I. Policy

Effective October 15, 2015 Luther College Catering and Dining Services will provide reusable tableware at all catering events. Individuals or departments requesting disposable tableware will be charged a substantial fee.

II. Purpose

Using reusable tableware creates less waste and consumes fewer natural resources than using disposable tableware. In pursuance of the college’s mission and goals, it will be the policy of campus catering to use reusable tableware.

III. Scope and Definitions

Scope of Policy
This policy applies to all catering events conducted by Luther Dining Services or its contractors.

Definition of Tableware
Tableware consists of dishes, plates, bowls, cups, mugs, glasses, forks, knives, and spoons, which are provided to food consumers to hold food and beverages and facilitate eating.

Definition of Reusable Tableware
Reusable tableware is tableware that is not designed, nor appears to have been designed, to be thrown away after use. Reusable tableware is durable enough to survive an indefinite amount of normal use, not including being dropped or purposefully bent. This policy makes the specific distinction that paper plates and cups and plastic silverware are not reusable because of their tendency to be perceived as disposable.

IV. Procedures and Guidelines

Effective October 15, 2015, Luther College Dining Services will provide reusable tableware at all catering events. Dining Services will not provide disposable tableware unless requested by customers, in which case there will be a charge for the use of these disposables. Dining Services
will determine the specifics of charges related to disposable tableware and will post fees on the Dining Services website.

Exceptions to this policy will be allowed for large catering events, where there are more guests than reusable tableware available. However, in these circumstances, Dining Services will use disposable tableware that is high in post-consumer recycled content and which is either recyclable or compostable. Dining Services must also provide the proper receptacles for recycling or composting this tableware alongside trashcans and inform guests, through proper signage, that tableware can be recycled or composted.

V. Confidentiality and Records

Records on all disposable tableware purchased and records of which events provided disposable tableware will be kept on file at Dining Services. All records are open to any Luther student or employee upon request.