

CONSTITUTION
ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Kansas City, Kansas — Adopted April 7, 2019

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this congregation is St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kansas City, Kansas.

ARTICLE II: Mission & Way of Life

The purposes for which this congregation is formed are:

- A. To make disciples of all nations, ourselves included, by baptizing and teaching people to treasure and obey everything Jesus taught (Mt 28:18-20; Lk 24:44-49; Acts 1:8).
- B. To live and grow as faithful disciples and members of the Body of Christ as we daily leave behind our loyalty to the ways of the world (fear, self-indulgence, competition, ownership, and violence) to be conformed in loyalty to the Way of Jesus (patient courage, self-discipline, humility, generosity, and kindness). This involves faithful and regular participation in the worship, prayer, and study life of the congregation, submission to the Christian guidance and admonition of the congregation, and the sharing of time and resources with the congregation (Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35; Rom 12:1-21).

ARTICLE III: Confessional Standard

This congregation confesses the crucified and resurrected Jesus of Nazareth, as testified to in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke-Acts, and John, as the image of our heavenly Father, the giver of the Holy Spirit, and the only Lord and Savior to be listened to, trusted, and obeyed. As such we accept without reservation the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and practice. We also accept without reservation all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God as contained in the Book of Concord of 1580. No teaching or practice in conflict with the above norm will be taught or tolerated in this congregation.

ARTICLE IV: Synod Membership

This congregation will be a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as long as the confession of faith and constitution of the Synod remain in accord with the congregation's confessional standard as set forth in Article III of this constitution.

ARTICLE V: Authority & Organization

The Congregational Assembly of the Congregational Members (as defined in the bylaws) is the governing body and is empowered to delegate responsibility for oversight and leadership to the Pastor, Called Workers, Stewards, and Deacons (which is the Congregational Council as defined in the bylaws). Only the Congregational Assembly may encumber, purchase, or sell real property, including buildings; adopt the annual budget of the congregation; incur non-budgeted (emergency) expenses; and dissolve the congregation or terminate its membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

ARTICLE VI: Division

If, at any time, division should take place within this congregation, the counsel of the district president will be sought. If, despite all efforts to reconcile differences in peace and love, a division into factions of the congregation occurs, the property of the congregation and all benefits therewith connected will remain with those Congregational Members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Articles II & III of this constitution.

ARTICLE VII: Closure

In the event that the congregation dissolves, all property shall be disposed of by the final Congregational Assembly meeting for the payment of debts and all just claims against the congregation. Any and all surplus items, and all rights connected to the remaining property shall be dispersed by the Congregational Council with special consideration being given to the LCMS Kansas District.

ARTICLE VIII: Amendments to this Constitution

This constitution (including the attached bylaws) may be amended in a properly convened meeting of the Congregational Assembly. Ordinarily, amendments to the provisions of this constitution will be submitted in writing for public posting two weeks prior to the two consecutive meetings at which the proposed amendments will be discussed. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the Congregational Assembly present shall be required to continue the amendment process. All revisions shall be submitted to the president of the district for review by the district's constitution committee and favorable action by the district's board of directors prior to final adoption by the congregation by a two-thirds affirmative vote.

BYLAWS
ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Kansas City, Kansas — Adopted April 7, 2019

ARTICLE I: Congregational Members

The membership of this congregation is comprised of those who are Baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who publicly adhere to the Confessional Standard (Con. Art. III), and actively pursue the Mission & Way of Life (Con. Art. II). The Congregational Council (see below) determines who qualifies for and maintains Congregational Membership and is responsible for overseeing their faithful walk and growth in the Mission & Way of Life. Those who deviate from the path of faithfulness will be corrected by the Congregational Council. Those who refuse to repent, despite continued and loving corrections, will be publicly removed from Congregational Membership (Matthew 18:15-20). However, no matter the gravity of the error, genuine repentance will always allow for full forgiveness and reinstatement into the congregation.

ARTICLE II: Congregational Assembly

The Congregational Members shall have a Congregational Assembly at least once per year. The Pastor, Called Workers, Stewards, and Deacons shall report on and update the Assembly on their activities and vision for the coming year and ask for approval of their general plan/budget for the congregational resources and any other needed items. Steward appointments take place at this meeting, with nominations being accepted during the prior month (the installation of the new Stewards and Deacons then takes place at the next appropriate worship gathering). All decision making within the congregation must strive toward consensus—if consensus cannot be achieved, the Stewards have the option of calling for a two-thirds majority vote to decide an issue at a subsequent meeting. The Pastor or a Steward will facilitate discussion and the consensus-building. The Congregational Members who attend a properly called meeting constitute a quorum. A special meeting of the Congregational Members may be called by the Congregational Council or at the request of ten Congregational Members. Notice of the date and time of such a meeting, and the nature of the business to be transacted, will be given at the Sunday worship gathering at least a week before the time of the meeting.

ARTICLE III: Congregational Council

The Congregational Council is the leadership of the congregation and is composed of the Pastor and Stewards, who are the decision-making members of the Council, together with any other Called Workers and Deacons, who are the advisory members (offering input and insight while receiving direction and guidance). The Congregational Council has two main tasks:

- 1) Serving as spiritual leaders and gatekeepers for the Congregational Members.
- 2) Discerning the Jesus-centered, faithful management and distribution of the congregational resources for the care of, first, the Congregational Members and then those on the outside.

The Congregational Council meets monthly when able and all decisions of the Council must be by consensus.

a. **Ordained & Commissioned Ministers**

The Pastor is the spiritual leader of the congregation, called by the Congregational Assembly to represent the voice and presence of Jesus—he is the “overseer” of the Congregational Members, the Stewards, the Deacons, and any other Called Workers, doing so only in the example of Jesus’s servant Way. His main focus and task is to continually lead and unite the congregation in the teaching, preaching, and living of the Way of Jesus—this is founded on the Word of God and the Confessions of our Church which inform the Pastor’s own lived example of following Jesus. Any other Called Workers partner with and support the Pastor in this role.

In the absence of adequate cause for dismissal, the tenure of an Ordained or Commissioned Minister is the remainder of his or her active life or until the Lord calls him/her to another field of service. A Pastor or Called Worker may be removed from office by the Congregational Assembly for one of the following causes: 1) persistent adherence to false teaching, 2) a scandalous life that does not reflect Jesus’s teachings, or 3) inability to perform or willful neglect of the duties of the office. The Calling of a Pastor or Called Worker must be carried out at a special meeting of the Congregational Assembly. At that meeting or at a subsequent meeting, the Congregational Assembly will prayerfully choose one of the nominees by consensus or by casting lots. The congregation will only call Ordained Ministers who are members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or who have satisfied the requirements for assignment of first calls within the Synod, or ordained members in good standing of church bodies in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod. It may also call Commissioned Ministers who are members of the Synod. In every case, it shall obtain counsel from the president of the congregation’s district.

b. **Stewards**

The Stewards partner with the Pastor in leading and guiding the Congregational Members in their faithfulness to Jesus—always by example first. This involves two tasks specific to the Stewards:

- 1) Holding the Pastor and Called Workers accountable in teaching and life to Jesus's standard (Con. Art. II & III).
- 2) Building relationships with their assigned Congregational Members in order to help identify and care for any physical and spiritual needs.

The Stewards are chosen from among the Congregational Members by the Congregational Assembly. A Steward is chosen based on faithful life, Scriptural knowledge, and passion for Jesus, and must lead the way in embodying the Mission & Way of Life (Con Art. II) of this congregation. The Stewards must also undergo specific Scriptural training with the Pastor as he sees fit. One Steward is appointed for about every ten to twenty Congregational Members and serves a two year term before possible reappointment by the Congregational Assembly. In accordance with the teaching of Scripture, male members of the Stewards shall exercise functions that are distinctive to the public exercise of the ministry of Word and Sacrament. The Council will appoint a Steward to serve as Head Steward (President), who shall lead the meetings of the Congregational Assembly, and one to serve as Secretarial Steward (Secretary), who shall keep records of all Congregational Assembly and Congregational Council meetings.

c. Deacons

The Deacons are appointed by the Congregational Council from among the Congregational Members in order to assist in carrying out the ministry of the congregation. It is usual to have the following four Deacons, but the Council can add or remove any Deacon position as they see fit, except for the Financial Deacon (Treasurer).

- 1) Financial Deacon: Spearheads the accounting of all receipts and disbursements as well as the submitting of records for audit. Oversees those who count the worship offering.
- 2) Property Deacon: Spearheads the care and upkeep of the buildings and property.
- 3) Outreach Deacon: Helps spearhead the service, outreach, and work of the congregation in the neighborhood and city.
- 4) Hospitality Deacon: Spearheads coordination and execution of all forms of congregational hospitality.

Each Deacon is chosen based on servant heart and giftedness to fill a specific role. Each Deacon serves a two year term before possible reappointment by the Council.