

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Alcohol Policy

The use of alcohol in our society has long been a source of controversy both in and out of the Church. We know that alcohol in and of itself is not wrong or sinful. Christ told us this (Luke 7:34), and his first miracle was transforming water into wine, about 150 gallons worth (John 2). Moreover, He instituted Holy Eucharist with the blessing of the sacramental Passover wine (Mark 14, Matthew 26).

We realize however, that alcoholic beverages can easily be abused, leading to potential suffering because of the effects of addiction and the serious damage done under its influence.

Because of the great amount of damage, sin, and brokenness caused by the abuse of alcohol in our society, there is a pressing need to deal with it with special caution and for the Church to set an example of using it responsibly. (Ephesians 5: 18-20, 1 Timothy 3)

In addition, while the social use of alcohol in moderation is completely acceptable, we have a responsibility to those who choose to abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages, particularly for those in Alcoholics Anonymous and other similar groups (Romans 14).

In light of this, the following policies will govern the use of alcoholic beverages at Holy Trinity functions or functions that occur at Holy Trinity not specifically sponsored or endorsed by the congregation:

1. Through the Office Administrator (office@sancarloshtlc.org), the Pastor is to be notified in advance of the intent to serve alcoholic beverages and of all other event details mentioned in this policy. The organization or organizers serving alcoholic beverages are to specify the beginning and ending time of availability of such beverages in advance.
2. Alternate non-alcoholic beverages are to be offered to participants at any function with equal dignity and hospitality. Suitable alternative beverages might include non-alcoholic sparkling wine, punch, soda drinks, fruit juice, coffee, or tea.
3. Any beverage that contains alcohol must be clearly labeled as such. This applies to any food where alcohol has not been volatilized.
4. A tasteful and appropriate identifying card should be placed at any bowl of punch that contains alcohol as well as all containers of beverages.
5. No minor is to be served alcoholic beverages, even from parents and guardians.

6. Groups or organizations sponsoring an event where alcohol will be consumed are responsible for persons who may become intoxicated and must provide alternative transportation in such cases.
7. Drunken behavior is not appropriate; care must be taken to ensure that responsible persons are in control of the serving of alcoholic beverages.
8. Non-church organizations using church facilities will observe these guidelines.
9. No alcohol shall be consumed or present at functions exclusively designed for children or youth under 21 years old.
10. Alcoholic beverage service must be supervised by an adult.
11. Designated adult supervisors must be willing to refuse service when they determine a person appears to be intoxicated.

Adopted by the Church Council 12_17_13.

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