

# St. John Lutheran Recommended Policy Regarding Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at Church-Related Events

Upon prayerful consideration by the St. John Lutheran Executive Council ("EC") for a policy governing the consumption of alcoholic beverages on St. John's premises during special church-related events such as wedding receptions, synodical conferences, and appropriate fellowship events, the EC approves the following guidelines:

1. The event must be hosted by a Member or Staff member of St. John.
2. It is expected that the use of alcoholic beverages will be incidental to, and not a focus of, the event, and that consumption will be consistent with Biblical principles (see select Biblical references below).
3. There will be no buying or selling of alcohol.
4. Alternative non-alcoholic drinks must be made available.
5. Participants must consume in moderation, never displaying public drunkenness.
6. Participants must obey all federal, state, and local laws and regulations with respect to alcoholic beverages.
7. The Member or Staff member hosting the event is responsible for the removal of the alcohol and clean-up of facilities after the event. The facilities should be left in a clean condition suitable to a church and school, without the presence of items that may give offense to others.
8. Care must be taken as to the appropriate presence of youth and children.
9. Any clarifications of this policy should be discussed with the head Pastor.

## **Select Biblical References**

"For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven."  
Ecclesiastes 3:1

"Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do." Ecclesiastes 9:7

"For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer." 1 Timothy 4:4-5

"[But] let your reasonableness be known unto all." Philippians 4:5

“Deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine,” 1 Timothy 3:8

“Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery.” Ephesians 5:18

“Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat.” Proverbs 23:20

“It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything [if] it will cause your brother or sister to sin.” Romans 14:21

“‘All things are lawful,’ but not all things are helpful. ‘All things are lawful,’ but not all things build up.” 1 Corinthians 10:23

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8