

Christ Lutheran Church - ALCC Parish Constitution



Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

ARTICLE I

NAME AND AUTHORITY

1. The name of this Parish Church shall be "Christ Lutheran Church – ALCC."
2. This Parish Church is a subordinate Parish of the Archdiocese of the Middle Atlantic States and New England of the Anglo-Lutheran Catholic Church. This Parish is organized for religious, charitable, and educational purposes. This Parish is incorporated as a Not-For-Profit Corporation under the laws of the State of Maryland.
3. The logos of the ALCC will be used by this Parish church. Additionally, this Parish church uses a logo that consists of a shield, bearing the Christ monogram, and the words "Christ Lutheran Church – ALCC". This logo was approved by the Diocesan Archbishop.
4. The name of this Parish may be changed through amendment of this Parish Constitution after consultation with the Diocesan Bishop. The Diocesan Bishop will be advised of any change in the name of this Parish so that a new Church Charter may be issued. The Parish must be named following the guidelines in the Constitution and Canon Law Code of the ALCC.

ARTICLE II

DOCTRINAL STANDARDS

1. This parish will abide by the doctrines and teachings of the Anglo-Lutheran Catholic Church.
2. Educational materials used will not contradict the doctrines and teachings of the ALCC.

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ARTICLE III

WORSHIP

1. Worship will be conducted using only those liturgies and rites specified in the Constitution and Canon Law Code of the Anglo-Lutheran Catholic Church.
2. Hymnals of the LCMS (current and prior,) the Lutheran Book of Worship and the hymnals of predecessor bodies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the 1940 and 1982 hymnals of the Episcopal Church, current and prior hymnals of the Roman Catholic Church, and appropriate ethnic hymnals in languages other than English may be used. Other hymnals may be selected by the Pastor, upon approval by the Diocesan Bishop.
3. The sanctuary and its furnishings will be as specified in the Constitution and Canon Law Code of the Anglo-Lutheran Catholic Church.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership will be in accordance with the Constitution and Canon Law Code of the Anglo-Lutheran Catholic Church.
2. To be and remain in good standing with this Parish Church, all Baptized, Communicant and Associate members must receive Holy Communion at least twice each year and contribute to the support of this Parish Church each year.
3. The common Lutheran practice of periodically purging the membership rolls to remove inactive members is not permitted by the Constitution and Canon Law Code of the ALCC. The names of inactive members will either have a line drawn through them lightly in pencil or printed in gray type, but will not be removed, nor will records including but not limited to Baptisms, Confirmations, and Marriage.
4. The common Lutheran practice of requiring communicants to “register for communion” or to sign and give a communion card to an usher upon approaching the altar is permitted at the discretion of the Pastor for pastoral reasons, but is generally discouraged as it is not an Anglican or Catholic practice.
5. In accordance with the ALCC Constitution and ALCC Canon Law Code, except as required by the terms of State and Federal Corporation Law, Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and pursuant to the development of ecumenical relations at the Church-wide level, membership lists and statistics will not normally be released to those outside the Church, but will be available on request to Church members.

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ARTICLE V

ORGANIZATION

1. The Anglo-Lutheran Catholic Church is a hierarchical Church with an episcopal polity. In accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the ALCC, this parish will be led and governed by its Pastor alone until it achieves twenty five (25) members, at which time a Parish Vestry (Parish Board of Directors) can be appointed by the Pastor consisting as a minimum of the Pastor, a Senior Warden (also known as the Pastor's Warden), Junior Warden (also known as the People's Warden), and Secretary-Treasurer, but may eventually be expanded to a Board consisting of a Senior Warden; Junior Warden; Secretary to the Vestry; and Vestrymen in charge of the following: Treasurer/Stewardship, Property Director, Christian Education, Youth Activities and Music/Worship. Once so expanded, the Pastor will continue to attend, but as a non-voting member with veto power. The Parish Vestry will meet monthly. A simple majority will comprise a quorum. The Vestry will comprise the corporate Board of Directors.
2. Subsequent Vestrypersons will be elected by a simple majority vote of the voting communicant members. The Pastor may veto the election of whom he considers an inappropriate person, subject to appeal to the Diocesan Bishop. All Vestrypersons shall serve a two (2) year term, and may serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms. One Vestryperson may hold two or more positions on the Vestry, except the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden.
3. Each Vestryperson - except the Senior and Junior Warden - may appoint a committee of not more than four (4) members to assist him/her.
4. Once this Parish has at least 75 members, the Pastor may choose to add to the vestry one member-at-large for every seventy-five (75) members. Members-at-large will be elected by a simple majority vote of the voting communicant members. The Pastor may veto the election of whom he considers an inappropriate person, subject to appeal to the Diocesan Bishop. Like all vestrypersons, members-at-large shall serve a two (2) year term, and may serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms.
5. The first Pastor will be appointed by the Archbishop, but the Parish may call subsequent Pastors from a list of Priests supplied by the Archbishop or Diocesan Bishop following their interview by the Board and their selection by a 2/3 vote of the communicant members aged 21 or above. A Diocesan Archbishop retains the ability to issue a Regular Call and install a priest of his choice. Once installed, only the Diocesan Bishop or in certain circumstances the Metropolitan Archbishop, may rescind a Pastor's Regular Call for cause following a formal disciplinary hearing as provided for in the Canon Law Code of the ALCC and applicable provisions of the Canon Law Code of the Roman Catholic Church.

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6. The Pastor will maintain and send an annual written report of personal priestly and pastoral activities and activities of the Parish Church to the Diocesan Archbishop or a lesser official appointed by him by December 31st of each year.
7. The Pastor will be responsible to the Vestry (the parish Board of Directors) in the areas of Finance, Financial Administration and Accounting. The Pastor does not have the authority to veto actions of the Vestry (Board of Directors) in the areas of Finance, Financial Administration and Accounting.
8. The clergy of this parish along with two lay representatives (either elected or chosen by the Parish Pastor) from this Parish church will meet with the Diocesan Archbishop to conduct necessary Church business as often as necessary but not less than once every two years.
9. An independent Certified Public Accountant will audit the financial records of this parish not less than annually, and will work with the Treasurer of the parish.

ARTICLE VI

OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE

1. The standard of Church Discipline of members will always be, “let him without sin cast the first stone;” and shall be marked by qualities of compassion, understanding, and mercy, not condemnation. The purpose of Church Discipline is amendment of life and restoration into the body of the Church. The Pastor will administer Church Discipline. The Minor and Major Ban will be used sparingly and in accordance with Roman Catholic Canon Law in areas not covered by the Constitution and Canon Law of the ALCC.
2. Ample opportunity and encouragement will be given the person facing or under Church Discipline to utilize the Sacramental Rite of Reconciliation. Specific details for disciplinary procedures will be found in the Canon Law of this Church and, in areas not covered by ALCC Constitution and Canon Law, in the Canon Law Code of the Roman Catholic Church (to the greatest extent practical.)

ARTICLE VII

OF CHURCH PROPERTY AND ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS

1. This Parish will incorporate separately from the Anglo-Lutheran Catholic Church and its Diocese.
2. If the worship facility and property are owned by the Pastor, the Pastor will retain ownership of the worship facility and property. The Pastor and the Parish do remain under the direct authority of the Church and its hierarchy in all spiritual and religious matters and will

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conform to its faith and order, but, in accordance with Article VIII.1, 2 of the Constitution and Canon VIII.1 of the Canon Law Code of the ALCC; however, such authority does not extend to the ownership of the building, grounds, and financial assets of the Parish.

3. Unless given a verbal or written dispensation by the Diocesan Bishop, when it is financially able to do so, this parish will pay an annual per-member assessment to the Archdiocese as specified in the Church Constitution and Canon Law Codes.
4. This Parish Constitution and the Parish bylaws will not conflict with any provision of the Constitution, Canon Law, or Church Regulations of the Anglo-Lutheran Catholic Church. Any provisions which do conflict with the same are null and void.
5. This Parish Church may leave this Church upon 180 days notification of the Diocesan Bishop. In accordance with Article VIII.1, 2 of the Constitution and Canon VIII.1 of the Canon Law Code of the ALCC, the parish will retain its property and finances.

ARTICLE VIII

OF AMENDMENT

1. Articles II, III, and IV may not and will not be amended.
2. The Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church - ALCC may amend the remainder of this Constitution upon prior consultation with and approval by the Diocesan Bishop at any time until the Parish has a membership of 25 communicant members, at which time it may be amended by a vote of 2/3 of the communicant members aged 21 or above. The Diocesan Bishop will be made aware of any amendments. The Pastor has rights to veto any proposed amendment passed by the Vestry or by a Parish Voters Assembly with appeal through the Archdiocesan Archbishop to the Metropolitan Archbishop, whose decision is final. The Pastor, upon prior consultation with the Diocesan Bishop retains the power to amend this Parish Constitution in situations when amendment is necessary but did not have enough votes to pass the Vestry or Parish Voters Assembly, with appeal through the hierarchy as noted previously.
3. The Parish Constitution must be approved and signed by the Diocesan Bishop before becoming effective. Initially, the Parish Constitution may be modified by the Diocesan Bishop, Pastor, and representatives of the Parish to reflect local conditions prior to signing, but not in ways which conflict with the Constitution, Canon Law Code, and Church Regulations of the Anglo-Lutheran Catholic Church.
4. This Parish Constitution will be interpreted through Parish Canon Law and Parish Regulations developed by the Pastor in consultation with the Diocesan Bishop (and after the Parish has twenty five (25) members, by the vote of 2/3 of the communicant members aged 21 or above, subject to veto by the Pastor, who retains the discretion of continuing to develop

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Parish Canons and Parish Regulations on his own in consultation with and the approval of the Diocesan Bishop.)

5. All subsequent amendments to the Parish Constitution must be approved by the Diocesan Bishop to become effective. Copies of all will remain on file at Diocesan headquarters.
6. Questions concerning amendment and interpretation of the Constitution and By Laws of the Anglo-Lutheran Catholic Church - ALCC will be resolved by the Pastor with appeal through the hierarchy to the Diocesan Bishop, with the final appellate authority being the Metropolitan Archbishop.

Adopted this 4th day of July, A.D. 2009, at Stevensville, Maryland,

to become effective on the Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, the 31st day of July, A.D. 2009.



The Reverend Msgr. Dr. Jens Bargmann, OSA
Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church - ALCC



The M. Reverend Raymond W. Copp, OSA, PhD, S.T.D.
Archbishop of the Middle Atlantic States and New England, ALCC