

**SAINT LUKE'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
LINCOLNTON, LINCOLN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
CONSTITUTION**

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PREAMBLE ([top](#))

We, baptized members of the Church of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions, In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ARTICLE I - Name ([top](#))

Section 1 - The name of this congregation shall be SAINT LUKE'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH of Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina.

Section 2 - For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation is hereinafter designated as "this congregation;" "Synod" refers to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; "District" refers to the Southeastern District LCMS; "Evangelical Lutheran Church" refers to the denomination of Lutherans that adhere to the confessional teachings of the Church including the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and the Symbolical Books.

ARTICLE II - Confession of Faith ([top](#))

Section 1. This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Section 2. This congregation confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of the Church. The Holy Spirit creates and sustains the Church through the Gospel and thereby unites believers with their Lord and with one another in the fellowship of faith.

Section 3. This congregation holds that the Gospel is the revelation of God's sovereign will and saving grace in Jesus Christ. In Him, the Word Incarnate, God imparts Himself to Men.

Section 4. This congregation acknowledges the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the norm for the faith and life of the Church. The canonical Scriptures are the divinely inspired record of God's redemptive act in Christ, for which the Old Testament prepared the way and which the New Testament proclaims. In the continuation of this proclamation in the Church, God still speaks through the canonical Scriptures and realizes His redemptive purpose generation after generation.

Section 5. This congregation accepts the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of the Church.

Section 6. This congregation accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism as true witnesses to the Gospel, and acknowledges as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of these symbols.

Section 7. This congregation accepts the other symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, Luther's Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the confession of the Church.

Section 8. This congregation affirms that the Gospel transmitted by the Holy Scriptures, to which the creeds and confessions bear witness, is the true treasure of the Church, the substance of its proclamation, and the basis of its unity and continuity. The Holy Spirit uses the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship. As this occurs, the Church fulfills its divine mission and purpose.

ARTICLE III - Nature of the Church ([top](#))

Section 1. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under His rule and authority.

Section 2. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.

ARTICLE IV - Statement of Purpose ([top](#))

Section 1. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and set to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

Section 2. To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:

- a. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
- b. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
- c. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministries with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
- d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing it to their needs.
- e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
- f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

Section 3. To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:

- a. Provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered.
- b. Provide pastoral care and assist all members to participate in this ministry.
- c. Challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their calling in their daily lives and in this congregation.
- d. Teach the Word of God.
- e. Witness to the reconciling Word of God in Christ, reaching out to all people.
- f. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.
- g. Motivate its members to provide financial support for this congregation's ministry and the ministry of other parts of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- h. Foster and participate in interdependent relationships with other congregations and the synod.

Section 4. This congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the bylaws. The Church Council shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each committee, task force, or

other organizational groups and shall review their actions. [Such descriptions shall be contained in continuing resolutions of the Church Council.]

Section 5. This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.

ARTICLE V - Powers of the Congregation ([top](#))

Section 1. The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.

Section 2. The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregational Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws.

Section 3. Only such authority as is delegated to the Church Council or other organizational units in this congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the congregation. This congregation is authorized to:

- a. call a pastor as provided in Article IX;
- b. terminate the call of a pastor as provided in Article IX;
- c. approve the annual budget;
- d. acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
- e. hold title to and uses its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
- f. sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
- g. elect its Church Council and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution and by-laws.

ARTICLE VI - Church Affiliation ([top](#))

Section 1. This congregation shall be a member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as long as the Synod conforms to this congregation's confessional standards as set forth in this constitution.

Section 2. This congregation agrees to file this constitution and any subsequent changes to this constitution with the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

ARTICLE VII - Property Ownership ([top](#))

Section 1. The property of this congregation and all benefits connected therewith shall remain with those communicant members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to the confessional standards set forth in this constitution.

Section 2. In the event that this congregation dissolves, all property shall be disposed of by the final Congregational Meeting for the payment of debts and all just claims against this congregation, and any and all surplus and all rights connected therewith shall be conveyed to and become the property of the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

ARTICLE VIII - Membership ([top](#))

Section 1. Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of this congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

Section 2. Members shall be classified as follows:

- a. Baptized members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.
- b. Confirmed members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.
- c. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record to this congregation during the current or preceding year.
- d. Guest members are persons holding membership in other Lutheran congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. They have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Church Council of this congregation.

Section 3. All applications for confirmed membership in this congregation shall be submitted to and shall require the approval of the Church Council.

Section 4. It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:

- a. make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments.
- b. live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran church; and
- c. support the work of this congregation and the Synod through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

Section 5. Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. death;
- b. resignation;
- c. transfer or release;
- d. disciplinary action initiated by the Church Council and approved by a two thirds vote at a special called Congregational Meeting

- e. removal from the roll due to inactivity as defined in the constitution.

Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the congregation has a continuing pastoral concern.

ARTICLE IX - The Pastor ([top](#))

Section 1. When this congregation calls a minister of religion, ordained or commissioned, the following procedure shall be followed:

- a. When a pastor or commissioned minister is to be called, every member of this congregation shall be provided opportunity to suggest one or more names for consideration.
- b. A call committee shall be appointed [or an existing board or committee designated by the Church Council to serve as a screening committee and shall submit all suggested names to the district president for information and evaluation. When possible, information regarding additional candidates shall be provided by the district president and/or his representative. The committee shall then present to this congregation by public announcement its proposed list of candidates and their biographical sketches.
- c. At a Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of calling a new pastor or commissioned minister, the proposed list may be amended by a two thirds vote of the assembly.
- d. Ballot voting shall continue until a majority [two-thirds] vote determines the disposition of the call.

Section 2. a. Consistent with the faith and practice of this Congregation, every ordained minister shall:

- 1) Preach the Word;
 - 2) Administer the sacraments;
 - 3) Conduct public worship;
 - 4) Provide pastoral care; and
 - 5) Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.
- b. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within this congregation:
- 1) Offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
 - 2) Supervise all schools and organizations of this congregation;
 - 3) Install regularly elected members of the Church Council; and
 - 4) With the council, administer discipline

c. Every pastor shall:

- a. Seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel and strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad;
- b. Impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and
- c. Endeavor to increase the support given by this congregation to the work of the Synod.

Section 4. The specific duties of the pastor, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the pastor of this congregation shall be included in a letter of call.

Section 5. a. The Congregational Meeting of this congregation shall have the exclusive right to call ordained ministers. The right to call commissioned ministers also belongs to this congregation and ordinarily shall not be delegated to a smaller body and never to an individual.

- 1) The pastoral office shall be conferred only upon pastors or candidates who profess and adhere to the confessional standard set forth in this constitution, who are qualified for the work of the ministry, and who have been endorsed by and are members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- 2) Only those commissioned ministers shall receive a call who adhere to the confessional standard set forth in this constitution, who are qualified for the work of the ministry to which they are called, and who have been endorsed by and are members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- 3) The right of calling ordained or commissioned ministers shall be vested in the voters assembly and shall not be delegated otherwise.
- 4) Called ordained or commissioned ministers may be removed from office in Christian and lawful order by a two-thirds majority ballot vote of the voters assembly for one of the following reasons: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect of the duties of office, or the inability to perform those duties.
- 5) When a vacancy occurs in an office of an ordained or commissioned minister, the congregation shall notify the president of the district to receive assistance in temporarily filling the vacancy and to receive his counsel in calling a new pastor, teacher, or other church worker.

b. The call of the congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated for the following reasons:

- 1) Mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
- 2) Resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
- 3) Peaceful release from call upon the pastor's acceptance of a call to a different ministry;

- 4) Inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in the congregation, without reflection on the moral and spiritual character of the pastor; initiated by the Church Council and approved by a two thirds vote at a special called Congregational Meeting.
- 5) The physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;
- 6) Disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty; or
- 7) The dissolution of the congregation; or
- 8) Suspension by the congregation as a result of discipline proceedings.

Section 6. During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in this congregation of a regularly called pastor. The interim pastor and any ordained pastor providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor.

Section 7. This congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former pastor before calling a successor. A pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this congregation prior to leaving.

Section 8. When a pastor is called to serve in company with another pastor or pastors, the privileges and responsibilities of each pastor shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the pastors and the Church Council. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.

Section 9. The pastor shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from this congregation, and shall submit a summary of such statistics at the synod's request.

The pastor shall be a member of the congregation that has extended the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in only one of the congregations.

ARTICLE X - Congregational Meetings ([top](#))

Section 1. The voting members of this congregation shall be those confirmed members who have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.

Section 2. An annual meeting of this congregation shall be held on a date to be stated in the by-laws.

Section 3. Special congregational meetings may be called by the pastor or the church council, and shall be called at the written request of one tenth of the voting members. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held, and no other business shall be transacted thereat.

Section 4. Notice of all congregational meetings shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays or by mail to all voting members at least ten days in advance of the date of the meeting.

Section 5. One fourth of those on the active roll of confirmed members who are eligible to vote in congregational meetings shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary law of this congregation.

ARTICLE XI - Church Council ([top](#))

Section 1. The church council shall consist of the pastor or pastors and nine deacons. Any voting member who is at least 18 years of age may be elected a deacon, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. Should a deacon cease to be a voting member in this congregation, or should he without excuse fail to attend three successive regular meetings of the church council, his place shall at once be declared vacant.

Section 2. Deacons shall be elected by ballot for terms of three years by a majority vote at the annual congregational meeting. Their tenure shall be so arranged that one third of the terms expire annually. A deacon shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Vacancies occurring at interim shall be filled by the church council, the appointee to serve until the next annual meeting of this congregation.

Section 3. All lay members elected to the church council shall be installed as Deacons by the pastor according to the prescribed order of the church at the next public service following their election or as soon thereafter as convenient.

Section 4. The duties of the church council shall include the following:

- a. To have general oversight of the spiritual life and activities of this congregation, and in particular of its public worship, to the end that everything is done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- b. To provide schools and facilities for Christian education for children, youth and adults.
- c. To inculcate the motives and practice of stewardship in all members of this congregation, and to encourage liberal giving to the work of the church in all its aspects at home and everywhere.
- d. To support the pastor in fulfilling his calling, and in so doing to visit the sick, the infirm and the spiritually indifferent, to minister to the poor and distressed and to seek to bring the unchurched into the fold of Christ.
- e. To promote a spirit of peace and good will within this congregation and if differences arise, to endeavor to restore harmony and mutual understanding.
- f. To arrange for pastoral supply during the sickness or absence of the pastor.

Section 5. The church council shall be the Board of Directors of this congregation and as such shall be responsible for the management of its property, business and financial affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the state of North Carolina. The church council shall not, however, have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of this congregation. It shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by the congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of more than \$10,000.00 in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a congregational meeting.

Section 6. The church council shall see that the provisions of this constitution and its by-laws are obeyed and that the resolutions of this congregation are carried out.

Section 7. The church council may form committees as the need arises.

Section 8. The church council shall be responsible for the employment and supervision of the salaried lay workers of this congregation.

Section 9. The church council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor, and shall be called at the request of at least one half of its members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.

Section 10. The church council shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.

Section 11. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the church council, including the pastor or vice-pastor except with his consent, or in cases in which he has given prior approval to the consideration of questions of a routine nature, in which event the business of the meeting shall be confined to such matters.

ARTICLE XII - Officers (top)

Section 1. The Pastor shall be president of the congregation and the church council.

Section 2. At its first meeting in each congregational year, the church council shall elect a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, and, if desired, a financial secretary, who will serve both the council and this congregation in their several capacities. The vice-president shall be chosen from the membership of the church council. The other officers, if not members of the council, shall be accorded the privilege of voice without vote in its meetings.

Section 3. All officers shall be chosen from the voting membership of this congregation. If any of them ceases to be such, his office shall at once be declared vacant by the council and a new officer elected.

Section 4. The interim pastor shall serve as president of this congregation and the church council during a pastoral vacancy.

Section 5. The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of this congregation and of the council which shall be preserved permanently in its archives.

Section 6. The financial secretary, if such an office is activated, shall receive and keep record of all income from contributing members and other sources.

Section 7. The treasurer shall keep the books of account of this congregation. He shall receive all funds and disburse them on proper orders.

Section 8. The treasurer shall make written report of all his transactions to the church council monthly and to this congregation, together with a satisfactory audit, at its annual meetings.

Section 9. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be the trustees of this congregation and shall hold the property of this congregation, both real and personal, in trust for this

congregation in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina applying to trustees. The trustees shall not, however, have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of this congregation.

ARTICLE XIII - Standing Committees ([top](#))

Section 1. At its first meeting in each congregational year, the church council shall appoint as many standing committees as the local and wider concerns of this congregation shall require. Each such committee shall be composed of one or more members of the council and, in addition, other persons from the voting membership of this congregation. Although appointed by and responsible to the church council these committees shall be recognized as representative of the interest of, and performing essential services for, this congregation as a whole. The pastor shall have voice and vote in all committees.

Section 2. Except as stipulated in the following paragraphs, the duties of all committees shall be assigned by the church council, along with such instruction as in its judgment are in the best interests of this congregation.

Section 3. There shall be a Committee on CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. This committee, in association with the pastor, shall oversee the conduct and promotion of the schools and the activities of all organizations within this congregation. It shall encourage the use of teaching and worship materials consistent with the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. One of the primary aims of the Committee on Christian Education shall be to bring the call to the ministry of the Gospel and to other full-time church vocations to the attention of qualified youth of this congregation.

Section 4. There shall be a Committee on CHURCH PROPERTY. This committee shall see to the proper maintenance and protection of all property of this congregation, and shall take care that the same is kept in good repair.

Section 5. There shall be a Committee on CEMETERY. This committee shall develop a document for rules and regulation of the church cemetery, updated periodically and approved by the church council.

Section 6. There shall be a Committee on EVANGELISM. This committee shall stimulate and lead all members of this congregation in continuous and, from time to time, concerted endeavors to reawaken the spiritually indifferent and to reach others, who are as yet unknown, with the Gospel and attach them to Christ's Church. To this end, the committee shall devote itself to deepening spiritual life and shall periodically study this congregation in context of its surrounding community.

Section 7. There shall be a Committee on FINANCE, of which the treasurer shall be a member ex officio. It shall prepare a draft budget for the succeeding year, and shall submit such draft budget to the church council for its action and later presentation at a congregational meeting. The committee shall exercise oversight of all the financial affairs of this congregation to make sure that they are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations. It shall, subject to the approval of the church council, be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program. It shall also provide for annual audits of the accounts of the treasurer and the financial secretary, if there be one, as well as of the accounts of the schools and organizations within this congregation.

Section 8. There shall be a Committee on SOCIAL MINISTRY. The purpose of this committee shall be to extend Christian compassion and helpfulness to the ill, the aged, the orphaned, the

underprivileged, the imprisoned, and, in general, to persons of all ages in need of aid in body or soul. It shall strive to enlist in these efforts as many possible of the individual members and organizations of this congregation. This committee shall further have the duty to study social conditions, primarily in the local community, in order to bring the cleansing and healing light of Christian truth to bear upon critical problems through thoughtful Christian discussion of facts and issues.

Section 9. There shall be a Committee on STEWARDSHIP, of which the treasurer shall be a member ex officio. It shall be the function of this committee to evoke and promote the expression of Christian faith in daily life; to teach the Christian use of money; to infuse knowledge of this congregation's local, national, and worldwide ministries; and to lead all its members to higher levels of proportionate giving for the Lord's work.

Section 10. There shall be a Committee on WORSHIP AND MUSIC. It shall assist the church council in seeing that the services of God's house are conducted regularly and in accordance with the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and that competent ushers are recruited and trained, and that hymnals and other devotional material are provided and properly cared for. This committee shall supervise, and strive to advance the welfare and effective service of, the choirs of this congregation. It shall arrange for the care of paraments, vestments and musical instruments and, in consultation with the pastor, the organist, and the choir director, it shall furnish music supplies appropriate for use in the worship of a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

ARTICLE XIV - Organizations within this Congregation ([top](#))

Section 1. All organizations within this congregation shall exist to aid it in ministering to its members and to all whom it can reach with the Gospel of Christ. As outgrowths and expressions of this congregation's life, the organizations are subject to its oversight and direction. This congregation at its meetings, or the church council, shall determine their policies, guide their activities and receive reports concerning their membership, work and finances.

Section 2. Special interest groups may be organized only after authorization has been given by the church council.

ARTICLE XV - Discipline of Members and Adjudication ([top](#))

Section 1. Denial of the Christian faith as described in this constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, or persistent trouble-making in this congregation are sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps:

- a. private admonition by the pastor, b) admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, and c) citation to appear before the Church Council.

Section 2. A member charged with the offense shall appear before the Church Council having received a written notice, specifying the exact charges that have been made against the member, at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

Section 3. Should the allegations be sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Church Council and renewed admonition prove ineffectual; the council shall impose one of the following disciplinary actions:

- a. Censure before the council or this congregation;

- b. Suspension from membership for a definite period of time; or
- c. Recommend exclusion from membership in this congregation at a special called congregational meeting, by a two thirds majority vote.
- d. Disciplinary actions b. and c. shall be delivered to the member in writing.

Section 4. The member against whom disciplinary action has been taken by the Church Council shall have the right to appeal the decision to the District President.

Section 5. Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Church Council upon receipt of; a) evidence that injustice has been done; or, b) evidence of repentance and amendment.

Section 10. Adjudication - When there is disagreement among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation shall have the right to appeal to the District President after informing the chair of the Church Council of their intent.

ARTICLE XVI - By-Laws ([top](#))

Section 1. This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.

Section 2. Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting.

Section 3. Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member provided, however, that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Church Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose and that the Church Council notify the members of the proposal with its recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting.

Section 4. Approved changes to the bylaws shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

ARTICLE XVII - Amendments ([top](#))

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by at least 15 voting members or by the Church Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Church Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at its regular or special meeting called for that purpose. The Church Council shall notify the members of the proposal with their recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

Section 2. A proposed amendment to this constitution shall:

- a. be approved at a properly called meeting according to this constitution by a majority vote of those present and voting;
- b. be ratified without change at the next annual congregational meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting; and
- c. have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the constitution.

Section 3. Any amendments to this constitution shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the district.

ARTICLE XVIII - Continuing Resolutions ([top](#))

Section 1. The Church Council may enact continuing resolutions which describe the function of the various committees or organizations of this congregation.

Section 2. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Church Council.

Revised 17-September-2013 by the Constitution & By-Laws Committee, and;
Approved by Church Council October 3, 2013, and;
Approved by the Congregation of Saint Luke's Lutheran Church at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 6, 2013