

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Glencoe, MN**



**ARTICLES OF
INCORPORATION**

February 20, 2021

**AMENDED AND RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GLENCOE**

PREAMBLE

Whereas, the Word of God demands that a Christian Congregation not only conform to the Word in doctrine and practice (Ps. 119:105; Gal. 1:6-8; 2 Tim. 4:1-5), but also that all things be done decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40), we, the members of the "First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Glencoe", accept and subscribe to the following Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation (hereinafter from time to time referred to as the "constitution"), in accordance with which our congregation affairs, spiritual and material, shall be conducted.

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

The name of this congregation shall be: First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Glencoe.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this congregation shall be to seek the honor and glory of God, to carry out His will, to manifest the unity of our faith in Jesus Christ as God and Savior, to spread the kingdom of God and to foster Christian fellowship and love, by the preaching of the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments, and by the religious instruction of all its members, according to the confessional standard of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

**ARTICLE III
CONFESSIONAL STANDARD**

This congregation acknowledges and accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testament as the inspired Word of God, and all the Symbolical Books of the Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, as a true and sound exposition of Christian Doctrine taken from and in full agreement with the Holy Scriptures; and in this congregation no doctrine shall be taught or tolerated which is at variance with the symbols of the Lutheran Church, viz.:

- 1) The Three Ecumenical Creeds: The Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian,
- 2) The Unaltered Augsburg Confession,
- 3) The Apology of the same,
- 4) The Smalcald Articles,
- 5) Luther's Large Catechism,
- 6) Luther's Small Catechism, and
- 7) The Formula of Concord.

Any controversy involving matters of faith and doctrine and practice that may arise in this congregation shall be judged and decided according to this statement.

ARTICLE IV
MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this congregation includes the following:

A. BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP

1. **Definition.** Baptized members are all members who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God and who are under the spiritual care of the pastor(s) of this congregation, including the children who have not yet confirmed their baptismal vow, and who are not members of organizations whose principles and conduct conflict with the Word of God.
2. **Reception.** Baptized members are received through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, through transfer, or with the consent of one or both parents or guardians, in the case of children who have been baptized in another Christian congregation.
3. **Duties.** Baptized members shall conform their lives to their baptismal vow.
4. **Termination.** Baptized members who have not been received as communicant members shall have their membership terminated for the same reasons that communicant membership is terminated insofar as these reasons are applicable.

B. COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP

1. **Definition.** Communicant members are those baptized members who have been confirmed in the Lutheran faith, accept the doctrinal standards of Article III of this constitution, are familiar at least with the contents of Luther's Small Catechism, and who are not members of organizations whose principles and conduct conflict with the Word of God.
2. **Reception.** Communicant members are received through the rite of confirmation, by transfer from a sister congregation, upon profession of faith, or by reaffirmation of faith, provided they conform to requirements for membership in this congregation. Their reception shall be approved by the Church Council and subsequently by the Voters' Assembly.
3. **Duties.** Communicant members are expected to be faithful in their worship and participation in Holy Communion, bring their children for baptism and religious instruction, contribute according to ability to the financial support of the congregation in all its endeavors, study the Holy Scriptures, and through word and deed encourage, strengthen, console and admonish each other for the unity and well-being of the entire congregation.

4. Termination

a. Communicant members in good standing may be transferred by the pastor to a sister congregation immediately upon their request. Such transfer shall be reported to the Voters' Assembly for approval at its next meeting. Members who move out of the community and thereby become inactive shall be encouraged to transfer their membership to the sister congregation nearest to them.

b. Communicant members who join congregations outside of our fellowship thereby terminate their membership. Their names shall be removed from the membership list and reported to the Voters' Assembly for approval at its next meeting.

c. Members who have moved from the area and whose whereabouts are unknown and those whose whereabouts are known but fail to transfer membership when such transfer is advisable, shall be placed on the inactive rolls. Such names are not to be included in official membership lists, but the people involved are to remain a concern of the ministry of the congregation until transfer or termination of membership occurs.

d. Members who have neither received communion nor made a contribution of record to the congregation for one year shall be placed on the inactive rolls. Such names are not to be included in official membership lists, but the people are to remain a concern of the ministry of the congregation.

e. Communicant members who conduct themselves in an unchristian manner shall be admonished according to Matthew 18:15-20; if they remain impenitent after proper admonition, they shall be excommunicated. Each case shall be presented individually to the Voters' Assembly for action. A unanimous vote by the voters present shall be required for excommunication. If such member deliberately absents himself from the meetings at which his case is to be discussed, or in some other manner makes it impossible to deal with him, he thereby excommunicates himself.

C. VOTING MEMBERSHIP

1. Definition. All communicant members of the congregation who have reached the age of eighteen (18) years and whose names are on the official membership list shall have the right to vote. They also must not be members of organizations whose principles and conduct conflict with the Word of God.

2. Duties. Voting members shall attend the meetings of the Voters' Assembly regularly, participate in the work of the congregation, and willingly accept responsibility according to ability.

ARTICLE V
SUPREME AUTHORITY OF THE CONGREGATION

The congregation, exercising its authority through the Voters' Assembly, shall have the supreme authority in the external and internal administration and management of its ecclesiastical and congregational affairs. This corporate body shall have the custody and control of the corporate property of the congregation; it may buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or otherwise convey or dispose of its property. All such legal documents shall be signed by the president and secretary. Whatever enactment may have been ordered or decided by individuals, boards, Church Council, or other special committees within the congregation, shall always be subject to revision and final decision by the congregation. However, not even the congregation shall be empowered to enact or decide anything contrary to the Word of God and the symbols of the Lutheran Church, and any such enactment or decision shall be null and void.

ARTICLE VI
OFFICERS

The officers of this congregation shall be such officers, boards, or committees as the By-Laws of this constitution may prescribe. All communicant members who meet the requirement of Voting membership and have reached the age of twenty-one (21) shall be eligible to an elective office. Only male members shall be eligible for the Board of Deacons, the office of President and Vice-President of the congregation.

Congregational officers or committees, whether elected or appointed, shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them, and whatever authority may have been delegated to them may at any time be altered or revoked.

Reasons for dismissing an officer shall be: (a) Persistent adherence to false teaching; (b) Ungodly life; or (c) Unfaithfulness or inability about the performance of duties.

ARTICLE VII
DIVISION

If at any time a division should take place on account of doctrine, the property of the congregation and all benefits connected therewith shall remain with those communicant members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Article III of this constitution. If division takes place for any other reason, the property shall remain with the majority of the communicant members. In the event the congregation should

totally disband; the property and all rights connected therewith shall be transferred to that District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod of which the congregation has been a member at the time of disbanding.

ARTICLE VIII **PASTORS AND TEACHERS**

Only such pastors and teachers shall be called by this congregation as are in accord with the "Confessional Standard" of this congregation (Article III) and have been prepared for their work, are well qualified, and that no pastor or teacher be called in the same meeting in which he is nominated from the floor, until he is checked by and a recommendation is received from our district office. The right of calling pastors and teachers shall be vested in the congregation and shall never be delegated to a small body or committee, or to an individual. For calling a pastor or teacher, a unanimous vote by those present and voting is required.

Pastoral office shall be conferred only upon ordained ministers who are members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, candidates for the pastoral ministry who have satisfied the qualifications and requirements for assignment of first calls by Synod, or ordained ministers who are members in good standing of church bodies that have formally recognized to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod when agreements for such calls are in place.

Only those commissioned ministers shall receive a call who adhere to the confessional standard set forth in this constitution, who are qualified of the work of the ministry to which they are called, and who have been endorsed by and are members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, who are candidates of LCMS colleges and universities who have satisfied the qualifications and requirements for assignment of first calls, and who are commissioned ministers in good standing from church bodies that are in altar and pulpit fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The sending of a call requesting the filling of a specific non-tenure teaching position through the Synodical Board of Assignments or from the field may be delegated by the Voters to the Board of Parish Education for action within a 60-day time period.

Reasons for dismissing a pastor or teacher shall be: (a) Persistent adherence to false teaching; (b) Ungodly life; or (c) Unfaithfulness or inability about the performance of duties.

ARTICLE IX **AMENDMENTS**

Any alterable or repealable article or section of this constitution and its By-Laws and Rules for Christian Day School may be altered and repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present and voting at any properly called meeting (Article VI), provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been given in the previous meeting and written notice of the meeting sent to members. Article III and IV of this constitution and all such other Articles or Sections as pertain to Scriptural doctrine and practice shall be unalterable and shall not be altered, changed, or amended.

ARTICLE X
VALIDITY

All previous constitutions and By-Laws and Amendments of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church 925 13th St. E., City of Glencoe, County of McLeod, Minnesota 55336, are hereby repealed and superseded upon adoption of this constitution dated September 30, 2019.

ARTICLE XI
MISSOURI SYNOD MEMBERSHIP

This congregation shall be a member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod if the Synod conforms to the congregation's confessional standards as set forth in this constitution.

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Chapter 317A of the Minnesota Statutes, the forgoing Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation were adopted by all of the requisite corporate action of its voting members and its Board (Council). They are true and accurate and I have the authority to sign this document on behalf of the corporation.

Date: 9-14, 2020

By: Leslie F. Engelmann
Leslie F. Engelmann, President