

**Christ Memorial Lutheran Church St.
Louis County, Missouri
Effective January 1, 2024**

Constitution

In the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PREAMBLE

Created by the Father, redeemed by the Son, and called by the Holy Spirit, this congregation exists as a community of baptized Christians gathered around God's Word and the precious sacraments instituted by Jesus Christ. This congregation gratefully receives the new life and salvation from our Lord that we may share this gift with each other and with all people throughout the world. Motivated, encouraged, and empowered by the Gospel message of forgiveness in Jesus Christ, we thankfully acknowledge the countless blessings our Triune God has given this congregation in the past. We commend our future to His care, knowing that our Lord will never leave us or forsake us, but He will be with us always, even unto the end of the age. May His ever-present grace continue to embolden us to live courageous lives of Christian witness and to reach out with His love to a non-believing world.

ARTICLE I Name of the Congregation

The name of this congregation shall be "Christ Memorial Lutheran Church" of the County of St. Louis, Missouri ("Congregation").

ARTICLE II Confessional Standard

This Congregation acknowledges and accepts without reservation:

- A. All the canonical books of the Old and the New Testament as the divinely inspired Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice.
- B. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church from the Book of Concord as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God. These are:
 - 1. The three Ecumenical Creeds—the Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian
 - 2. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession
 - 3. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession
 - 4. The Smalcald Articles

5. The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope
6. The Large Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther
7. The Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther
8. The Formula of Concord

ARTICLE III Congregational Membership

The membership of this Congregation includes the following:

- A. Baptized Members are all who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God and who are under the spiritual care of the Senior Pastor of this Congregation.
- B. Confirmed Members shall not be members of any organization whose principles and conduct conflict with the Confessional Standard expressed in Article II of this Constitution. Confirmed Members of the Congregation are admitted in one of the following ways:
 1. A Baptized Member of the Congregation who has confirmed their faith through the Lutheran Rite of Confirmation after thorough instruction in Christian doctrine, or
 2. A person whose certificate of transfer from a congregation with membership in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod ("LCMS") is accepted by the Senior Pastor and the Church Council.

ARTICLE IV Calling and Removing Ministers of Religion—Ordained and Commissioned

- A. This Congregation, through a vote of the Voters Assembly, has the exclusive right to call ordained and commissioned ministers of religion. Any call process shall follow the procedures outlined in Articles VII and Article VIII of the Bylaws.
- B. Any candidate being considered for a call to serve as a minister of religion, be that ordained or commissioned, shall profess, and adhere to the Confessional Standard set forth in Article II of this Constitution, be endorsed by the LCMS, and be a member of the LCMS.
- C. Prior to initiating the call process for an ordained or commissioned minister of religion, the Congregation shall notify the President of the Missouri District of the LCMS so that he may assist in the process and, if needed, help in temporarily filling a vacancy.
- D. Any called ordained or commissioned minister of religion may be removed by the Voters Assembly by a three-fourths majority ballot vote, in Christian and lawful order, for one of the following reasons: persistent adherence to false doctrine,

scandalous life, willful neglect, or inability to perform their duties. Removal will only take place after all other attempts for a Christian reconciliation by the Church Council and the Senior Pastor as applicable and in consultation with the President of the Missouri District of the LCMS have failed.

ARTICLE V Authority of the Congregation

The authority of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church is vested in the Voters Assembly. The Voters Assembly is made up of the Voting Members, as defined in Article I of the Bylaws, of the Congregation. The Voters Assembly shall delegate to the Church Council, as defined in Article VI below, the authority to serve as the governance body for the Congregation. The Church Council will have the authority to conduct and perform all acts and affairs of the congregation in its stead, except that such authority shall not include the following:

- A. Amend the Constitution or Bylaws.
- B. Call or alter the call of any ordained or commissioned minister of religion.
- C. Remove called ordained or commissioned minister of religion.
- D. Sell or purchase any real property with a value in excess of \$100,000.
- E. Use of any real property with a value in excess of \$100,000 as collateral.
- F. Approve all borrowing of money in excess of \$100,000.
- G. Approve the lease of real estate or property, as lessor or lessee, if the total amount of lease payments set forth in the lease exceeds \$100,000.
- H. Elect and remove members of the Church Council, Elders and Delegates, as set forth in the Bylaws.
- I. Approve the annual budget and its objectives.
- J. Excommunication of Congregational Member.
- K. Approve the merger or dissolution of the Congregation.

The Voters Assembly empowers the Church Council to delegate to the Senior Pastor and staff the administration of the day-to-day operations of the Congregation in accordance with the Congregation's Constitution and Bylaws, and any written directives made by the Church Council.

Voting Members may attend meetings of the Church Council as observers, other than those portions of any meeting where the purpose is to discuss personnel-related matters.

ARTICLE VI Church Council, Officers, and Elders

In accordance with Article V, governance entrusted by the Voters Assembly of the Congregation is vested in the Church Council. The Voters Assembly will elect the members of the Church Council and Elders.

- A. The Church Council shall be comprised of the nine (9) members elected by the Voters Assembly as defined in the Bylaws. The Senior Pastor will be an advisor to the Church Council and serve as a non-voting member. The Church Council will elect officers

from the members of the Church Council in accordance with the Church Council Policy. This Congregation shall have the following officers:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

- B. Elders serve as an extension of the pastoral ministry and accept ministry responsibilities as assigned by the Senior Pastor or his designee. The number of Elders shall be determined by the Elders, in consultation with the Senior Pastor, but the elder team shall have no less than 12 members. The duties of the Elders are recorded in Article VI of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII Synodical Membership

This congregation shall be a member of the LCMS, as long as the LCMS conforms to the confessional standards set forth in this Constitution as determined by a majority vote of the Voters Assembly at a meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE VIII Property Rights

- A. The Congregation shall be the sole owner of all funds, personal property, and real property donated to or purchased by or on behalf of this Congregation or its organizations. No person or organization of the church shall retain any right, title, or interest in any such funds or property. The Congregational banking accounts shall be administered by the officers of the Congregation as specified in the Bylaws and will be held in the name of and under the management of the Congregation's officers.
- B. If at any time a division of the Congregation should take place for any reason, the property of the Congregation and all benefits connected therewith shall remain with those Congregational Members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to the Confessional Standard set forth in Article II of this Constitution, as determined by the dispute resolution process described in the Bylaws of the LCMS.
- C. In the event the congregation should dissolve, the property and all rights connected therewith shall be transferred to the Missouri District of the LCMS.

ARTICLE IX Meetings

Meetings of the Voters Assembly shall be held and announced as specified in Article III of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE X Amendments

The Voters Assembly may adopt amendments to this Constitution, provided that such amendments do not conflict with the Confessional Standard set forth in Article II of this Constitution or with any other article that pertains to a scriptural doctrine or practice. The Constitution may be amended in the following manner:

- A. The proposed change or amendment must be submitted in writing to the Voters Assembly.
- B. The proposed change or amendment must be read in two meetings of the Voters Assembly, at least one of which shall be a regular meeting.
- C. In the second such meeting of the Voters Assembly, an affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of those voting members present shall be required to effect such change or amendment.