

Membership Policy for First Lutheran Church of Spirit Lake, Idaho

There are two entities of which First Lutheran Church is comprised:

1. A congregation, or group of people, who gather to worship Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; and
2. A non-profit organization, administered by the elected officers of a Church Council, whose purpose is to conduct church business.

Jesus said "For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them" (Matthew 18:20). Based on this, all that is required to be a church member is to believe in Jesus Christ and to participate in our worship services - to praise the Triune God, to hear his Word, and to receive the Lord's Supper. In so doing, participants continue the actions of the very first Christians when they joined together: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). First Lutheran Church members are not required to satisfy any further criteria for selection or approval; only God knows their hearts in regard to their beliefs. Although church members at this level cannot vote on church matters or hold office on the Church Council, they are welcome to participate in all church functions as non-voting members.

For the conduct of church business, however, a more formal definition of membership in the non-profit organization has been established. To this end, First Lutheran's Constitution includes three membership designations: Baptized members, Communicant members, and Voting members.

Just as Jesus Christ, the one Lord and Master of His Church, tends to His flock as our Good Shepherd, our Pastor serves as Christ's undershepherd to oversee the flock of First Lutheran's members. As such, and as a called and ordained minister by Christ's authority, the Pastor¹ has authority over First Lutheran's membership in all matters of Word and Sacrament. This includes determining who has been legitimately baptized, who is eligible to receive communion, and who has the knowledge and understanding equivalent to that conferred by Lutheran confirmation. For this reason, only the Pastor's approval is required for Baptized and Communicant membership as defined in First Lutheran's Constitution.

The procedures for membership are as follows:

- Church members who desire to be recognized as Baptized members should talk to the Pastor to verify their previous baptism or assess the need for a new baptism. This applies to children and adults. The Pastor will inform the Church Council President of the results of his verification and any subsequent actions that may be required.
- Baptized members who desire to participate as Communicant members should talk to the Pastor to verify their previous church membership(s), confirmation, and completed instructional courses, or the need for new or supplemental

instruction. This applies to children and adults. The Pastor will inform the Church Council President of the results of his verification and any subsequent actions that may be required.

- Communicant members who are at least 18 years old and desire to become Voting members should complete a Voting Membership Application² and submit it to any member of the Church Council.

Note: The above procedures are outlined as individual steps but they can be accomplished concurrently if applicable.

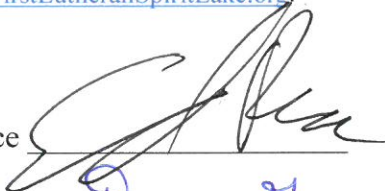
In each case, appropriate actions will be scheduled and the Secretary will update church records accordingly. "Appropriate actions" may include scheduling a baptism, arranging for confirmation classes, or making plans for a voters' assembly. The Pastor can perform a welcoming rite/installation during a regular worship service to recognize any changes in membership status.

First Lutheran's Constitution is currently under review to ensure consistency with this policy.

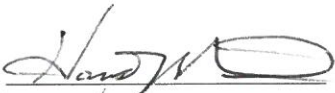
¹The Pastor has authority to speak on behalf of the church and to ensure all the affairs of the church and the non-profit organization are in line with the Bible and Lutheran Doctrine, and that they support the mission of the church. Assistant Pastors and Deacons can assist the Pastor but their authority is limited to the responsibilities specifically delegated to them by the Pastor. Elders can assist the Pastor regarding matters of the congregation's spiritual welfare and growth, and can advise the Pastor regarding matters of Word and Sacrament, but they have no authority to make decisions for or speak on behalf of the congregation.

²The form is titled "Voting Membership Application, Reception, and Termination" because the same form is used for several purposes. This form is available from the Church Council Secretary and on the First Lutheran Church website, www.FirstLutheranSpiritLake.org.

Pastor Ed Pace



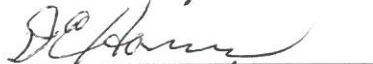
Deacon Hans Neumann



Elder Duane Gross



Elder Doug Harms



Elder Ed Reaves



Council President Sue Chambliss

