

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

## SECTION D

### GENERAL POLICIES

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# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

## FACILITY USE

### A. General Considerations

1. All musical instruments, including all pianos and organ, are used only with the permission and supervision of the church Music department and cannot be moved without permission.
2. Any object that is moved for the duration of the usage must be returned to its original position.
3. All children must be supervised at all times and their conduct must be consistent with the church's policies.

### B. Facility Use

1. Messiah facilities may be used by not-for-profit organizations whose aims are consistent with Messiah's mission in the community, however, Messiah Lutheran programs always have priority over all other groups. They shall not be used for commercial purposes.

### C. Processing of Requests

1. Decisions about facility use are normally made by the staff in discussion with the representative of the requesting group. If the representative of the group is not satisfied, s/he may bring the request to the appropriate Council Committee. If the Committee decision is in opposition to that of the staff, Church Council will arbitrate a final decision. Authority in our congregation rests with the staff and committees on an equal basis, with Church Council on a final basis and, for large issues, ultimately with the congregation.

### D. Fees for Third-Party Users:

**NOTE:** A refundable damage deposit must be paid at the time of reservation. Messiah reserves the right to bill for any damages or extra cleaning not covered by the deposit. All fees are due when the date of use is confirmed.

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Short Notation	Potential Users of Messiah's Facilities	Fees to Cover Added Maintenance	Insurance	Door Security	Use of Kitchens	Clean-Up	Notes
A	Committees, who are using the facilities as a regular part of Messiah's programming <sup>1</sup>	NA	Covered by Messiah's insurance policy	Staff	May be used according to the posted directions.	Custodian	<sup>1</sup> includes a Group which operates under the auspices of a Committee for a specific purpose.
B	An individual who brings a group for a one-time event, social or otherwise, but which is consistent with Messiah's purposes in the community.	See Fees	Covered by Messiah's insurance policy	Person making the booking	MLW approval required	Person making the booking	Contract required <sup>2</sup>
C	Chaplaincy program of the Augustana Faculty of the U of A; The Bethany Group; CLBI; Bethel Lutheran; Grace Lutheran; Hastings LLBC; St. Andrew's Anglican; Resurrection Lutheran; St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church	See Fees	Covered by the user's insurance policy	Staff	MLW approval required	Custodian <sup>3</sup> If extra clean-up is required after usage by users in Category C Messiah will give the Custodian the normal custodial fee for third party usage. It will be waived if they do their own clean-up.	Contract required <sup>2</sup>
D	Non-Messiah Groups, called third-party users.	See Fees	Evidence from the Group or through Messiah's agent: Aon Reed Stenhouse	Staff	MLW approval required. See Fees & Suggested Donations	Custodian <sup>3</sup>	Contract required <sup>2</sup>
E	Celebration by individuals of special events such as birthdays, anniversaries, retirements, special family dinners.	See Fees	Covered by Messiah's insurance policy.	Staff	MLW approval required.	Custodian <sup>3</sup>	See: Special Events Policy  Contract required
F	The bereaved, for a funeral	See: Funeral Policy					
G	Those wishing to participate in a Wedding Ceremony	See: Wedding Policy					

Chart #1

<sup>3</sup> Help appreciated, in consultation with the Custodian

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## E. Scheduling

1. All arrangements for bookings are done through the Church Office.
2. Meetings and funerals will be scheduled to accommodate previously scheduled events, with the understanding that the basement auditorium is the site of funeral luncheons. Normally, events previously scheduled for that area will be moved if the area is needed for a funeral luncheon or if quiet is needed if the sanctuary is in use. Alternatively, in exceptional circumstances, the funeral will be held on a different day.
3. Sunday afternoon events shall normally be set up after Sunday services, unless there is clearly no conflict with the Sunday morning activities.
4. The building is opened at 8 am and closed at 4 pm, Monday through Friday. The building will be open evenings, Saturdays and Sundays to accommodate programming.

## F. Health

1. The use of alcohol is not permitted in any part of the building at any time.

## G. Security/Safety

1. An entrance or entrances will be designated for an event and use should be limited to these. Fire exits are not to be used for entrance or exit except in the event of emergency.
2. For games such as volleyball or basketball in the Fellowship Centre, players are encouraged to use stocking feet or indoor gym shoes.

## H. Care of facilities, equipment, and instruments

1. A definite area of the building is reserved for an activity. The group using this space is completely responsible for this area for the full time of the reservation. Use of the building is to be confined to the area assigned. At the end of each group's use of the facilities the group is responsible to clean up and replace all material and furniture to the original condition and location.
2. Round tables shall remain in the basement auditorium.
3. First-time users (both individuals and groups) of Messiah's organ, pianos and other instruments must receive instruction about their care from Messiah's Music department prior to their use.
4. Limited use of Messiah property outside of the building is permitted. Details and criteria are available in the Church Office.

## I. Overnight Event

1. When an overnight event is held, a clean-up time must be scheduled into the event near its end. Specific security arrangements are made with the staff.

## J. Special Fees

1. If a group uses the facilities, is under a committee, and fees are charged for a service performed in the group, then that money must go through the church financial records.

Adopted by Church Council on March 19, 2008  
Last review by Church Council on October 28, 2010  
Amended by Church Council on March 28, 2012  
Amended by Church Council on May 15, 2013  
Amended by Church Council on January 15, 2015

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

## FACILITY USE CONTRACT

(To be completed by all users)

1. User Group \_\_\_\_\_
2. Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_
3. Messiah Group or Individual Sponsoring the event \_\_\_\_\_
4. Third-Party User Insurance  
Proof of Liability Insurance (witnessed by) \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
Purchase of Liability Insurance  
(witnessed by) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Date and Time Requested \_\_\_\_\_
6. The following conditions will apply:  
Size of group \_\_\_\_\_ Length of stay: \_\_\_\_\_  
Publicity of choice     Worship Announcement     Sunday Bulletin     Messenger  
                                  Calendar     Posters     Word of Mouth  
Emergency contact name and phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Keys to the church and lock up \_\_\_\_\_  
Space allocation \_\_\_\_\_  
Entrance \_\_\_\_\_
7. Approval by Messiah Staff Member:  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
8. Approval by Messiah MLW Executive (if required)  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
9. Cheque(s) should be made out to **Messiah Lutheran Church** .  
Refundable Damage Deposit: \_\_\_\_\_  
Third-Party User Fees \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation for Facility Use: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Amount Received: \_\_\_\_\_
10. I / we have reviewed a copy of the Facility Use Policy (and the Special Events Policy where appropriate) and agree to the conditions outlined.  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Request processed by _____	Date _____
Confirmed by _____	Date _____

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

## Fees

To be reviewed annually.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>FEES</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
FACILITIES FOR • FUNERALS • WEDDINGS • SPECIAL EVENTS	\$300 to help with such maintenance costs as light and heat	Funeral Policy (Section D General Policy) Special Events (Section D General Policy)
FELLOWSHIP HALLS	up to four hours - \$40.00 up to eight hours - \$65.00	Special Events (Section D General Policy)
KITCHENS	\$25.00-\$50.00 (at the discretion of the MLW)	Special Events (Section D General Policy)
MEETING ROOMS	Up to four hours \$10.00 Up to eight hours \$20.00	Special Events (Section D General Policy)
<u>ITEM</u>	<u>FEES</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
AUDIO/VIDEO TECHNICIAN	\$200 / technician	Funeral Policy (Section D General Policy) Wedding Policy (Section D General Policy) Sound & Video Technicians for Special Occasions (Section J Support)
CUSTODIAN	\$150	Funeral Policy (Section D General Policy) Wedding Policy (Section D General Policy)
DVDs	\$5.00 / copy \$2.00 shipping & handling	Providing DVDs (Section J Support)
FELLOWSHIP HALLS	up to four hours - \$40.00 up to eight hours - \$65.00	Facility Use (Section D General Policy) Fees for Third-Party Users: Schedule #1
KITCHENS	\$25.00-\$50.00 (at the discretion of the MLW)	Facility Use (Section D General Policy) Fees for Third-Party Users: Schedule #1
MEETING ROOMS	Up to four hours \$10.00 Up to eight hours \$20.00	Facility Use (Section D General Policy) Fees for Third-Party Users: Schedule #1
ORGAN	\$35/hr	Organ Use (Section F Worship)
ORGANIST	\$150	Funeral Policy (Section D General Policy) Wedding Policy (Section D General Policy)
ORGANIST (STUDENT)	\$25/service for first four services full fee after that	Organ Study Scholarships (Section F Worship)
ORGANIST TRAINING SESSION	\$35/hr	Wedding Policy #6 (Section D General Policy)
ORGAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIPS	monthly not to exceed \$250/year	Organ Study Scholarships (Section F Worship)

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<b>PIANO RECITALS IN SANCTUARY</b>	\$40	<b>Sanctuary Use</b> (Section F Worship)
<b>RECEPTION LUNCHEON</b>	Served by MLW: \$4.00 / plate Served under supervision of MLW: \$100	<b>Funeral Policy</b> (Section D General Policy)
<b>STUDENT BURSARY</b>	\$50.00/month	<b>Student Bursary Program</b> (Section F Worship)
<b>STUDENT BURSARY FUNDING</b>	\$400 or 50.00/month Sept-April	<b>Student Bursary Program</b> (Section F Worship)

Adopted by Church Council on November 18, 2010  
Last Reviewed by Support Committee November 11, 2010  
Amended by Church Council on November 23, 2011  
Amended by Church Council January 15, 2015  
Amended by Church Council May 17, 2016

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

## FUNERAL POLICY

**Preamble:** A funeral is the solemn rite through which the Church remembers and honours those who die, and commends them into the arms of God's mercy. In the celebration of this service both the comfort of God's promises and the sure and certain hope of the resurrection are brought to those who mourn. The policies of the congregation, regarding the conduct of funerals, reflect its understanding that while, for the Christian, death is a time of sorrow; it also marks the point of entrance in the new life God has promised. The directions which follow are intended to provide assistance to families as they honour their loved ones and lay them to their final rest.

**1. The Pastor:** All funerals conducted from Messiah Lutheran Church are to be approved by a member of the Pastoral Staff. All funerals are to be led by a Christian Minister.

In those circumstances when the funeral is being conducted by a person who is other than a Messiah Pastor, a representative of Messiah, normally one of the Pastors, will extend a welcome to the worshippers on behalf of the members of Messiah and will read an appropriate scripture passage.

Bereavement counselling is provided, as appropriate, by a Pastor.

**2. The Arrangements:** Arrangements for the content and order of the service are made through consultation among the bereaved, the Pastor and the Funeral Home.

Normally, the Pastor is responsible for contacting the organist, the Messiah Lutheran Women (MLW) Funeral Coordinator (if there is to be a normal Reception, see #5 below), and the Custodian. The Pastor is to post funeral information on Messiah's web site or provide it to the Secretary for posting. This responsibility may be delegated to the Administrative Assistant who, in any event, will always confirm the arrangements.

**3. The Organist:** Arrangements for an organist are made through Messiah's Music department who is initially contacted by the Pastor. Subsequently the funeral party may be in direct contact with the organist for the funeral.

**4. Rites:** In keeping with the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Messiah does not enter into corporate worship with any organization which practices the forms of religion without confessing faith in the Triune God and in Jesus Christ, the eternal and incarnated Son of God, as our only Saviour. Therefore, organizations, which wish to conduct a ritual in connection with the funeral service, may do so outside of the funeral liturgy and outside the church building. In general, the appropriate places and times for such rites would be at the funeral home before the funeral.

At all times, our ministry is with the grieving family to present the Gospel in word and deed, and to focus on God's saving act in Christ.

## 5. The Reception

### a. Normal Pattern

MLW may provide a funeral reception at Messiah for a funeral held at Messiah:

1. when the deceased was a member, or
2. by special request of a member, when a Messiah pastor is conducting the service.

To arrange a reception, the Pastor (or Receptionist) will contact an MLW Funeral Group Coordinator as soon as possible. All detailed arrangements are then made through the Funeral Group assigned for that funeral.

If the family wants to provide the food for the event, that arrangement needs to be worked out with the Funeral Group assigned to that funeral. The per plate fee listed under six below would be adjusted.

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The Basement Auditorium will normally be used in order that programming in other parts of the building may proceed without interruption.

The reception commences immediately following the funeral service. The family may choose to come to the reception either before or after the interment.

## **b. Exceptional Pattern**

If a funeral is being held at Messiah for a member of another congregation, a funeral reception may be provided at Messiah:

1. **by the members of that congregation.** The members of that congregation will work under the supervision of a liaison from Messiah. An MLW Funeral Group Coordinator, President or Secretary is to be contacted by Messiah's Pastor (or Administrative Assistant) to arrange for the liaison person. A fee, payable to the MLW, is levied as a thank you for the services of the volunteer liaison person.

2. **by a professional caterer.** If a funeral is being held at Messiah, a funeral reception may be provided at Messiah by the family of the member. That family will work under the supervision of a liaison from Messiah. An MLW Funeral Group Coordinator, President or Secretary is to be contacted by Messiah's Pastor (or Administrative Assistant) to arrange for the liaison person. A fee, payable to the MLW, is levied as a thank you for the services of the volunteer liaison person.

The basement auditorium will normally be used in order that programming in other parts of the building may proceed without interruption. Because the fire code permits a maximum of 240 people, receptions beyond that number cannot be accommodated at Messiah.

Messiah's Facility Use Policy will be followed.

**6. The Fees:** All fees are paid to the Funeral Home.

a. Organist - See *Fees*

b. Reception luncheon

Served by Messiah MLW - See *Fees*

Served under supervision of MLW liaison - See *Fees*

c. Custodian - See *Fees*

d. Audio/Video Technicians - See *Fees*

**7. Grand Piano:** The grand piano may not be moved without permission.

**8. Facility Use Policy:** Messiah's *Facility Use Policy* is applicable to those situations not specifically addressed in this *Funeral Policy*.

Approved by Church Council, January 25, 2006  
Reviewed by Church Council, October 28, 2010  
Amended by Church Council, January 25, 2012  
Amended by Church Council, January 15, 2015

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

## MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND - GENERAL POLICY

1. The purpose of the Mission Endowment Fund is to enhance the mission of the church by funding new ministries.
2. The earnings generated by the fund should provide for growth and opportunity for Messiah to continue to provide for innovative ministry to the community of Camrose and other parts of the world. The result is to revitalize the congregation to take more opportunities to meet needs in our congregation and communities without impacting the current cash flow as documented in the budget.
3. All bequests and planned gifts that are unrestricted shall be added to the Mission Endowment or Panoptic Fund. These shall be invested in perpetuity and only earnings of the two Endowment Funds shall be used.
4. The sources of funds for the Mission Endowment Fund may include planned gifts such as, but not limited to, cash, bequests, insurance, trusts, real property, securities, mineral rights and charitable gift annuities.
5. Gifts of real estate, securities and mineral rights must be liquidated in a prudent, orderly and timely manner.
6. The membership of Messiah Lutheran Church, at its annual congregational meeting or at a constitutionally called special meeting, shall approve the recommendations for areas of ministry to be funded by the available income of the Mission Endowment Fund.
7. Members of Messiah Lutheran Church may suggest to Church Council in writing at least four months in advance of the annual meeting about how the earnings should be spent.

Adopted by Annual Congregational Meeting, June 12, 2005  
Last review by Church Council on October 28, 2010  
Amended at the Annual Congregational Meeting, June 2, 2013  
Amended at the Annual Congregational Meeting, June 5, 2016

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

## MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND - INVESTMENT POLICY

### 1.0 INVESTMENT LIMITATION

The Investment Policy for the Gift Planning Program is part of the Mission Endowment Policy and is subject to any limitations of its authority imposed by the Constitution and Bylaws of 'Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose' (MLC).

### 2.0 INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

#### 2.1 Management of Investment Portfolio

It is the long-term goal of MLC Council to provide prudent, diversified and professional management of the investment portfolio.

#### 2.2 Avoid Undue Risk of Loss

The Investment Portfolio must be managed in such a way so as not to expose it to undue risk of loss or impairment while maintaining an expectation of fair appreciation.

#### 2.3 Investment Decisions

Care and professional standards of judgment shall be exercised in all investment decisions.

### 3.0 INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 Risk

The risk of permanent capital impairment should be minimized. Preservation of capital is very important, as its replenishment can not be assured. Short-term volatility will be tolerated as long as the annual return objective is met.

#### 3.2 Return

MLC Council would require on its investment an annual rate of return greater than the rate of return on the operating bank account.

#### 3.3 Liquidity

One basic principle of this investment policy is to structure the term of assets to match the structure of programs.

#### 3.4 Ethical standards

At no time will the investment portfolio knowingly contain instruments that are considered to be in conflict with MLC's mission statement and organizational goals.

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

## 4.0 PORTFOLIO DIVERSIFICATION AND ASSET QUALITY CONSTRAINTS

Investments should be made with a view to maximizing return in the long term within the investment guidelines outlined in this bylaw.

### 4.1 Cash and Cash Equivalents

4.1.1 Cash and cash equivalents are short-term securities of less than one-year term to maturity.

4.1.2 All short-term securities issued by or fully guaranteed by the Government of Canada or any Province of Canada or any Bankers' Acceptance issued by a schedule 1 bank are qualified investments. All other short-term securities shall be rated R1 (Canadian Bond Rating Service) or equivalent at the time of purchase and may include money market mutual funds that invest in the above qualified investments.

### 4.2 Fixed income (Bonds, Preferred Shares, Guaranteed Investment Certificate, and Insured Mortgages)

4.2.1 The quality standards for other fixed income shall be:

<u>Debt Rating</u>	<u>Maximum % of Fixed Income Portfolio</u>
Below A	0%
A to AA	20%
Higher than AA	maximum per 5.0 Asset Mix

and may include bond mutual funds that invest in the above qualified investments.

4.2.2 Not more than 10% of the fixed income portfolio shall be invested in debt issues of any one issuer except for securities fully guaranteed by the Government of Canada or by any Province in Canada or by any schedule 1 chartered bank.

### 4.3 Equity

4.3.1 Only equity that is publicly traded and pays dividends can be purchased.

4.3.2 Not more than 5% of the equity portfolio shall be invested in equity of any one company.

4.3.3 May include equity mutual funds that invest in the above qualified investments

## 5.0 ASSET MIX POLICY

MLC Council has the discretion to vary the portfolio exposure to each asset class taking into account the assessment of opportunity and market conditions

### INVESTMENT RANGE FOR EACH INVESTMENT CATEGORY

INVESTMENT CATEGORY	Minimum	Maximum	Benchmark
Cash and cash equivalents	10%	100%	20%
Fixed income (Bonds/ Preferred Shares/ Insured Mortgages)	50%	90%	70%
Equities	0%	20%	10%

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

## 6.0 PORTFOLIO MONITORING AND REVIEW

MLC Council is responsible and accountable for investments and will do the following at least once every 12 months.

### 6.1 Review Transactions

Review the portfolio's investment holdings, purchases, sales and cash flow.

### 6.2 Establish Investment Strategy and Objectives

Discuss the short and long-term economic and investment outlook, the investment strategy to be followed, as well as the prospects of meeting investment objectives.

### 6.3 Review Asset Mix

Review the shift in the strategic asset mix and shifts expected to be made in the immediate future.

### 6.4 Purchase and Sale of Investments

Make decisions regarding the purchase and sale of all investments until such time as it is deemed necessary and economical to hire an investment counsel.

## 7.0 Other

### 7.1 Conflict of Interest

A MLC Council member will abstain from any decision in an area where a conflict of interest is known to exist.

### 7.2 Appointing Investment Counsel

MLC Council may issue a Request for Proposal - Investment Counsel to ensure the MLC Council selects and appoints a qualified, competent and bondable investment counsel to administer the investment portfolio of the MLC.

### 7.3 Approve, Review and Compliance with Policy

MLC Council shall approve, review periodically, but at least once a year, and ensure that there is an annual review of compliance with established investment portfolio policies, standards and procedures.

### 7.4 Reporting

MLC Council shall prescribe the content and frequency of investment portfolio reporting to the congregation.

### 7.5 Responsibility for Losses

MLC Council members and other members of the congregation are not personally responsible for investment losses, unless there has been gross negligence or bad faith.

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### 7.6 Disclosure

Notwithstanding 7.5 above, if a transaction is entered into with a person or entity not at arms length, full disclosure of the transaction and the relationship with the person or entity must be made to MLC Council at the first meeting after which such information is known.

### 7.7 Reinvestment & Expenditure of Accumulated Earnings

Reinvestment and expenditure of accumulated earnings of Investment Portfolio will be reviewed and approved by the congregation.

Adopted by Annual Congregational Meeting, June 12, 2005  
Last review by Church Council on October 28, 2010  
Amended at the Annual Congregational Meeting, June 2, 2013

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

## PANOPTIC MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND - GENERAL POLICY

1. The purpose of the Panoptic Mission Endowment Fund is to enhance the mission of the church by funding ongoing missions.
2. The earnings generated by the fund should provide for growth and opportunity for Messiah to continue to provide for innovative ministry to the community of Camrose and other parts of the world. The result is to revitalize the congregation to take more opportunities to meet needs in our congregation and communities without impacting the current cash flow as documented in the budget.
3. The capital of this fund shall be invested and only the earnings of the Panoptic Mission Endowment Fund shall be used.
4. The sources of funds for the Panoptic Mission Endowment Fund may include planned gifts such as, but not limited to, cash, bequests, insurance, trusts, real property, securities, mineral rights and charitable gift annuities.
5. Gifts of real estate, securities and mineral rights must be liquidated in a prudent, orderly and timely manner.
6. The membership of Messiah Lutheran Church, at its annual congregational meeting or at a constitutionally called special meeting, shall approve the recommendations for areas of ministry to be funded by the available income of the Panoptic Mission Endowment Fund.
7. Members of Messiah Lutheran Church may suggest to Church Council in writing at least four months in advance of the annual meeting about how the earnings should be spent.
8. The terms of this policy may be amended or revoked by a vote of the congregation at its annual congregational meeting or at a constitutionally called special meeting. This policy does not create a trust.

The investment policies and limitations of the Mission Endowment Fund also apply to this Panoptic Mission Endowment Fund.

Adopted by Annual Congregational Meeting, June 5, 2016

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Messiah is a worshipping, learning, witnessing and serving community of baptized persons. To enable our members to participate as members of a caring community, we foster and encourage activities that will strengthen our fellowship with one another.

1. One of the ways that Messiah does this is by hosting special events that celebrate significant milestones or achievements in the lives of our members such as birthdays, anniversaries, retirements and special family dinners.

Another way is for a Messiah member to bring a group for a one-time event, social or otherwise, but which is consistent with Messiah's purposes in the community.

2. Such activities are congregational events. As with any congregational event, the number of people involved in the event may be limited by the specific interest of those participating in that event. For each special occasion, the organizers must indicate how they will publicize the event to the congregation: general announcement, bulletin and Messenger announcements, posters and/or word of mouth invitation.
3. While Messiah is the host for such events, those who plan, publicize and run the event may include people who are not members of Messiah but who are family members or friends of the person or people for whom the occasion is being held.
4. It is permissible for a caterer to be brought in to cater to an event hosted by Messiah.
5. Messiah does not rent its facilities for private use because the congregation encourages the support of businesses and organizations in the community who rent facilities to fund their activities.
6. If the event involves the use of the piano or organ, such requests need to be referred to Messiah's Music department.

Adopted by Church Council on January 25, 2006  
Last review by Church Council on October 28, 2010  
Amended by Church Council on October 28, 2010  
Amended by Church Council on January 15, 2015

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

## WEDDING POLICY

**Preamble:** Welcome to Messiah for your wedding, and congratulations on your decision to take this important step in your life with God's blessing through the marriage service. A wedding is a brief event, but a marriage is intended to last for the whole of one's life. The church is a place where the wedding takes place, but it is also a home where your life together can be nourished. We invite your active participation in the life of this congregation, so that you may both receive from and contribute to this family of faith.

In order to assist your preparation for your wedding, and also to assist Messiah's staff, we invite you to take note of the following policies which govern the conduct of weddings here.

The intention of the Wedding Policy is

- a) To assist the wedding party as it makes its plans, and
- b) To assist Messiah staff as it seeks to conduct Messiah activities in an efficient and loving manner.

**1. The Pastor:** Ordinarily only marriages performed by one of the pastors are permitted in Messiah Lutheran Church. Exceptions may be approved by the pastor who oversees wedding bookings. Pastors/priests/ministers from other congregations or Christian denominations may participate in a wedding service that is being conducted by one of Messiah's pastors.

**2. Scheduling of Wedding and Counselling:** Couples desiring marriage in Messiah Lutheran Church should contact the pastors early to book the date and make arrangements for three or more premarital counselling sessions. A pre-marriage workshop is conducted each spring for all couples planning marriage the following summer. Which pastor performs the ceremony will depend on pastors' schedules and availability.

**3. Booking the Wedding time and Rehearsal:** Bookings are normally arranged to accommodate the possibility of having two weddings on a Saturday, with 2 hours between the starting times. Couples may choose either a 1 pm time or a 3 / 4 pm time. If a 2 pm time has been requested, it can be booked six months prior to the wedding date, only if a 1 and 3 pm booking has not been made. The rehearsal is usually booked for the evening prior to the wedding.

**4. Booking of Additional Space:** In addition to the sanctuary, a booking may include the use of another room for preparation purposes.

**5. Technical Assistance:** Technical assistance for the sound system or for audio or visual recording could be available if required for needs beyond the normal minimum. A fee is charged for the technician.

**6. Organists:** Arrangements for an organist are to be made through Messiah's Music department. One of Messiah's organists is normally available for weddings. The couple may, however, provide an organist or musician of their own. If that organist has had no experience on Messiah's organ, he or she will be required to spend an hour with designated person from Messiah. At that time they will receive brief instruction on the use and capabilities of the organ and receive suggestions for accompanying the service. For that time of instruction, a fee is charged.

**7. Fees:** Because performing weddings is a part of the pastor's ministry, there is no fee for the pastor for performing a wedding.

A deposit must be paid at the time that the wedding is booked. The wedding will not be considered to be booked unless this deposit has been received.

**8. Promptness:** Because the pastor is likely to have other appointments later on the same evening as the rehearsal, members of the wedding party are expected to be prompt for that rehearsal.

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9. **Fertility Symbols:** No confetti or rice or birdseed shall be thrown anywhere in the building or on the grounds.

10. **Photos, Video and Audio Recording:** There shall be no flash photography during the wedding service proper from the opening prayer to the benediction. Flash photography during the processional and after the benediction is permitted.

Non-flash photography, video taping and other non-intrusive means of recording the ceremony are acceptable and should be discussed with the pastor.

11. **Exceptional Circumstances:** In the event that the wedding of a Messiah member is to take place at a location other than at Messiah Lutheran Church, the wedding party will be expected to cover the pastor's accommodation, if required, and mileage expenses.

12. **Grand Piano:** The grand piano may not be moved without the permission of the Music Ministry department.

13. **Facility Use Policy:** Messiah's *Facility Use Policy* is applicable to those situations not specifically addressed in this *Wedding Policy*.

Adopted by Church Council on November 20, 2009  
Last Reviewed by Church Council on October 28, 2010  
Amended by Church Council on October 28, 2010  
Amended by Church Council on January 15, 2015  
Amended by Church Council on June 21, 2016

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

## SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

### 1. Definition

Social media are defined as multimedia tools designed to communicate through social interaction that creates and contributes to personal web sites, blogs, social networks, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and other kinds of social media.

### 2. Purpose and Reason for Policy

The appeal of social media is that conversation occurs in real time. Messiah Lutheran believes it is in the best interest of our church family to participate in the world of social media to exchange ideas and share Jesus Christ with all people.

As an employee of MLC, you are perceived by others as a representative of the church and therefore need to follow the same behavior standards online as would be in the real world. The same laws, employee expectations and guidelines for interacting with the real world, employees, church members and community apply online. Therefore, as in daily life, a church staff member's personal website or blog is a reflection of MLC whether or not the church is specifically discussed or not. (Mark 12:28-31)

### 3. Benefits of Social Media Policy

Social media enables MLC to be more active in relationships with personal, congregational members, volunteers, community and partner agencies. Keeping in mind MLC core values, this form of communication increases the speed and frequency of engaging with the public. (Proverbs 15:23)

### 4. Audience

Social media can be made available to the public at large. This includes current employer, colleagues, church members, students, volunteers, other churches, leaders and family members. Thus when you write or speak as an individual, people may perceive you speaking on behalf of MLC. Be transparent by using a disclaimer on your blog or post such as: The views and opinions expressed on this site are my own and do not necessarily represent the views of MLC. (Phillippians 2:3)

### 5. Rights and Privileges

Since conversations and postings are not private be aware that what you post may be around for a long time. Avoid discussing others including church members, colleagues, visitors and pastoral details such as hospitalization, health concerns, deaths or counselling appointments. Obtain written permission from individuals, parents/guardians of minors or those with disabilities before posting their pictures. Obtain written permission before posting copyrighted material. Do not purposely or inadvertently disclose or distribute information deemed intellectual property or confidential to MLC. If you make a mistake, correct the mistake. There are some topics best discussed in a personal conversation rather than in a public forum. (Acts 20:28)

Uphold MLC mission and goals. Should your post generate press coverage, contact the Senior Pastor or designate for direction on how to respond. Finally, keep in mind that guidelines and policies continue to evolve as new social networking technologies surface.

All Messiah associated email on Messiah's computer/information systems are subject to review and examination by the employee's supervisor.

### 6. Messiah Websites, "Facebook" Pages and other Messiah Specific Sites

These sites require permission of the Pastor and/or Church Council. When submitting proposals there must be plans and people noted who will be responsible to maintain and check on the site regularly. Security plans from a knowledgeable computer programmer to reduce the risk of posts or links that bring Messiah disrepute should be included in the maintenance plan.

Adopted by Church Council on January 15, 2015