



**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

CONSTITUTION

We recognize that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, following the Great Commission of Our Savior (Matthew 28:18-20), is the body of true believers throughout the world. As part of the body of Christ, the local congregation carries out the will of Our Savior, as described in Ephesians 4:11-13:

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Therefore, we as a body have banded ourselves together for the purpose of forming a Christian congregation, incorporated under the laws of Missouri. In this document we provide the framework for the administration of the spiritual and material affairs of this congregation.

ARTICLE 1 NAME

The name of this congregation shall be "Peace Lutheran Church of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod", located in the County of St. Louis, State of Missouri.

ARTICLE 2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this congregation shall be to establish and maintain a Lutheran congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and to take charge of, hold and manage all property, personal and real, that may at any time or in any manner be entrusted to this congregation for any purpose whatsoever, within the powers granted by the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Missouri.

ARTICLE 3 RIGHTS AND POWERS UNDER MISSOURI LAW

This congregation shall have all the rights and powers given and granted by the Laws of Missouri to corporations organized under the provisions of Chapter 352, R.S. Stat. Mo. 1949 and any amendments.

ARTICLE 4 DURATION

The duration of the existence of this corporation shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE 5 CALLED WORKERS

The right to call pastors and other called workers of this congregation shall at all times remain with the voting members of the congregation and can never be transferred either to an individual or to a smaller body of members.

ARTICLE 6 OFFICERS

The corporate officers of this congregation shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. Such officers shall uphold this congregation's Constitution and Bylaws.

All corporate officers shall be twenty-one (21) years of age or older, and shall hold their respective offices for two (2) years or until their successors are duly elected and installed. Such officers shall be elected in the manner prescribed in the bylaws and amendments thereto. No one shall serve more than three (3) successive full terms in the same office. Women may not hold the office of president or vice-president.

ARTICLE 7

SCRIPTURAL BASIS OF THE CONGREGATION

This congregation accepts and acknowledges all the canonical books of the Holy Scriptures, both of the Old and New Testaments, as the inspired Word of God. We further accept and acknowledge all the Symbolical Books of the Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord, 1580, as a true and sound exposition of Christian Doctrine taken from, and in full agreement with, the Holy Scriptures. In this congregation no doctrine shall be taught or tolerated which is at variance with the Scriptures and these Symbols of the Lutheran Church, namely:

1. The Three Ecumenical Creeds: The Apostolic, Nicene and Athanasian.
2. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
3. The Apology of the same.
4. The Smalcald Articles.
5. The Formula of Concord.
6. Luther's Large Catechism.
7. Luther's Small Catechism

Should any doctrinal controversy arise within the congregation, it must be judged according to this norm.

This article shall forever remain unalterable.

ARTICLE 8

SCHISM

It is our prayer that a division within this congregation never takes place. However, if, at any time, a separation shall take place in this congregation on account of doctrine, the property of the congregation and all the benefits herewith connected, shall remain with those members who shall continue to adhere to Articles 2 and 7 of this Constitution.

ARTICLE 9 MEMBERSHIP

Anyone may become and remain a member of this congregation and enjoy and exercise the rights and privileges of membership who:

A. Baptized Members

- 1) is baptized in the Name of the Triune God

B. Communicant Members

- 1) is a baptized member;
- 2) declares his/her adherence to all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the only divine rule and norm of faith and life;
- 3) while he/she may be deficient in the knowledge of all the Lutheran Symbols, is at least familiar with Luther's Small Catechism and declares his/her acceptance of it;
- 4) does not live in works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21), but leads a Christian life;
- 5) attends divine service regularly (unless for valid reasons is unable to do so) and, together with the congregation, partakes of the Lord's Supper with due frequency;
- 6) permits himself/herself to be fraternally admonished and corrected when he/she has erred; and,
- 7) is not a member of any anti-Christian or ungodly society or organization.

C. Voting Members

All communicant members are eligible to become voting members. Application to become a voting member shall be made in person at any duly called regular meeting of the Voters Assembly, at which time the applicant shall be given a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws. Within one year following application the Voters Assembly may accept such applicant into membership at any duly called regular meeting at which the applicant is present. New applicants shall sign the Constitution, thereby signifying that they have read, understand, and accept the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws, prior to Voters Assembly approval.

Voting members who have not yet reached the age of legal majority in the State of Missouri may vote on all matters except in circumstances where a legally binding vote is required.

Women who hold voting membership in the congregation may serve as officers and members of boards and committees if these positions do not call upon them to carry out the specific functions of the pastoral office (preaching, the public administration of the Sacraments, church discipline, etc.). Accordingly, women shall not serve this congregation as pastor, president or vice-president, or as a member of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE 10

PROCEDURES FOR EXCOMMUNICATIONS AND DISMISSALS

Members of this congregation who have erred and do not respond to or make themselves available for admonition in the various grades prescribed by the Word of God (Matthew 18:15-20) shall be excommunicated. An excommunicated person shall forfeit all rights as a member of the congregation and all claims upon property of the congregation or any part thereof until such person has been released of his/her excommunication and has been readmitted into the congregation. This forfeiture shall also apply to members who, without just cause, have not attended public worship over an extended period of time. Unheeded admonitions shall also result in dismissals.

Excommunications and dismissals shall be initiated by the Board of Elders and acted upon by the Voters Assembly.

ARTICLE 11

MEMBERSHIP IN SYNOD

This congregation shall be a member of the Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod as long as said Synod remains steadfast in the doctrinal basis as outlined in Article 7 of this Constitution.

ARTICLE 12

AMENDMENTS

Changes or revocations of any Article of this Constitution that is subject to amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) approval of all voting members of the congregation present in each of two consecutive meetings of the Voters Assembly.

ARTICLE 13

BYLAWS

The Voters Assembly may adopt such bylaws as may be required for accomplishment of its purpose.