding coordinator will show you the locations where cameras can be set up on a tripod.

Gloria Dei offers a Wedding Video Service. We will produce a multi-camera video of your wedding. The cost is \$250.00 and includes three DVD's in cases that will be sent to you within 2 weeks. A \$100 deposit is required with your six-month wedding information sheet. The remainder is required no less than 30 days from the wedding date to confirm your videotaping. The deposit is non-refundable after 30 days before the wedding date. All checks need to be made out to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, with "video services" and the wedding date on the memo line.

The Rehearsal

All the principals of the wedding should appear promptly for the rehearsal: bride, groom, maid or matron of honor, best man, attendants, ushers, flower girl, ring bearer, and the parents of the bride and groom.

The wedding coordinator will work closely with the pastor during the rehearsal. Depending on the size of your wedding party, the rehearsal should take no longer than 30-45 minutes. Though no service is in progress, the church is still God's house, and the conduct of all present ought to be reverent and worshipful. **As such, please do not go into other rooms or use equipment without obtaining approval from a member of the staff.**

All honorariums and payments to the pastor, musicians, soloist, church videographer, etc., should be brought the night of the rehearsal.

Please bring a final printed program to the rehearsal.

The Wedding Day

The bride and her attendants may complete their dressing in rooms 130/132 and the men may use the cry room. Both have restroom access. The wedding coordinator will show you the rooms during the initial consultation.

The flowers should be delivered to the church in ample time for the ceremony.

The best man will have the wedding rings in his possession before the ceremony begins and prior to the ring exchange. If a ring bearer is in the wedding party, the rings on the pillow will be symbolic ones and not the actual rings.

The ushers should be at the church and ready to serve at least 30 minutes before the time of the wedding ceremony. Your wedding coordinator will instruct ushers the night of the rehearsal.

Traditionally, the groom's family, relatives, and friends are seated on the right side of the sanctuary as they face the altar, and the bride's family, relatives, and friends on the left. However, it is proper to seat people other than immediate family on either side.

The grandparents and parents are ushered into the church right before the wedding is to begin. The bride's mother is the last person to be ushered in and is seated in the first pew on the left.

If an aisle runner is used, it should be in place prior to the wedding. Please discuss the use of an aisle runner with the wedding coordinator.

After the Wedding

Frequently, the wedding party forms a reception line in the church narthex. This can also be done at the reception. The receiving line can include the bride and groom, parents and attendants, or a combination of these people. Your wedding coordinator can assist you with this arrangement.

When the bride and groom have reached the narthex, the ushers may return down the center aisle to usher out the parents of the bride and groom, and return again to dismiss the guests.

The bride and groom may choose to usher their guests out after the service instead of having a receiving line.

The car, limo or other transportation for the bride and groom may be parked outside the south main entrance to the Sanctuary for use after the receiving line is completed and pictures are finished.

Miscellaneous

The Paraments and Vestments used (altar, pulpit, lectern cloths, and robes worn by the pastor) shall be the ones in place at the time of the wedding. There are no "wedding paraments." It is not proper to change paraments to coordinate with colors of the wedding.

According to church board policy, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is a designated smoke-free facility. There is to be no smoking at all in any part of Gloria Dei (including restrooms) or on its property.

According to church board policy, there is to be no serving or consumption of alcoholic beverages of any kind in any part of Gloria Dei or on its property other than in the service of Holy Communion.

There is to be no parking of vehicles in the south entrance driveway except for those for the wedding party after the ceremony.

There are handicapped accessible spaces available near both the north and south entrances to the Sanctuary.

There is to be no throwing of rice or birdseed. Balloons may not be released.

No real flower petals may be used inside or outside the church, due to possible staining.

Church Specifics

- Sanctuary seats 400 people.
- Aisles are 60 feet long.
- Glass shelf behind the altar is 19 feet long and 13 inches deep.
- 14 pews on each side of the center aisles.
- Doorway to Sanctuary for an arch is 7 feet tall and 6 feet 6 inches wide.
- Pew clips are available for use. Speak with the wedding coordinator if you are interested in borrowing them.
- A table is available for your guest book. You will need to provide your own table covering.
- Plastic must be put down under all candles, candelabras and unity candles.
- Tobacco and alcohol are prohibited in the church building and anywhere on church grounds.
- **If our Youth room is open, it may be used but we do require adult supervision if any children or teens are present there. There is expensive technological equipment that is off limits.**
- No tacks, pins, nails, glue or tape may be used to fasten any decorations to the furniture or the building. The furniture and carpet must be fully protected at all times from moisture and candle wax.
- No furniture in the Sanctuary may be moved without prior permission from the Director of Worship Ministry. Consult your wedding coordinator for changes.
- No rice, birdseed or real flower petals are to be thrown on the church property. Balloons may not be released. Silk flower petals are allowed but must be picked up following the ceremony.

The Church Does Not Provide

- Bulletins/printing of bulletins – music must be approved prior to printing.
- Plume pen or guest book.
- Aisle runner.
- Unity candle, candles, candelabras or base for unity candle.
- Childcare – this can be requested and a fee is charged. Contact the church office for details.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Wedding Fees

Wedding Fee \$300 – Members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

This includes the wedding coordinator, audio operator (manages volume of microphones), facility manager's fees and use of the Sanctuary, narthex, cry room and rooms 130/132 only. If additional space is needed please contact the church office.

This payment should be made when booking the wedding date. Checks should be made payable to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

Wedding Fee \$450 – Members of other LCMS congregations, not desiring to joining Gloria Dei

This includes the wedding coordinator, audio operator (manages volume of microphones), facility manager's fees and use of the Sanctuary, narthex, cry room and rooms 130/132 only. If additional space is needed please contact the church office.

This payment should be made when booking the wedding date. Checks should be made payable to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

You must provide your own pastor who has been approved by the Senior Pastor of Gloria Dei. Premarital classes should be taken with your own pastor.

Private Wedding – only available for members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church – no charge

This is for a very small wedding. Immediate family only, no wedding Coordinator, no attendants, no cleaning necessary – under 25 people total.

Pastor(suggested honorarium range) \$150-250

Checks should be made payable to the pastor and presented at the time of the rehearsal.

Professional Videotaping \$250

Checks should be made payable to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (write "wedding videography" in the memo line) A \$100 deposit is required with your six-month wedding information sheet. The remainder is required no less than 30 days before the wedding date to confirm your video recording. The deposit is non-refundable within 30-days before the wedding date.

Musicians

Please contact the musicians directly for fees. Checks should be made payable to each musician or soloist separately and presented at the rehearsal.

Please Note : Due to Saturday evening services in the Family Life Center, Gloria Dei is not available for wedding receptions.

Suggested Wedding Music

The music may be instrumental or vocal. CD's may be used for songs during the wedding ceremony, but processional music for the bride's entrance should be "live" to accommodate timing.

Parents/Grandparents Seating, Wedding Party Entrance

Air from Water Music	Handel	Sleeper's Wake	Bach
Air on the G String	Bach	Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	Bach
Cannon in D	Pachabel	Sheep May Safely Graze	Handel

Bridal Entrance

Rondeau	Mouret
Te Deum	Charpentier
Trumpet Tune	Purcell
Trumpet Voluntary (Prince of Denmark's March)	Clarke

Recessional

Autumn from Four Seasons	Vivaldi	Rondeau from Abdelazer Suite	Purcell
Brandenburg Concert 2	Bach	Spring from Four Seasons	Vivaldi
Ode to Joy	Beethoven	Wedding March	Mendelssohn

Unity Candle/ Other Songs

A Page is Turned	Bebo Norman
Cherish the Treasure	Steve Green
Doubly Good to You	Amy Grant
Family Prayer Song (As for Me and My House)	Marantha Singers
Friends	Michael W. Smith
God Causes All Things to Grow	Steve Green
God Gave Me You	Blake Shelton or Dave Barnes
He Has Chosen You for Me	Pat Terry
Hold You Up	Matthew West
Holding Hands	Steve Green
Household of Faith	Steve Green
How Beautiful	Twila Paris
If You Could See What I See	Geoff Moore and the Distance
I Will Be Here	Steven Curtis Chapman
Make Us One	Cindy Morgan
Only God Could Love You More	Kelly Nelson Thompson
Parent's Prayer (Let Go of Two)	Greg Davis
Seekers of Your Heart	Sandy Patty
The Wedding Song (There is Love)	Peter, Paul and Mary
This Is the Day (A Wedding Song)	Scott Wesley Brown
Unfailing Love (Kelly's Song)	Jimmy Needham
Waltz for Jennifer	FFH
When God Made You	Natalie Grant, Newsong
When I Say I Do	Cindy Morgan
Your Love is Extravagant	Casting Crowns

Look on the Web to hear these songs and many more.

Musicians

Listed below are Musicians familiar with the Music Ministry of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Please contact them directly for fees regarding their services.

Gloria Dei Organists

Kathy Brammeier	276-3571
Rhonda Christensen	(712)299-0134
Lynn Hays	278-1502

Gloria Dei Pianists

Kathy Brammeier	276-3571
Rhonda Christensen	(712)299-0134
Jessica Cronk	253-0914
Lynn Hays	278-1502
Betsey Sturgeon	224-4529

Vocalists

Gayle Culbertson	279-5039
Scott Strachan	965-0708
Paula McBee	283-8324
Gale Webb	490-2491
Alyssa Ericson	943-0899

Instrumentalists

Flute:	Mary Snyder	967-4190
French Horn:	Gale Webb	270-4924
Trumpet:	Cameron Haaland	457-3698
Violin:	Laura Valle	251-6784

Wedding Scripture Readings

Genesis 2:18-24 (NIV)

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NIV)

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: if one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Song of Solomon 8:6-7 (NIV)

"Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned."

Jeremiah 29:10-14 (NIV)

This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

Matthew 19:4-6 (NIV)

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

I Corinthians 13:1-8;13 (NIV)

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is

knowledge, it will pass away. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

Ephesians 5:21-33

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Colossians 3:12-17 (NIV)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Contact Information

The pastors or the Director of Worship Ministry may be contacted through the church office at (515)276-1700.

Wedding Checklist

Six to Nine Months Before Your Wedding:

- Pay church fee. A check made payable to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is due in order to reserve your wedding date. This can be turned in or mailed to the church office. Please write your wedding date on the memo line of the check. You will be contacted by a wedding coordinator after we have received your wedding fee.
- \$100 deposit due for videography if using Gloria Dei as the wedding video service.
- Register for pre-marriage class at www.gloriadeionline.com.
- Turn in the six month wedding information sheet to the church office. A copy will be made for the wedding coordinator.
- Call your wedding coordinator with any questions or concerns.
- Book your organist, musicians, and/or soloist. A list is provided with suggestions, requirements and restrictions on music.
- If you are not using a Gloria Dei organist or pianist, all wedding music must be approved by the Director of Worship Ministry at least eight weeks prior to the printing of any wedding programs.

One Month Before Your Wedding

- Turn in the one month wedding information sheet to the church office. A copy will be made for the wedding coordinator.
- Schedule an appointment with the pastor performing the ceremony.
- Remainder due for videography if using Gloria Dei wedding video service.

Rehearsal Night

- Bring the marriage license packet to give to the pastor.
- Bring a copy of the wedding program for the wedding coordinator.

The following is taken from our Governing Board Policy Manual...

Appendix H. Marriage Policy of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

The marriage policy of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Iowa, a member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is consistent with Scripture and the Synod's beliefs on marriage. We believe that marriage is a sacred covenant union between one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25), which has been created by God the Creator, as Jesus Himself states in Matthew 19:4-6.

This understanding of marriage is both beautiful and purposeful. God gave marriage to humanity as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride, the Church (Eph. 5:32). Its purposes and benefits include the aforementioned *picture* between Christ and His Church (Eph. 5:20-33; Rev. 19:6-9) and its corresponding *witness* as Christians intend to be light in the world and shining stars in a very dark world (Matt. 5:14-16, Phil. 2:15-16), *security, solidarity* and *servanthood* (S.S. 6:3; Phil. 2:1-11;), *procreation* (Gen.1:27-28; Psalm 127:3-5), and *pleasure* (Prov. 5:15-20; 1 Cor.7:1-5). Thus, Scripture teaches that marriage is to be a life-long union and a gift to be held in honor (Heb. 13:4) and kept pure (1 Thess. 4:2-5).

Therefore, for marriage to "be honored" (Heb. 13:4), in accordance with Scripture, we affirm the above mentioned as the only God acceptable and honoring union. As God's justified people (1 Cor. 6:9-11) we honor Him with our beliefs, actions, and our bodies, the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:14-20). Therefore, any sexual interaction (1 Thess. 4:3-6) not confined within the protective and pure union of one man and one woman is outside of God's will. This includes, but is not limited to, lust (Matt. 5:28), pornography, non-marital sex (1 Cor. 7:8-9), adultery, divorce for unbiblical reasons (Matt. 19:9; Mal. 2:14-16; 1 Cor. 7:10-15), same gender sex and union (Rom. 1:18-27), and living together (John 4, Hebrews 13:4). "There must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, any kind of impurity, or greed, because these are improper for God's holy people." (Eph. 5:3) God gives us these directions to protect us from harm and to lead us to be the light of the world. (Matt. 5:14-16) So we live faithfully, lovingly, and winsomely, upholding God's truth, calling for repentance, and believing God's forgiveness for us (Jn. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 5:21). We then live in accordance to God's Word and through the power of Christ (2 Cor. 12:9-12; 1 Cor. 10:13).

Therefore, as we affirm and follow the Creator's design (Rom. 1:26-27), marriages performed at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church will be done in light of the Scriptures, understanding, of course, there is latitude for Pastoral discretion/exceptions. In such instances, our Pastors, through face to face dialogue and through clear instruction from God's Word, will counsel the couple so that they may be faithful to God's will for their lives.

Having said that, Pastoral discretion/exception cannot, and will not, be applied in the instance of same-sex unions. Gloria Dei Lutheran Church will never perform same-

sex unions, nor will they allow any Pastor or other individual to perform same sex unions on our property, because Gloria Dei Lutheran Church agrees with and will abide by 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), namely that homosexual unions come under the categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testaments, and are thereby against God's will. Wedding ceremonies will only be conducted for one man and for one woman, each of whose God-given and assigned biological gender has remained consistent from birth. In addition, our church property may not be used for any same-sex marriage ceremony, reception, or other activity.

These positions and beliefs can be found on our Synodical website, www.lcms.org, along with other statements, papers, and reports on the subject of homosexuality and same-sex civil unions and "marriage."

Ratified this 19th day of May, 2015 by the Governing Board of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

Amended July 14, 2015 by the Governing Board of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

Revised July 2015