

CONSTITUTION

Adopted: March 23, 2003

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd of Turlock

PREAMBLE

The Word of God directs that a Christian congregation conform to the Word of God 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). We as Lutherans, therefore, accept and subscribe to this Constitution and By-laws in accordance with which our congregational affairs, spiritual and material, shall be conducted.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this congregation shall be The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of Turlock, California.

ARTICLE II. CONFESSIONS

This congregation acknowledges and accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testament as the revealed and inerrant Word of God, verbally inspired, and acknowledges and accepts all the Confessional Writings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, to be a true and genuine exposition of the doctrines of the Bible. These Confessional Writings are the three Ecumenical Creeds (Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, Luther's Large and Small Catechisms, and the Formula of Concord.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this congregation is to advance the Kingdom of God by the preaching of the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments, by appropriate religious instruction according to the Confessional Writings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (v.s. Article II), and by fostering Christian fellowship and charity.

ARTICLE IV. SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP

This congregation shall hold membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and shall be subject to the policies and discipline of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

There shall be three classifications of membership: baptized, communicant and membership by association.

ARTICLE VI. PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS

Professional Church Workers shall profess and adhere to the Confessional Writings set forth in Article II of this Constitution and be qualified for their work. Pastors, parish assistants, vicars, Christian Education Directors, teachers, etc., shall, in the call or contract extended to and accepted by them, be pledged to this Confessional Standard.

ARTICLE VII. POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

A. General Powers

The congregation, through the Congregational Voting Assembly, shall administer and manage all substantive matters, external and internal, in the church. The Church Council shall administer these powers of the congregation.

B. Powers Of Officers, Elders And The Church Council

Congregational officers, Elders and the Church Council, whether elected or appointed, shall exercise only that authority delegated to them by the Bylaws or the congregation.

C. Pastor

The duties of the Pastor are to lead worship services, administer the Sacraments, give the congregation pastoral care, prepare the youth for confirmation, give instruction in religion, and perform such other duties as the congregation may assign that are consistent with the Scriptures. The Pastor shall at all times keep a current record of all official acts performed in the name of the congregation; such records shall be the property of the congregation.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS

The officers of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of Turlock shall consist of: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

ARTICLE IX. PROPERTY RIGHTS

If at anytime a separation should take place on account of doctrine, the property of the congregation and all benefits therewith connected shall remain with those members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Article II of this Constitution. In the event the congregation should totally disband, all property shall be disposed of by the final congregational meeting for the payment of debts, and any and all surplus, after due settlement of just claims against the congregation, shall be conveyed to and become the property of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or its successor.

X. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution shall be made in writing at least two (2) months prior to a vote on the amendment. They shall be announced and distributed to the congregation. They will be presented to a congregational voting assembly one (1) month prior to action. A two-thirds vote of the quorum is necessary for passage. Upon adoption, the amendment(s) shall be submitted to the California-Nevada-Hawaii District (LC-MS) Committee on Constitutional Matters for approval.