

# **Alcohol Service Policy**

**First Lutheran Church, Columbia Heights, MN**

**January 17, 2022**

First Lutheran Church (FLCCH) strives to be a place that is open and welcoming to all people, especially to individuals who are in recovery. During our celebration of Holy Communion, grape juice is available to those who prefer to abstain from alcohol for any reason. The Church Council of First Lutheran Church adopted this policy on January 17, 2022, to help guide alcohol use in our community life.

## **Items to Note:**

- Columbia Heights regulations: A permit request is to be filed with the city 45 days prior to the event so that it can receive city and state approval. For catered events, an *alcohol licensed caterer* may serve 3.2 beer and wine. There is a maximum amount of alcohol that can be served per attendee. In both cases, food must also be offered.
- Columbia Heights does not require a license when alcoholic beverages are served on site to members of the organization (“club,” in their language). *For example, a celebratory toast or drink after an important event or accomplishment.*
- The FLCCH constitution does not prohibit serving or consuming alcoholic beverages on the property.

## **Goal**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the consumption of alcohol at functions held on congregation property that are not sponsored by the congregation. It is also our intent to allow limited opportunity for toasts and other restricted alcohol consumption at church-sponsored events. In providing these guidelines, the intention of the Church Council is to promote responsibility and safety at events in which alcohol might be served.

## **Guidelines for On-Site Parish Events**

If alcohol is to be served at congregation-sponsored events at 1555 40th Ave. NE., the following guidelines must be observed:

1. Beer, wine and champagne are the only alcoholic beverages permitted.
2. Food must be served when alcohol is present.
3. Non-alcoholic beverage alternatives must be provided with equal quantities, prominence and accessibility.
4. When alcohol is served, it must be monitored and those showing signs of intoxication must not be served.

5. Steps must be taken to ensure that minors do not have access to and are not served alcohol. If minors are present, alcohol must be served at a separate station that is monitored at all times to prevent underage drinking.
8. Alcohol is not permitted at events that are primarily focused on children and/or youth.
7. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages must be clearly labeled as such. Food prepared with alcohol does not need to be labeled provided the alcohol is completely evaporated by the cooking process; however, it is recommended that even in this case the use of alcohol in cooking be noted on a label.
8. In order to honor those in recovery or who abstain from alcohol use, the invitation should include a note that alcohol will be served at the event along with other beverages and refreshments.
9. Alcoholic beverages shall not be served while the business of the Church is being conducted, such as board or council meetings. A single toast for celebration before or after such a meeting is permitted.
10. The Church Council must give permission for alcohol to be present at any church function. This may be accomplished through a virtual vote.
12. Money cannot be charged for alcoholic beverages.

### **Guidelines for Non-Parish Events**

If alcohol is to be served at an event held on congregation property but not sponsored by the congregation, such as a wedding reception or graduation party, the following guidelines must be observed:

1. Alcohol may not be served at a non-congregation sponsored event on site without permission of the Church Council.
2. Beer, wine and champagne are the only alcoholic beverages permitted.
3. Only bottled or canned beer may be served.
4. Non-alcoholic beverage alternatives must be provided with equal quantities, prominence and accessibility.
5. The sponsor of the event is responsible for ensuring that alcohol is consumed only by those of legal age and in moderation.
6. Money cannot be charged for alcoholic beverages.
7. Food must be served when alcohol is present.
8. The sponsor of the event must be provided with a copy of this policy, and must sign a statement indicating that the copy was received and will be followed.
9. The congregation reserves the right to have a representative visit the event to ensure that this policy is observed, and may withdraw permission to serve alcohol if the policy is not being followed.