

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
**SERVICE AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL POLICY**

The American Disabilities Act (“ADA” - ADA Revised Requirements: Service Animals), and we at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (HTLC), recognize and define Service Animals as “Dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person’s disability.”

HTLC also understands that service animals are working animals, **NOT PETS**. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. Neither the ADA nor HTLC recognize that animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as Service Animals under the ADA.

While we understand that HTLC is a religious institution and is exempt from this ADA requirement and does not have to allow individuals to bring their Service Animals into the facility, we desire to show the love of Christ to those with such recognized disabilities and to ensure that ALL people are welcomed to receive God’s grace and mercy here at HTLC.

We also have a responsibility to our church membership, guests, and visitors to provide a safe and meaningful worship environment at HTLC. Therefore, we have enacted this policy to provide guidance to those who attend events at HTLC with a Service or Emotional Support Animal and to set forth the expectations we have regarding the Animal and its Handler.

**Service and Emotional Support Animals must adhere to the following while on HTLC property:**

- Always remain with their Handler.
- Wear their vest always identifying them.
- Be in good health (clean and free of fleas, ticks, etc.).
- Use outside designated areas when needing to urinate or defecate.
- Not expressing any aggressive behavior.
- Not sitting on church furniture.
- Not whine, bark, grumble, or make other noises (unless such noise is an alert, to notify that the Handler is experiencing a physical complication).
- Not obstruct an area used for emergency evacuation.

**Service and Emotional Support Handlers must adhere to the following while on HTLC property:**

- Keep their support animal harnessed, leashed, or tethered at all times.
- Keep their support animal current on all vaccinations
- Provide documentation of the validity of their support animal.
- Provide a valid local animal license.
- Provide a valid rabies tag for their support animal.
- Pay for any damage attributable to their support animal.

**An application must be completed and approved by the Council prior to the Service and Emotional Support Animal being allowed on HTLC property.**