



MONDAY MESSENGER Jan. 4, 2020 - SELC

This coming Sunday is the celebration of the Baptism of Our Lord. As you join us in worship, we invite you to have a bowl or other container with water to join us in remembering our baptism at the beginning of the worship service.

“The GIFT of Baptism”

All ages and stages of folks are invited to join us via Zoom this coming Sunday, Jan. 10th, 10:45 am, for a very special celebration of our baptismal covenant. We'll see how the Baptism of Jesus connects to our personal baptisms and the calling we all have as Children of God, share baptism remembrances, and how we can continually be renewed in our baptism and God's forgiveness of sin. We invite you to bring with you to the Zoom meeting your memories of what your or your children(s) baptisms were like, or what you were told about your baptism, along with mementos like a baptismal certificate, candle, photos, baptismal gown, etc. Don't miss out on this special event! (Note: This will replace “Coffee Fellowship” on Sunday)

Here's the Zoom invitation:

Topic: Baptismal Celebration GIFT

Time: Jan 10, 2021 10:45 AM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94889116385?pwd=NTljcUFJdlFjczJGVEJ3aUc3aCtqQT09>

Meeting ID: 948 8911 6385

Passcode: 127684

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,94889116385#,,,,*127684# US (Houston)

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Join us this Wednesday, Jan. 6th (Epiphany day!) at 9-10 am, on Zoom or in person in the Fellowship Hall, for a lively discussion and discovery of what God is saying to us through the readings for the following Sunday, The Baptism of Our Lord. They are: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; and Mark 1:4-11. (If you plan on joining us in person, please let the office know so we can set up the space accordingly. Masks required).

Here's the Zoom invite for the Bible Study:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97877398491?pwd=dHpxa21NRDRVRy9BQlBUQ3dKN3hEUT09>

Meeting ID: 978 7739 8491

Passcode: 439175

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,97877398491#,,,,*439175# US (Tacoma)

P.S.: Let Pastor know if you might be interested being part of a similar online Bible Study on Wednesday evenings! (pastor@selcaz.org, or 459-0444).

PRAISE GOD FOR FAITHFUL SERVANTS! Because of your love for God and His ministry, your financial support for 2020 exceeded all expectations. We close out the year about \$14,200 in the black (Income above expenses).

IMPORTANT ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION FOR ALL MEMBERS - See the accompanying information from Congregational Council President, Larry Rewis, regarding the unique situation regarding holding congregational meetings during a pandemic and also the important motions we'll be discussing and voting upon.

Important Annual Meeting Information

First, let me ask up front for your patience and understanding regarding the length of this section. I ask that you read it slowly to digest the history of why a motion is being drafted as to the bylaws as well as one for the constitution which will allow electronic voting in our meetings.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be different this year due to this pandemic. We are still working the logistics and I ask you for grace and patience with us as we step into an area we have never had to deal with before. As you might imagine, we will not have a church wide meeting in the fellowship hall, nor will we enjoy ‘Cannula’ meeting where we can enjoy wonderful soup together as a church family. But I pray next year we will be able to enjoy our together ‘in-person’ fellowship.

Pastor Mark and I have been working with the Grand Canyon Synod’s lawyer to ensure we hold a legal meeting. According to Arizona Statutes we cannot cast votes legally for our annual meeting over Zoom or other virtual meeting methods. However, we will have a virtual Zoom meeting to hold the Annual Congregational meeting requirements without having official voting. Instead, we will conduct *straw votes* after discussing all issues up for voting. Once we finalize them, the council will do two things: first, we will use a reasonably priced paid online electronic voting service where each member authorized to vote can simply log into a website and cast their votes (it’s that simple). You will see exactly what we decided upon at the annual meeting and it will simply be the official and legal votes affirming those *straw votes*. Secondly, we will also prepare ballots for mailing for those who cannot or do not wish to vote electronically. Once you receive those ballots, please return them to the church office by mail or drop them off. We will most likely schedule a drive-by drop off date to make it easier. And for those who can’t get it back to the church, please let us know and we’ll come by to pick them up. We are still working the logistics of all this so please keep your eyes open for those details. I promise you this, no matter how we have to do this, we will still be church together and this pandemic will not stop that; the Gospel of our Lord will not be silenced, and we will be and will always be church together.

BYLAW change recommendation:

Also, I would like to provide you with a motion that needs to be solidified for this upcoming voting.

Please bear with me as I give the long background:

The report of the Constitution Revision Committee - 2010 recommended, Page 7, V. “Trustees and deacons will continue with 3-year terms, maximum of 2 consecutive terms; **all other positions will be 1-year terms, maximum of 3 consecutive terms.**”

At the 2011 Annual Congregation Meeting: page 4, “CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAWS AMENDMENT (One year trial to be revisited next year)” was approved with 103 affirmative and 9 opposed.

At the 2012 Annual Congregation Meeting, where these bylaws amendments would have been revisited, showed the following: page 1, “APPROVAL OF SELC CONSTITUTION BYLAWS” simply shows “Balloting: affirming 84, dissenting 2” As you can see, this is very vague without documentation that shows ‘what’ was approved, the entire bylaws as is, some portions, etc.? And if it was ALL, to include the portion, **“all other positions will be 1-year terms, maximum of 3 consecutive terms,”** it was never included and updated in the bylaws.

Then, at the 2020 Annual Congregation Meeting, you'll remember I reported to you, as a matter of 'communication,' on the agenda, **10. COMMUNICATIONS:** "Council approval at the November Council Meeting to change max consecutive term limits for the following positions: *Financial Secretary, Council Members-At-Large, and Sunday Morning Christian Education Coordinator*. Changed within the 'job descriptions' from, shall be elected to a one-year term, with the eligibility to serve a maximum of "three consecutive terms," to serve a maximum of "five consecutive terms." This allows for more flexibility and stability within these positions. This does not affect the by-laws or the constitution, only the job descriptions which are prepared by the Congregation Council, "***C4.04.** ...*The Congregation Council shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each committee, task force, or other organizational group and shall review their actions.*"

End of the background explanation

SO now to this year's annual meeting. You can see that there is much confusion about this small item, changing these positions from a maximum of 3 to 5 consecutive years. IF, it had been added back in 2012 then the council could not have voted as it did this past November. I would have made the motion to do this at the 2020 Annual Meeting for you, the congregation, to vote on. But since they were never added to the bylaws, we, the council, were working off incomplete bylaws. The Synod's lawyer recommended that we simply start from scratch on this one and simply provide it to you, the congregation, to vote on. So here is the new motion that I, your Congregation Council President, am making that updates both the Trustees, Deacons, and all other positions not designated specifically within the bylaws already. Current Bylaws state:

"12.01. ...C12.01.01 The Congregation Council will also include...

- 4 at-large members, decided by Council to fill positions as Faith Formation Liaison, Fellowship Liaison, Service Liaison, and Evangelism Liaison.

C12.01.02 Specific role descriptions for all elected leadership positions can be found in the continuing resolutions.

2021 MOTION: Add to C12.01.02, "Each will be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year and shall not be eligible for more than 5 consecutive terms."

This will solidify this in the bylaws, since it was never added previously.

CONSTITUTION recommendation:

Likewise, there is another item that we need to add to our Constitution, namely, that we can vote electronically as a church. The Arizona Statutes already allow this, but it is recommended by the Synod as well as the newest Robert's Rule of Order, 12th edition, that we include this.

Motion: "Add the words "electronic/electronically" where needed in our Constitution. This is to allow us to be in conformity with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and is recommended by the Grand Canyon Synod."

Discussion: per current constitution, **Chapter 17. AMENDMENTS**

***C17.04.** This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*—as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly."

Below is an example where the word *electronic/electronically* must be added to each spot within the constitution as well as C10.08 where it provides us the ability to *hold electronic meetings*, etc. [Please note: These changes deal with communications regarding

congregational and other meetings and do not change the fact that Arizona statutes require the use of mailed ballots and/or a paid online voting system for the **formal voting process of the congregation.**]

Chapter 10. CONGREGATION MEETING

C10.01. This congregation shall have at least one regular meeting per year. The regular meeting(s) of the congregation shall be held at the time(s) specified in the bylaws. Consistent with the laws of the State of Arizona, the bylaws shall designate one regular meeting per year as the annual meeting of this congregation.

C10.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the [senior] pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president of this congregation, and shall be called by the president of this congregation upon the written request of ten percent of the voting members. The president of the Congregation Council shall call a special meeting upon request of the synod bishop. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held, and no other business shall be transacted.

C10.03. Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail or **electronic** means, as permitted by state law, to all [voting] members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting.

C10.04. Ten percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

C10.05. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.

C10.06. All actions approved by this congregation shall be by majority vote of those voting members present and voting, except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by state law.

C10.07. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.

C10.08. This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including **electronically** and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided **electronically**.

Chapter 12. CONGREGATION COUNCIL

C12.13. The Congregation Council and its committees may hold meetings by remote communication, including **electronically** and by telephone conference and, to the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided **electronically**.

Chapter 16. AMENDMENTS

***C16.01.** Unless provision *C16.04. is applicable, those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least 10 voting members or by the Congregation Council. 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 this 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.

***C16.02.** An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C16.01., shall:

- a. be approved at any legally called meeting of this congregation by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting;
- b. be ratified without change at the next regular meeting of this congregation held pursuant to C10.01 by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting; and
- c. have the effective date included in the resolution² and noted in the constitution.**

***C16.03.** Any amendments to this constitution that result from the processes provided in *C16.01. and *C16.02. shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. The synod shall notify this congregation of its decision to approve or disapprove the proposed changes; the changes shall go into effect upon notification that the synod has approved them.

***C16.04.** This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of this congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of this congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or **electronic** means, as permitted by state law, notice to this congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of at least two (2) voting members of this congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.

Chapter 17. BYLAWS

***C17.01.** This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.

***C17.02.** Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.

***C17.03.** Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member, provided that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify this congregation's members of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting. Notification may take place by mail or **electronic** means, as permitted by state law.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please prayerfully consider these as we will bring these forward in this year's annual meeting on 31 Jan 2021, at 1100 AM over Zoom as well as dial-in capability.

God Bless and remember, we are not alone, Christ is the Head, and we are the Body. God loves each and every one of you, and so do I!

Praise be to God!

Larry Rewis

President, Congregational Council