



Immanuel Lutheran Church | Lethbridge, Alberta

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

To:  
Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Re:  
Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

Greetings in Christ!

Constitutions and Bylaws are often not thought of in the day to day life in the church, however they are an important part of the church as they outline how we operate locally as a family of faith, as member church of our synod, as an employer and as a charitable organization.

Constitutions don't necessarily need to be updated very often as they should be a high-level, broad-spectrum document that covers the fundamental characteristics of the church. Bylaws further refine the characteristics, by speaking to specifics on how the mission and vision will be accomplished. Over time, mission and vision may be refocused, government laws may change, or even congregational characteristics and composition may make past ways of doing things simply unobtainable. It is suggested by many experts on this topic that Bylaws in particular should be looked at every five years or so. The current constitution and bylaws have not been updated in nearly two decades. One of the IIM goals was to look at and amend the constitution and bylaws where needed, but due to complexities in other areas the IIM was focusing on, this was not able to be completed during the IIM.

The proposed amendments of the constitution "Constitution Draft V1.1" and bylaws "Draft Bylaw V1.3" have been submitted to the congregation at the April 27, 2018 voters' meeting. The ~~red~~ are proposed deletions, and the **blue** are proposed additions to the current documents. Additionally, it should be noted that we are looking to formally separate the documents.

As the current documents are from a time in the past, they don't reflect our realities for carrying out our mission as we find ourselves in now and look to move into the future with. As we move forward into the future of Immanuel, it is important that we have a constitution and bylaws that assist us as ***we, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, are called by God to lead people to love God and one another, to build a healthy community of disciples in Christ Jesus, and to serve others*** (our mission statement).

God bless,

Tyler Rodgers |Chairman  
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