



Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

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May 9, 2018

Dear Members of the Saint Luke Congregation,

Every few years we need to take a fresh look at the Saint Luke Constitution and Bylaws. We need to make any revisions to the Constitutional provisions that have been mandated by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. In addition, we need to make sure that our Constitution and Bylaws provide flexibility to respond to changing needs.

To that end, a subcommittee of the Saint Luke Council has reviewed the Bylaws and has suggested several edits. Some are minor - such as clarifying that the senior pastor has certain duties/responsibilities that the current text of our constitution assigns to "the pastor," without distinguishing between the senior pastor and other pastors on staff. Similarly, our current Bylaws specify that the Congregation Council must meet on the first Tuesday of each month -- for several years we have been meeting on Mondays and there are times when schedule conflicts require that the regular meeting date be moved. The Constitution provides that the Council "shall normally meet once a month" and the Council believes that is sufficient guidance.

Other changes are more substantive. We propose that the Bylaws which describe the various Saint Luke committees should be changed from Bylaws to Continuing Resolutions. This change will allow us to revise/respond to changing circumstances more nimbly since the Council will be able to task and alter our committees' responsibilities as needs become apparent in our general oversight of ministries, rather than waiting until the Congregation Annual Meeting to formally adopt Bylaw amendments. In addition, we propose that the activities that the Tent Troupe and Hallwood Boards perform should be converted to committees, which will encourage the Council to take responsibility for oversight of these ministries as an integral part of Saint Luke's overall mission.

We will be discussing and voting on these changes at the Saint Luke annual meeting on June 10th. A 30 day notice is required for some of these changes and therefore you are receiving this now. We invite you to visit www.saintluke.us and review the Constitution and Bylaws located on the homepage under *Announcements*.

Carol Bennett, Chair
Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Ralph Watkins, Council President

God's Work. Our Hands.