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CONSTITUTION OF
OUR FATHER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO

PREAMBLE

Whereas the Word of God demands that the Christian congregation not only conform to the Word of God in doctrine and practice (Galatians 1:6-8; Ephesians 4:1-6; Philip-
pians 1:27), but also that all things be done decently and in order (1 Corinthians
14:40), therefore, we the members of Our Father Lutheran Church, Arapahoe County,
Colorado, set forth by this present document, signed by ourselves, the Constitution
and By-Laws in accordance with which our congregational affairs (spiritual, temporal
and material) shall be conducted.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this congregation, organized on April 4, 1974, and incorporated as a non-
profit corporation under the statutes of the State of Colorado on May 15, 1974, shall
be Our Father Lutheran Church. It is located in Arapahoe County, Colorado, and shall
be affiliated with The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this corporate body shall be that of a religious organization; more
specifically, that of a Christian congregation, established and maintained for the
express purpose of disseminating the Gospel according to the Confessional Standard
of the Lutheran Church, the Book of Concord of 1580, A.D. Programs of education and
community service are a part of this purpose.

The purpose of this corporate body is to spread the good news that God loves each
human being now and eternally. This love is revealed in God's Holy Word, demon-
strated by Jesus Christ, the Savior of mankind, and experienced in our lives. We
believe under God's direction we will accomplish our purpose through the following
areas of concern:

1. Proclaiming the love of Christ. By this we mean that we proclaim
Christ's love by coming together regularly to worship our God as
well as by personal and corporate witness to what Christ is doing
in our lives.
2. Teaching the love of Christ. By this we mean the continuing study
of the Bible for all, instruction in Christian growth and living,
affirming and building the family as the basic unit of Christian
living while at the same time supporting each individual in his
particular station in life.
3. Learning to trust the love of Christ. By this we mean relying on
the Word of God rather than traditions, learning to seek God's will
above our own, and coming to Him in prayer for all our needs.
4. Practicing the love of Christ. By this we mean committing ourselves
fully to the fellowship that is the body of Christ, practicing the
priesthood of all believers by calling each member to full and active
participation in the life of the church, serving people whatever
their needs may be, communicating and dealing in openness and love,
and by welcoming all to share in the church's faith and life.

In all this, we joyfully acknowledge that God's Holy Word is the true and only foundation on which God's people can build.

ARTICLE III - CONFSSIONAL STANDARD

This congregation acknowledges and accepts the canonical books of the Old and New Testament as the revealed and inerrant Word of God, verbally inspired, and as the only source and rule of faith, doctrine and life; and acknowledges and accepts the symbols of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, to be a correct presentation and true exposition of the doctrine of the Bible.

These symbols are:

- A. The three Ecumenical Creeds
 - 1. The Apostle's Creed
 - 2. The Nicene Creed
 - 3. The Athanasian Creed
- B. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession
- C. The Apology of The Augsburg Confession
- D. The Smalcaid Articles
- E. The Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther
- F. The Large Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther
- G. The Formula of Concord

ARTICLE IV - SYNODICAL AFFILIATION

In order to do the Lord's work more efficiently, we shall maintain voting membership in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, as long as that body adheres faithfully to the Confessional Standard detailed in Article III of this constitution. As a member of this Synod, we shall send representatives and/or delegates to its meetings and conventions, share in its work and help to bear its burdens.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

- A. This congregation shall consist of its pastor(s) and its lay fellowship composed of:
 - 1. Baptized members.
 - 2. Confirmed members.
- B. Definition of Membership
 - 1. Baptized members shall be those who have been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and have been received by the congregation.
 - 2. Confirmed members are those who have been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; who have been instructed in the Lutheran Faith; who accept the Confessional Standard of Article III of this constitution; and who have been received into membership by the congregation.

C. Termination of Membership

1. Membership, as defined in this article, shall be terminated when a member gives evidence that he/she no longer adheres to the Confessional Standard set forth in Article III of this constitution, or when the member's life demonstrates a willful and persistent violation of God's will.

Prior to terminating such membership, it shall be the responsibility of the congregation to admonish the erring or sinning member in accordance with St. Matthew 18:15-22. Should termination of membership become necessary, it shall continue to be the responsibility of the congregation to seek to restore such a person through repentance and faith.

2. By-law provisions shall establish the procedures for termination of membership, whether by removal from the membership roster, by self-exclusion, or by excommunication.

ARTICLE VI - VOTING MEMBERSHIP

Any confirmed member of the congregation who desires to be accepted into voting membership shall be eligible for such membership.

ARTICLE VII - THE OFFICES OF PASTORS AND CALLED PERSONNEL

Pastor(s) shall be called to serve as a spiritual leader(s). Only such pastors and called personnel shall be called by this congregation as are in accord and agreement with the Confessional Standard of this congregation (Article III).

ARTICLE VIII - OFFICERS

The officers of this congregation shall be: a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, financial secretary, and such other officers as the by-laws of this constitution may prescribe from time to time.

ARTICLE IX - AUTHORITY OF THE CONGREGATION

This corporate body may receive, acquire, hold title to, and manage such real estate and other property as it may need to accomplish the purpose set forth in Article II, and may sell or dispose of such real estate and other property or any part thereof; and this corporate body shall have all the rights and powers that are granted by laws of the State of Colorado to religious non-profit corporations.

A. General

The supreme power of this congregation shall be vested in the voters' assembly.

B. Decisions

Matters of doctrine and conscience shall be decided by the Word of God. Other matters shall be decided by the voters' assembly by a majority vote unless otherwise specified by this constitution and by-laws.

C. Removal from Office

Any pastor, called worker, or officer may be removed from office by the voters' assembly in Christian and lawful order for any of the following causes: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, inability to perform official duties, or willful neglect of them.

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS

Meetings of the congregation shall be held at least annually. Meetings shall be called and conducted in accordance with procedures set forth in the by-laws.

ARTICLE XI - PROPERTY RIGHTS AND DISSOLUTION

- A. If at any time a separation should take place in this congregation, which God in His mercy may prevent, the entire property, and all benefits therewith connected, shall remain with those members who shall continue to adhere to Article III of this constitution.
- B. If at any time the congregation should disband totally, the disposition of all property(ies) and assets and all rights connected therewith shall be determined at that time.

ARTICLE XII - BY-LAWS

This congregation shall adopt such by-laws as required for the accomplishment of its purpose.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be adopted by the congregation, provided:

- A. That such amendments do not conflict with the provisions of Article III or with any other article that pertains to Scriptural doctrine or practice; and
- B. That such amendment is passed by two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the congregation; and further provided that notice of the proposed change or amendment has been given in writing at a prior meeting of the voters' assembly and by mailing to all families of the congregation prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE XIV - UNALTERABLE ARTICLES

Articles III, VII, XI, and XIV of this constitution shall not be subject to change or repeal.

DATED: March 1982

APPROVED: March 14, 1982