

**THE CONSTITUTION
OF
CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF LOUDON COUNTY TENNESSEE**

MISSION STATEMENT

God has called the people of Christ Our Savior to lift hearts, voices, and hands in Christian worship, witness, and service.

As Jesus' disciples, we are committed to:

- Preach the gospel to the whole world (Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 24:47-48)
- Administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion
- Unite in worship (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Practice fellowship with one another (Acts 2:42)
- Witness to all (Acts 1:18)
- Help each other grow in the Word (Ephesians 4:11-14)
- Serve all in Christian love (Mark 10:42-44, John 13:35, Galatians 6:10)
- Forgive one another
- Administer the Office of the Keys as His church (John 20:21-23)
- Maintain decency and order in the church (I Corinthians 14:40)

Therefore, we, the members of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church of Loudon County Tennessee, 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 I: NAME

The name of this congregation shall be Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church of Loudon County Tennessee. It shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Tennessee and shall be a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

ARTICLE II: DOCTRINAL STANDARD

This congregation accepts without reservation:

- A. The scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments as the inspired and written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and practice; and
- B. The symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and accurate statement and exposition of the Word of God, which books include:

1. the three ecumenical creeds (being the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed);
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; and
8. the Formula of Concord.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

- A. Baptized membership in this congregation is held by all those who are baptized in the name of the triune God with water and are under our pastoral care.
- B. Communicant membership in this congregation may be held only by those who:
1. are baptized in the name of the triune God;
 2. have declared their acceptance of the Confessions of this congregation as contained in Article II of this Constitution;
 3. have been accepted into communicant membership in accordance with the Bylaws of this congregation and shall remain faithful to the responsibilities of membership as contained in the Bylaws;
 4. do not live in manifest works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) but lead a Christian life; and
 5. are not members of any organization where membership requires a denial of a faith relationship with Jesus Christ as our only Lord and Savior or encourages participation in activities, which are illegal or immoral (II Corinthians 6:14-18).

It is expected that all communicant members shall faithfully use the Word of God, attend public worship, celebrate Holy Baptism and frequently partake of Holy Communion. It is further expected that communicant members will give evidence of a Christian faith through a Christian life and by the contributions of their time, talent, and treasure as God has prospered them for the maintenance and extension of His church. All communicant members shall agree to faithfully abide by this Constitution.

- C. Voting members shall include communicant members who have attained the age of eighteen (18) years and have signed this Constitution (as and if amended).

ARTICLE IV: AUTHORITY OF THE CONGREGATION

VOTERS ASSEMBLY

The congregation, through the Voters Assembly, shall manage all its affairs. All matters decided by the Voters Assembly must be in harmony with God's Word and the Confessions as stated in Article II. Membership, frequency of meetings, and other such matters are as explained in the Bylaws.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council shall manage the affairs of the congregation as delegated by the Voters Assembly and/or the Bylaws, except for the following, which cannot be delegated:

1. the right of calling or removing called workers in the public ministry;
2. approving the annual work program and budget;
3. electing all officers outlined in the Bylaws;
4. removing members by excommunication;
5. buying or selling real property;
6. merging or establishing fellowship with other church bodies;
7. resolving appeals by congregational members;
8. dissolving the congregation as a corporation;
9. approving unusual expenses over and above the budget; and
10. removing congregational officers for cause.

Membership of the Church Council shall be as defined in the Bylaws.

BOARDS AND/OR COMMITTEES

The Church Council shall delegate the responsibility for the daily administration of the congregational affairs to the boards and/or committees as defined in the Bylaws.

OFFICERS

The officers of the congregation shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer and shall be the legal representatives of the congregation. Terms of office and duties of the officers shall be as prescribed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V: SYNODICAL AFFILIATION

This congregation shall be affiliated with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its Mid-South District as long as the Confessions and Constitution of said Synod are in accord with the Confessions as set forth in Article II and the Constitution of this congregation.

This congregation shall, to the best of its ability, cooperate with said Synod and assist it in effecting all sound measures intended for the building up of the kingdom of God.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICE OF PASTOR

Only such candidates shall be called to serve as pastors who profess acceptance of, and pledge faithful adherence to, the Confessions of this congregation as set forth in Article II of the Constitution of the congregation. The Pastor shall have primary responsibility for the public proclamation of the Word of God, the administration of the sacraments, the visitation of the sick, and the spiritual care of all souls who are part of the congregation.

The tenure of office of the called Pastor shall normally be for the remainder of his active ministry or

until the Lord calls him into another field of service. Exceptions to life-long tenure would exist if the pastor departs from sound doctrine as set forth in Article II of this Constitution in preaching, teaching, or in practice, or is guilty of immoral behavior that creates offense to the congregation and the community.

The congregation shall retain the right, after consultation with the proper officials of District and Synod, to remove a pastor who is unable or unwilling to perform the duties of his office as specified in the first paragraph of this Article.

ARTICLE VII: THE OFFICES OF CALLED STAFF

All other called workers that may serve the congregation, commissioned or ordained, shall profess and adhere to the confessional standards set forth in Article II of this Constitution and shall be qualified for their work.

ARTICLE VIII: PROPERTY RIGHTS

If, at any time, a separation should take place within this congregation, the advice of the officers of the District and Synod shall be sought. If, despite all efforts to compose differences in peace and love, a division into factions of the congregation shall occur, the property of the congregation and all benefits therewith connected shall remain with those members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Articles II, III, V, VI, and VII of this Constitution.

In the event the congregation should dissolve, the property and all rights connected therewith shall be transferred to that district of the Synod in which the congregation held membership at the time of dissolution.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

- A. Amendments to this Constitution may be made in the following manner: A copy of the proposed amendment shall be mailed to all voting members at least two (2) weeks prior to a Voters' Assembly meeting. At that meeting the vote shall be taken on the amendment and two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present shall secure adoption. Upon adoption, such amendments shall be submitted to the District Committee on Constitutions for approval, in accordance with the Synod's Bylaws.
- B. Articles II, III, V, VI, VII, and VIII are hereby made irrevocable.

(Corrected and reapproved April 26, 2015)

Congregation President

Congregational Secretary