

**CONSTITUTION
of
Christ's Greenfield Lutheran Church**

RESTATEMENT

This amended and restated Constitution was approved by the Voting Members on _____.

PREAMBLE

In response to the love of God the Father in Christ Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit, each member of this congregation does the work of the church. The vocation of every Christian is service. A believer serves the Lord by serving brothers and sisters in Christ and by serving a world of neighbors. Each member, as a new creation in Christ, is endowed with the fruit of the Spirit. The Lord also gives to each member natural talents and gifts of the Spirit as He sees fit for our specific time and place. Further, our Lord promises that, as a group, this congregation possesses all the natural talents and gifts of the Spirit necessary to fulfill His mission.

The Word of God requires that a Christian congregation shall conform to this Divine Word in doctrine and practice (Ps. 119:105, Matt. 28:18-20, Gal. 1:6-8, 2 Tim. 4:1-5) and that all things be done decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40, Col. 2:5). Therefore, we, the members of this congregation, accept and subscribe to the following Constitution and Bylaws, in accordance with which all spiritual and material affairs of our congregation shall be governed.

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of this congregation shall be Christ's Greenfield Lutheran Church.

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE

The purpose of the congregation is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, invite people to know Jesus Christ, build them in Christian faith and equip them for life-long service to Christ. Such purpose shall be accomplished by the preaching of the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments, and by the teaching of all its members, according to the confessional standard of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Article 3).

ARTICLE 3: CONFESSIONAL BASIS

This congregation accepts without reservation:

- The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired, inerrant, written Word of God and as the only rule and norm of faith and practice.
- All the Symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, including:
 - The three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed);
 - The Unaltered Augsburg Confession;
 - The Apology of the Augsburg Confession;
 - The Smalcald Articles;
 - The Large Catechism of Luther;
 - The Small Catechism of Luther; and
 - The Formula of Concord.

ARTICLE 4: SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP

This congregation shall be a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and shall exercise all rights associated with membership as long as the Confessions of said Synod conforms to the congregation's Confessional Basis set forth in Article 3 of this Constitution. Conformity of the Synod to our Confessional Basis shall be determined, if challenged, by a two-thirds majority vote of the Voting Communicant Members, as defined in the Bylaws, present at a Special Meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP

5.1 The membership of this congregation includes the following:

5.1.1 **Baptized Members:** Those who are baptized into the Name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and are under the spiritual care of this congregation.

5.1.2 **Communicant Members:** Those who meet all of the following requirements:

- are baptized into the Name of the Triune God;
- have declared their acceptance of the Confessions of this congregation after instruction in the doctrines of our faith, and have confirmed their baptismal vows;
- have been accepted into Communicant Membership in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws;
- have not had their Communicant Membership terminated in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws;
- are not members of any lodge, order, or society whose principles and conduct conflict with the Word of God.

5.1.3 **Associate Communicant Members:** Those seasonal residents who are members of a church in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and who express in writing their desire to be under direct spiritual care during their time away from their regular residence.

5.1.4 **Voting Members:** All Communicant Members and Associate Communicant Members who have reached their eighteenth year of age or over shall be entitled to vote.

5.2 Responsibilities of Communicant Members and Associate Communicant Members include:

- attending Divine services faithfully;
- partaking of the Lord's Supper frequently;
- leading Christian lives and not living in manifest works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21);
- contributing regularly and faithfully, as God has prospered them, toward the building of Christ's Kingdom in the congregation and throughout the world;
- if they have the parental care of children who have not confirmed their baptismal vows, providing for their proper training in pure Christian Doctrine;
- devoting their time, talents, and Spiritual gifts to the extension of the Kingdom of God;
- permitting themselves to be fraternally admonished and corrected when they have erred, according to Matthew 18:15-20.

ARTICLE 6: MINISTERS OF RELIGION (ORDAINED OR COMMISSIONED)

Only such candidates shall be issued a Divine Call who profess acceptance of and pledge faithful adherence to the Confessional Basis of this congregation as set forth in Article 3 of this Constitution and have been certified and endorsed by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as eligible for a Divine Call as a minister of religion (ordained or commissioned).

ARTICLE 7: DIVISION

7.1 **Division on account of doctrine:** If, at any time, a division should take place on account of doctrine, the property of this congregation shall remain with those Communicant Members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Article 3 of this Constitution, as determined by the adjudication procedures of the Synod.

- 7.2 **Division for any other reason:** If division takes place for any other reason, the property shall remain with the majority of the Communicant Members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Article 3 of this Constitution, as determined by the adjudication procedures of the Synod.
- 7.3 **Dissolution:** In the event this congregation should dissolve, the property shall be transferred to that District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in which the congregation holds membership at the time of dissolution.

ARTICLE 8: AMENDMENTS

8.1 Amendments to Articles 3, 4, 6, 7, and/or 8 of the Constitution

An amendment to Articles 3, 4, 6, 7, and/or 8 of the Constitution may be adopted at a Voters' Meeting under the following conditions:

8.1.1 The proposed amendment:

- has been submitted in writing, by the Board of Directors or by at least one hundred (100) Voting Members who are Communicant Members and who have signed the petition for the proposed amendment, and
- has been presented at two (2) previous Voters' Meetings or Congregational Town Halls, and
- has been communicated through methods most commonly used to widely disseminate information to Voting Members.

8.1.2 Any changes in these Articles shall not destroy their essential meaning.

8.1.2.1 Whether or not the essential meaning of an Article has been destroyed shall be decided, if challenged, by the Commission on Adjudication of the District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in which the congregation holds membership at the time of the proposal.

8.1.3 An affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of the Voting Members present is required to amend any of these Articles.

8.2 Amendments to other articles of the Constitution

An amendment to this Constitution; except for Articles 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8, may be adopted at a Voters' Meeting under the following conditions:

8.2.1 The proposed amendment:

- has been submitted in writing, by the Board of Directors or by at least one hundred (100) Voting Members who are Communicant Members and who have signed the petition for the proposed amendment, and
- has been presented at a previous Voters' Meetings or Congregational Town Halls, and
- has been communicated through methods most commonly used to widely disseminate information to Voting Members prior to the meeting at which action will be taken, with opportunity for discussion, on the proposed amendment(s).

8.2.2 An affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of the Voting Members present is required to amend any of these Articles.