

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

FRONT STREET

THE REVEREND JEANNE WISE KIRBY-COLADONATO
RECTOR

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Policy on Alcohol Use

The following statement was approved by the 1985 General Convention.

The Episcopal Church has never endorsed the prohibition of using beverages containing alcohol among adult members. Scripture offers Jesus' example of the use of wine in his first miracle at Cana and in the institution of the Holy Eucharist. When an adult member elects to use alcohol, moderate usage is expected. Church members are expected to be educated regarding those conditions that might compromise the health and safety of oneself or others. The Church also supports those people who abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages for whatever reason.

Many churches do not serve alcoholic beverages at social functions, but, for those that do, appropriate guidelines are given.

In the interests of promoting the principles of Christian living and the appropriate use of alcoholic beverages, the Vestry of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church has approved the following guidelines to govern the usage of alcoholic beverages in connection with functions held in church facilities. It is anticipated that the use of alcoholic beverages in church facilities will only be incidental to, and not a focus of, the event where provided, and that consumption will be modest. This policy specifically excludes sacramental events where communion wine is included as part of the service.

These guidelines are provided to serve the following purposes:

- 1) promote Christian and social responsibility in the incidental use of alcoholic beverages;
- 2) to assure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations;
- 3) to assure that Saint Luke's is adequately protected under existing liability insurance policies.

Let your moderation be known unto all.... The Lord is at hand.

Philippians 4:5 (KJV)

Guidelines

- Saint Luke's will observe all applicable state, local and federal laws and regulations with respect to alcoholic beverages.
- **No alcohol is to be served at any function unless authorized by the rector (or in the absence of the rector, by the Senior Warden.)**
- The furnishing or consumption of alcoholic beverages at any function will normally be limited to wine, and other low alcohol content beverages only. Hard liquor is not permitted. Whenever alcoholic beverages are provided, non-alcoholic alternatives must be provided in equal quantities and accessibility, and food should always be available. The availability of alcoholic beverages may not be promoted as an attraction to the event.

- The sale of alcoholic beverages on a “per drink” basis is not permitted by regulation. These beverages may be included without additional cost in an overall fee for the event. There may not be any differentiation in the fee charged for alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Due to insurance requirements, the serving or providing of alcoholic beverages at functions (wedding receptions, etc.) on church property is limited to those events sponsored by church members only.
- Consumption of alcohol, such as wine, at church group meetings is not expressly prohibited. However it is understood that consumption should be modest and consistent with the spirit of Christian ideals and social responsibility.
- Immoderate or intemperate use is not condoned as acceptable behavior, or in accordance with the principles of Christian life.
- The group or organization sponsoring the activity or event at which alcoholic beverages are served must also assume responsibility for those persons who might become intoxicated and must provide alternative transportation for anyone whose capacity to drive may thus be impaired.
- Recognizing the effect of alcohol as a mood-altering drug, it is advisable to consider the nature of the function at which alcoholic beverages are proposed to be served.
- The usage of chemicals other than alcohol is clearly controlled under federal, state, and local laws. Such usage is forbidden at any function.

A copy of this policy shall be provided to any individual or group planning a function on church property where alcohol may be served. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Rector or Senior Warden.

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Seaford, Delaware



Saint Luke's Episcopal Church



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The Rev'd Jeanne Wise Kirby-Coladonato, Rector

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