

THE CONSTITUTION OF MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA, INC.

Adopted by the Congregation on November 23 2008

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Mountain View Lutheran Church located at 2122 South Goldfield Road, Apache Junction, Arizona, accept and subscribe to the following Constitution and By-Laws. All spiritual and material affairs of this congregation shall be governed by these.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this congregation is Mountain View Lutheran Church of Apache Junction, Arizona, Inc.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

Our purposes are to lead others to Jesus by becoming disciples

To provide religious instruction for youth and adults

To gather for worship to praise God

To celebrate Holy Baptism and Holy Communion

To aid and serve persons who are ill, discouraged or in need of our help

To keep our lives under the influence of God's Holy Spirit

ARTICLE III – CONFSSIONAL STANDARDS

This congregation accepts without reservation

- A. the scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and practice
- B. all the Symbolic Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God. These include: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostle's Creed; the Nicene Creed; the Augsburg Creed), the unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the unaltered Article, the Large Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism of Luther and the Formula of Concord.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

- A. Baptized members are all who have been baptized in the name of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and who are under the spiritual care of the pastor of this congregation.
- B. Communicant members are those baptized members, who have been instructed and subscribe to The Lutheran Confessions to receive the Holy Communion, confess Jesus as Lord and accept his teachings as saving work and those persons with a letter of transfer from a church in fellowship with us.
- C. Associate members are those who are temporary residents during several months of the year in our area and subscribe to The Lutheran Confessions. They have full membership rights, including voting rights and may serve on various boards and committees; they may hold any

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office or position unless it would curtail operations and adversely restrict the growth and future of the Church.

- D. Voting members are communicant and associate members who have reached the age of eighteen years, have been received by the Voters' Assembly and have signed the Constitution of this congregation.
- E. Commitment of Members
Members of this congregation commit themselves to
1. Worship regularly with the congregation, whenever physically possible, and attend the Lord's Supper frequently.
 2. continue in their study of the Word of God
 3. support the work of the congregation with their time, talents and their treasurers
 4. maintain an active prayer life
 5. share the good news of Jesus
- F. Termination of Membership
1. Members may receive a letter of transfer to any Lutheran congregation with which the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod is in fellowship.
 2. Members may be granted a release to any other Christian Church
 3. Members give up their membership by neglecting to attend a public worship and Holy Communion, by failing to demonstrate their faith in loving actions or by not responding to admonitions of Christian brothers and sisters concerning practice of their life in Christ.
 4. Members who move away without leaving a forwarding address or who do not respond to two reminders to request transfer remain a part of our concern and prayer but are no longer listed as members.
 5. Excommunication from membership is determined by the Voters' Assembly
 6. A person whose membership has been terminated, has forfeited all rights of a member of the congregation and claims upon the property of the congregation as such or upon any part thereof, so long as they are not re-instated into membership.
- G. Reinstatement into membership
Persons who once were members and were removed from membership but wish to return will be welcomed through re-affirmation of their faith with the approval of the Voters' Assembly.

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ARTICLE V – THE OFFICE OF THE PASTOR AND CALLED SERVANTS

- A. All called servants of this congregation must accept without reservation the confessional standards as stated in Article III of this Constitution and must meet the qualifications established by the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and be properly certified.
- B. The responsibilities of all called ministers shall be determined in their Call Documents
- C. Any pastor or other leader or officer of this congregation may be removed from office by the Voters' Assembly by a two-thirds majority ballot vote with a minimum of 2/3^{rds} vote of the total registered voters, permitting absentee ballots as part of the 2/3rds vote in a Christian and lawful order of one of the following reasons: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect or inability to perform the duties of the office. Prior to this action, the District will be notified for their counseling.

ARTICLE VI – AUTHORITY OF THE CONGREGATION

- A. The Voters' Assembly shall be the governing body of this congregation. , The Church Council shall be empowered to administer and manage all its affairs. The establishment and conduct of all organizations and societies within the congregation or related directly to it shall be subject to the approval and supervision of the Voters' Assembly. Neither the congregation nor the Church Council will be empowered to decide anything contrary to the Word of God and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, as stated in Article III.
- B. All matters shall be decided by a majority vote of the Voters' Assembly unless otherwise specified by this Constitution or By-Laws. Matters of conscience and doctrine are decided only on the basis of the Word of God.
- C. The right of calling pastors or other called servants shall be vested in the Voters' Assembly and shall not be delegated otherwise.

ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS AND BOARDS

- A. Officers of this congregation shall be President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and Financial secretary or as provided by congregational approval in the by-laws.
- B. Boards of this congregation shall include Elders, Trustees, Christian Education, Evangelism, Stewardship, or as approved by congregational approval in the by-laws.
- C. Women may serve as an officer or as a member of a board or committee except as president, vice-president or elder.

ARTICLE VIII – PROPERTY RIGHTS

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This congregation may acquire, hold title to and manage such real estate and other property as it may need to carry on its work. The purchase or sale of real estate is to be ordered by the Voters' Assembly through a 2/3 approval vote of the registered voters, permitting absentee ballots. Two announcements over a period of two weeks or longer prior to this meeting shall be given to the congregation.

- A. The property of this congregation or corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable and no part of the net income or assets of this organization shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, members or any private individual.
- B. If a division takes place for any reason, the property shall remain with the majority of the communicant members who continue to adhere in the confession and practice to Article III of this constitution, as determined by the Synodical dispute-resolution procedures.
- C. In the event the congregation should dissolve, the property and all rights connected therewith shall be transferred to the district of the Synod in which the congregation held membership at the time of the dissolution.

ARTICLE IX – SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP

This congregation is a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. It shall remain such as long as this Synod remains true to the word of God and the Lutheran Confessions. The congregation retains for itself the right of self-determination and recognizes the Synod to be an advisory body only. However, the congregation realizes its responsibility to support the work of the Synod since it supports and carries on its own Christ-appointed work.

ARTICLE X – BY-LAWS

This congregation may adopt such By-Laws as are needed to accomplish its purpose.

ARTICLE XI – CHANGES TO THIS CONSTITUTION

Amendments to this constitution may be adopted provided they

- A. Do not conflict with the provisions of Article III of this constitution
- B. Are presented and explained at a previous meeting of the Voters Assembly and be made available to the Voters, in writing, a minimum of two weeks prior to the meeting at which the action on the amendment is to be taken
- C. Are approved by a two-thirds vote

ARTICLE XII – MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Voters' Assembly and council shall be determined by the by-laws.

ARTICLE XIII – QUORUM

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- A. Congregational voters (except as stated in Article V C and Article VIII A) must require the following for a quorum – 20% of the total voting members registered with a minimum of 15 voters present.
- B. The Church Council must require the following for a quorum – 50% of the Council members.
- C. Article XIII A&B require a majority vote except as stated in Articles V C, VIII A, and XI C.