



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

September 1, 2024

Dear St. Luke's Family,

We are all aware that St. Luke's is in a different position than it has ever been before. Susan Beumont has called it liminal time. "We are not where we once were and we are not yet where we are going." In order to respond to this time with creativity and innovation, it is important that our governance and structure allow flexibility to become something new, while also providing structure and guidance on that journey.

The constitution in Chapter 16 states:

Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation's members of the proposal together with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.

The council approved the following recommended changes in July and the Synod approved them in August. This is *official notice to the congregation of a meeting on Sunday, October 6th* to ratify the recommended changes. Included in this mailing is an explanation of the changes recommended to both the constitution and bylaws. These changes include:

- Required changes based on decisions made by the ELCA.
- Removes bylaws that no longer apply or restrict flexibility unnecessarily (ie: Endowment, committees no longer functioning, etc.)
- Changes congregational meeting to approve budget and elections from January to November and the second meeting in July to an end of year reporting in February.
- Reduces the size of council from 12 to not more than 9 or fewer than 6.
- Reduces the quorum from 50 to 15% of voting members (Currently 30 members)
- Changes officers of council term limits from 2 years to eligibility throughout time on council.
- Revised structure to include focus on Mission and Administration with flexibility to build again.

You can see these changes in detail described in Constitution Revision Explanation 2024. They are also highlighted in the proposed 2024 Constitution document. The existing 2018 Constitution is included in the email mailing and available on request in print. There will also be copies of all documents available in the narthex.

Please pray prayerfully about these changes. If you have any questions, please reach out to the office and someone from the team or council will contact you as soon as possible to discuss. God bless as we move into this new time with courage and faith!

Sincerely,
Your Church Council
Constitution Revision Team