

CONSTITUTION ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NAPA, CALIFORNIA

PREAMBLE

It is the will of our Lord Jesus Christ that His disciples should preach the Gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8) and that Christ's mission for His church might be carried out according to His will. He has commanded that Christians unite in worship (Hebrews 10:24-25), practice fellowship with one another (Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20), and serve the needs of all men in Christian love (Ephesians 4:7-16, Mark 10:42-44, John 13:35, Galatians 6:10). Christians are also to administer the Office of the Keys as His church (John 20:21-23, Matthew 18:15-20) and to maintain decency and order (1 Corinthians 14:40) in the church.

We, members of St. John's Lutheran Church of Napa, CA, accept and subscribe to the following Constitution and By-Laws, 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 **ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH of Napa, CA.**

ARTICLE II. MISSION

The mission statement of St. John's Lutheran Church is:

"Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, His body, and His world."

ARTICLE III. CONFSSIONAL STANDARD

A. This Congregation accepts and acknowledges all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired and revealed Word of God, and all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, as a correct presentation and a true exposition of Christian doctrine drawn from the Holy Scriptures, namely:

1. The Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds

2. The unaltered Augsburg Confession
 3. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession
 4. The Smalcald Articles
 5. Luther's Small and Large Catechisms
 6. The Formula of Concord
- B. No doctrine or practice in conflict or inconsistent with the above rules, norms, and authority of our faith and life shall be taught or tolerated.

ARTICLE IV. SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP

This Congregation shall be affiliated with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod so long as the confessions of said Synod conforms to the confessional standard set forth in Article III of this Constitution. This Congregation shall, to the best of its ability, collaborate with said Synod and assist it in effecting all sound measures intended for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

There shall be three classifications of membership: baptized, confirmed, and voting.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

The pastoral office shall be conferred only on such a pastor or candidate who professes and adheres to the confessional standard set forth in this Constitution, who has been endorsed by the Synod, and who is a member of the Synod.

ARTICLE VII. AUTHORITY OF THE CONGREGATION

- A. The Congregation, through the Voters Assembly, shall administer and manage all substantive powers, external and internal, in the Church. This Congregation shall be represented by, and administer all of its affairs through, its Board of Directors.
- B. Congregational Officers and the Board of Directors, whether elected or appointed, shall exercise only that authority delegated to them by the Congregation.

ARTICLE VIII. PROPERTY RIGHTS

- A. All property of this Congregation shall be held in the corporate name as stated in Article I.

- B. If at any time 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 III 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.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution shall be made in writing by the Board of Directors at least 60 days prior to a vote on such amendment. Amendments shall be announced and distributed to the Congregation. They will be presented to a Congregational Voters Assembly 30 days prior to action. A two-thirds vote of the quorum is necessary for passage. Such amendments shall become effective after review by the California-Nevada-Hawaii District Committee on Constitutional Matters.