

BYLAWS FOR THE CONGREGATION
OF
GALCHUTT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF
GALCHUTT, NORTH DAKOTA

Chapter 1. HOLY COMMUNION PARTICIPATION

B1.01. This congregation invites all of its members, who have been prepared to receive the Sacrament, to participate regularly in Holy Communion.

B1.02. Participation for Holy Communion shall be open to members of other congregations who accept the Lutheran teaching in regard to this Sacrament.

B1.03. It shall be made known to prospective participants that the belief of this congregation is: Participation in the Lord's Supper is the reception of "the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink." We hold that, "a person is well prepared and worthy who believes these words: GIVEN AND SHED FOR YOU FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. But, anyone who does not believe these words, or doubts them, is neither prepared nor worthy, for the words FOR YOU require a believing heart."

B1.04. Record of participation in Holy Communion shall be maintained.

B1.05. The Sacrament shall be offered at least once each month during regular worship service.

Chapter 2. FELLOWSHIP

B2.01. The congregation will cooperate with other Christian organizations whose purposes are compatible with this congregation.

Chapter 3. DISCONTINUANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

B3.01. Members who move away shall be encouraged to transfer. Any confirmed member in good standing desiring to change their membership to another Lutheran church shall, upon request, be entitled to a Letter of Transfer.

B3.02. Any confirmed member who in the judgment of the Congregation Council shows no interest in attending church services or fails to partake of communion and fails to contribute to the congregational treasury according to the congregation's records, during the current or preceding year, may be presumed no longer to desire membership, may lose the right to vote and may not be counted in the membership statistics of the congregation. However, their name and record shall be kept in the files for a period of five years thereafter. Such a person shall be encouraged to participate in the congregational life, or to transfer elsewhere, as the situation may indicate to be advisable. If they resume activity within the five-year period, they may be restored to the active list; if not, they may be dismissed from the congregation and notified accordingly, where possible.

B3.03. Children, neither of whose parents or guardians are active members of this congregation, shall be dropped from the baptized membership roll if they fail to participate in the Christian education program of the congregation.

B3.04. Members who have been excommunicated, dismissed, or who have resigned and members who have transferred to other Lutheran congregations, or who are definitely known to have become members of other congregations without transfer, shall thereby have lost membership in this congregation and all rights appertaining thereto.

Chapter 4. THE ANNUAL MEETING

B4.01. The regular meeting of the Congregations shall be held in the month of January each year. If the regular meeting of the Congregation is postponed due to inclement weather, it will be held within 2 weeks at a date/time set by the congregation council.

B4.02. The current roster of voting, confirmed, and baptized members shall be determined prior to each regular meeting.

B4.03. The order of business at the meeting shall be:

- a. Opening devotion.
- b. Reading and approval of the minutes.
- c. Reports of the pastor, the Congregation Council, the treasurer, committees, and others.
- d. Elections.
- e. Approval of budget.
- f. Unfinished business.
- g. New business.
- h. Closing prayer.

B4.04. In the following cases voting shall be:

- a. To elect Congregation Council.
- b. To adopt or amend the articles of the incorporation, constitution, or bylaws of the congregation.
- c. To call a pastor or to request his/her resignation.
- d. To excommunicate a member from the congregation or remove a member from office in the congregation.
- e. To sever membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.
- f. To dispose of, encumber, or purchase real property.
- g. When requested by one or more voting members present.

B4.05. No one shall be declared elected unless they have received a plurality of the votes cast.

B4.06. If more than one ballot is required in an election it shall be in order by proper motion to limit the balloting after the first ballot to the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot.

Chapter 5. THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL

B5.01. Membership and meeting of the Congregation Council:

- a. The pastor of this congregation shall have voice but not vote at the meetings of the Congregation Council.
- b. Notice of special meetings of the Congregation Council shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.

B5.02. Committees of the Congregation Council:

- a. The Congregation Council shall elect from its own membership regular committees on evangelism and worship, on stewardship, on education, and on property, and shall also have authority to appoint such other committees as may from time to time be necessary or advisable.
- b. The Congregation Council shall have the authority to appoint or elect additional congregational members who are not members of the council as members on its regular committees.
- c. The Congregation Council may at least once a year invite the full membership of its regular committees together with representatives chosen by the organizations of the congregation to review the entire program of the congregation.

B5.03. Duties of officers and committees of the Congregation Council:

- a. The president shall preside over meetings of the Congregation Council and of the congregation unless the meeting decides otherwise.
- b. The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president, unless the meeting decides otherwise.
- c. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the Council and of the congregation and shall preserve its archives.
- d. The treasurer shall be custodian of all funds of the congregation, local and synodical, and shall disburse all such funds in accordance with the decisions of the congregation or the Congregation Council. He/She shall present a duly audited report at the regular congregational meeting and such other reports to the Congregation Council as may be required.
- e. The committee on evangelism and worship shall have special responsibility under the supervision of the pastor in the development of a sound program of evangelism, in matters pertaining to the congregation, and shall make recommendations thereon to the Congregation Council.
- f. The committee on stewardship shall have special responsibility under the supervision of the pastor for the congregation's development in accordance with scriptural principles of stewardship and for the raising of funds and shall make recommendations thereon to the Congregation Council.
- g. The committee on education shall, with the help of the pastor, have the special responsibility to operate the Sunday School and other schools of the congregation, to promote adult education, and to develop the youth program in the congregation, and shall make recommendations thereon to the Congregation Council.
- h. The committee on property shall, with the help of the pastor, have the special responsibility to carry out all resolutions of the congregation pertaining to purchases, repairs, replacement and disposal of church property and equipment. It shall further present current conditions and make recommendations concerning same to the Congregation Council.

B5.04. Other responsibilities of the Congregation Council:

- a. Use of the church:
 - 1) The property of the congregation shall be for the use of the congregation in its normal function as a Lutheran Church and shall not be used in any way not in harmony with the purpose of the congregation.
 - 2) Buildings which are the property of the congregation shall not be lent or rented to any group or individual not affiliated with the congregation or with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America unless application for such use has been approved by the Congregation Council by a majority vote.
 - 3) Request for use of Church property shall be made to a regular Congregation Council meeting thirty (30) days prior to a scheduled event.

Chapter 6. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

B6.01. The nominating committee shall be composed of three members, of which not more than 1 should be from the Congregation Council and two of which shall be elected at the regular meeting of the Congregation from nominations made on the floor. The pastor shall serve as convener and as an advisory member.

B6.02. The members of the nominating committee shall serve for the year following their election. They shall nominate one or more candidates for the Congregation Council to be filled and shall secure the consent of each candidate to serve if elected.

B6.03. The candidates of the nominating committee shall be made known to the congregation in conjunction with the announcement of the special or regular meeting at which the election is to take place.

B6.04. In addition to the candidates submitted by the nominating committee, additional nominations may be made from the floor. Prior "Consent to Serve" should be obtained from candidate before nomination from floor to expedite election.

B6.05. A vacancy in the congregationally elected membership of the nominating committee shall be filled by a special congregational meeting called for that purpose.