

St. Martin Church Facility Use Guidelines

Welcome: Thank you for your interest in The Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Martin, the oldest Lutheran church building still standing in the state of Texas. St. Martin's went through a complete renovation in 2011. Volunteers take care of this historic building and its grounds and manage the business of the church and cemetery. This property is under the ownership of St. Paul Lutheran Church (SPLC) located at 777 W San Antonio Street in New Braunfels.

Rental Policy:

St. Martin is available for use/rent. Facilities and equipment shall be used solely for 501c3 not-for-profit activities that are consistent with the goals and missions of SPLC. The goals and missions of SPLC are contained in its Constitution, By-Laws, Resolutions and Statement of Our Faith in God's Word Regarding Sexuality and Marriage, all of which may be found on its website. www.nbstpaul.org. The St. Martin Committee reviews all requests for use of facilities.

Submit a request to St. Paul Lutheran Church, attention St. Martin Committee, at least three weeks prior to the event. State the event's name, the purpose of the event, the number attending, and whether the front grounds and/or church is needed.

Guidelines:

- One day's rental for a five-hour time block is \$200.
- Overage charges for use beyond stated time is \$25 per quarter hour.
- All renters will pay \$100 for church security to open, prepare, attend event, and secure buildings on the premises at conclusion of event.
- Due to the historic importance of this building, a security deposit of \$200 will be required at least three weeks prior to the event. Receipt of this deposit confirms the event on the church calendar.
- Upon approved inspection of the property after the event, the deposit will be mailed within ten business days after the event.
- The church building is for a Christian church service, marriage ceremony, baptism, or renewal of vows. It is not to be used as a reception site.
- Cars may not be parked inside the fence.
- No smoking is permitted within the fenced area surrounding church and cemetery.
- No alcoholic beverages are permitted within the fenced area.
- With written approval, specified vehicle/s may be driven through double gate for specified purposes. RVs will not fit due to the archway over the gate.
- No trash cans are on the premises and all trash must be hauled away by renters.
- All floors must be broom swept at the conclusion of activity.
- The cemetery may only be used for interments.
- The use of open flames (i.e. candles) must be approved for both inside and outside the church.
- All items needing electrical energy must be listed in the request. The maximum amperage for the building is 60 amps. This will handle four heaters or four portable 110 volt air conditioners. These items are not furnished and would be the responsibility of the renter.
- No animals are permitted inside the church or on the grounds except service animals.
- Nothing may be affixed to the walls or hung from any of the light fixtures or fans. Nails or any type of tape may not be used on the walls or door.

- Maximum occupancy is 80 people inside the church building in accordance with the Fire Marshall's inspection.
- If there is any damage, the renter will incur the cost plus labor to repair. For every Sunday the church cannot be used due to damage repair, there is a charge of \$100 per Sunday.
- With permission, grills may be set up on the ground (not the sidewalk) 100 feet away from the buildings.
- Canopies may be used to serve and eat food outside. A drawing of canopy placement must be submitted to the SPLC office within ten business days of the event.
- Throwing of rice or confetti is prohibited. Party poppers and sparklers are also prohibited. Birdseed or bubbles may be thrown/blown outdoors. The St. Martin Committee will consider special requests for items to be used at the bride and groom's departure.

Weddings:

The St. Paul Lutheran Church, owner of St. Martin Church and Hortontown Cemetery, supports all Christian marriages of a woman and a man by a Christian pastor. God has told us what marriage is. The provision for marriage was made in the beginning told in Genesis: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." (Genesis 2:18-25, ESV) This clearly means that God has ordained that marriage is between one man and one woman. This we believe.

God has told us about our bodies and how we are to their treat them in our relationship with Him described by St. Paul at 1 Corinthians: "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body." (1 Cor. 6:19-20, ESV) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image in which God created that person. This clearly means that God intended the particular sex with which we are born and we are not to attempt to alter that sex, physically or emotionally. This we believe.

To be considered for a marriage at St. Martin Church, we ask the couples interested in marriage to verify active participation (active is defined as attending worship services as least once a month) in a Christian church. To do so, please provide a letter from your place of worship to be submitted with your rental request.

If not currently active in a Christian church, St. Paul Lutheran Church invites all to join the disciple orientation classes for lessons in building a life together enriched by God. Please contact the church office at 830-625-9191 for further information.

The St. Martin Committee at St. Paul Lutheran Church will consider all requests for Christian marriages held at St. Martin Church. For more information, read the Wedding Guideline brochure provided by St. Paul Lutheran Church. It is available online at www.splchurch.org or in the St. Paul church office at 777 W San Antonio Street, New Braunfels TX 78130.

Additional Information:

St. Martin Church does not have mail service and any correspondence should be made through St. Paul Lutheran Church, 777 W San Antonio Street, New Braunfels, TX 78130, Attention: St. Martin Committee. All phone calls are welcome. Please call St. Paul Lutheran Church at 830-625-9191 and ask for the St. Martin Committee chairman.