



St. Luke's Lutheran Church & School

Oakfield, WI

Concerning People Living Together Without Marriage

1. We regard living together without marriage as a sin and an offense to our Savior, our congregation and to our youth who may be led astray by this immoral example. "Marriage should be honored by all and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral" (Hebrews 13:4).
2. We will not accept anyone into our membership, while the person is living in such a relationship. "Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity" (Ephesians 5:3).
3. We will not schedule and make plans for a wedding in our church with couples that are living together, until they have purchased a marriage license. "If they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion" (1 Corinthians 7:9).
4. We ask our members who are living together without marriage not to come to communion with us in our church, so that no impression of our approval will be given. "Flee from sexual immorality...Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body" (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).
5. We welcome people who are living together without marriage to worship with us as fellow sinners and to bring their children to baptism in our church, not because we condone their immoral life-style, but because we recognize the importance of Christian worship and Holy Baptism. "'Come now, let us reason together,' says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be like wool'" (Isaiah 1:18). "The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).
6. We encourage all our members to address this issue directly with any member involved in such a relationship. Please remember that this should not be done on the basis of suspicion or hearsay; but on the basis of personal knowledge, Christian concern and love. If your personal efforts prove fruitless, it is proper to ask our pastor and church leaders for help. "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he refuses to listen to you, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 18:15-18).

Committee Responsible: Shepherding Committee
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