

CHARTER—CONSTITUTION—BY-LAWS

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT	AMENDMENTS
<p>A Copy of, a meeting held on December 25th; 1908 at which time The Calhan Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized. The original document is attached. - Dec 1-1947                      Hugh Dowler,                      Pastor.</p>	<p>Copy of Charter members                      - Original Attached -</p>
<p>The following action was taken on the above date.</p>	<p>Rev. J. W. Finckbiner D.D.                      Mrs. J. W. Finckbiner                      John Kanuch                      Anna Kanuch                      Joseph Koskos                      John Kobilen                      Geo. Hilbenn                      George Kucharik                      Geo. D. Zuris Jr.                      Andrew Martin                      Frank J. Kohler                      Andrew Kosley                      Anna Kanuch                      Andrew Kanuch                      Annie Kosley                      Andrew Zuris</p>
<p>1- Resolved that we organized Lutheran Church, to be known as "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Calhan".</p> <p>2- Resolved; that we adopt the formula of Government and discipline recommended by "The Rocky Mountain Synod, and the General Synod, - of The Evangelical Lutheran Church, of The United States of America.</p> <p>3- Resolved. that all Confirmed members of "The Lutheran Church" in this Community may become Charter members by signing these resolutions within a period of Six months from above date.</p>	<p>Entered at Calhan                      on Dec 1-1947                      Hugh Dowler                      Pastor</p>

Form No. 1 P R THE UNITED LUTHERAN PUBLICATION HOUSE : PHILADELPHIA, PA.

MINORS

DATE

SUMMARIES



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Church Name:	1st Nov. 29, 1954; 2nd Nov. 30, 1955-
Constitution and By-Laws for Congregations In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.	The Incorporated Title of this Congregation shall be and is: "St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colhan, Colorado"
We, the members of Colhan Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colhan, Colorado in order more effectively to carry on the work and more fully to accomplish the purpose of our organization, set forth in our Charter, hereby establish and adopt this Constitution	
Article I	
Doctrinal Basis	
Section 1. This congregation receives and holds the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, and as the only infallible rule and standard of faith and practice, according to which all doctrines and teachers are to be judged.	
Section 2. This congregation accepts the three ecumenical creeds: namely, the Apostles, the Nicene, and the Athanasian, as important testimonies drawn from the Holy Scriptures, and rejects all errors which they condemn.	
Section 3. This congregation receives and holds the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a correct exhibition of the faith and doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, founded upon the	

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Copy of first Constitution

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Word of God: and acknowledge all churches that sincerely hold and faithfully confess the doctrines of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be entitled to the name of Evangelical Lutheran.

Section 4. This congregation recognizes the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large and Small Catechisms of Luther, and the Formula of Concord, as in the harmony of one and the same pure Scriptural faith.

To this Doctrinal Basis all instruction in the church, the school and the family shall be conformed.

## Article II

### of the Synodical Relation

Section 1. This congregation is and shall remain a member of the Rocky Mountain Synod a constituent synod of the United Lutheran Church in America, unless dismissed by it to another constituent synod of the United Lutheran Church in America.

Section 2. This congregation claims for itself all the rights and accepts all the duties connected with such membership.

Section 3. Should this congregation disband, or cease to function for a period of two years, the title to all property, real, personal, and mixed

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<p>shall meet in the Rocky Mountain Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America, its successors or assigns.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Article III of The Membership.</p> <p>Section 1. Constituents: This congregation shall consist of the Pastor or Pastors and other baptized persons who have been admitted into its fellowship. This Constitution recognizes two classes of members: Child Members and Adult "Confirmed" Members.</p> <p>"A" Child Members are those who have been baptized and are a part of the family of this congregation, but who have not yet been admitted by confirmation to the Holy Communion.</p> <p>"B" Adult "Confirmed" Members are those who have been duly received into full membership of this congregation by Adult Baptism, *Confirmation, Certificate of Transfer, Renewal of Faith, or Restoration. They cannot be removed from membership except by death, Certificate of Transfer, voluntary withdrawal, or recommendation. Should request be made for dismissal to a congregation not of the Lutheran Faith, the Church Council may grant such statement of standing as, in its judgement, may seem just and proper.</p> <p>Section 2. The duties of the church members are:</p>	

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<p>to use faithfully the Means of Grace; to endeavor by a holy life to show the grace possessed; to seek out opportunities for growth in sanctification and stewardship; to further by word, deed and financial support, the work of the congregation and the church at large; and, in general, to strive earnestly in all manner of living to show forth a truly Christian life; avoiding all evil and cultivating all good habits.</p> <p>Section 3. Adult members shall be subject to annual classification by the Church Council as "COMMUNING" or "INACTIVE" members. "COMMUNING" members are those who have received the Holy Communion at least once within the year, and in the judgement of the Pastor and the Church Council have reasonably fulfilled the duties defined in Article III, Section 2, unless hindered by sickness or other circumstances beyond their control. Such Communing members shall also be defined as "members in good standing". Inactive members are those who, resident or non-resident, have failed to measure up to the requirements for Communing membership, unless hindered by circumstances beyond their control. Such inactive members shall also be defined as "members not in good standing".</p>	

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<p>Section 4 The congregation shall adopt by laws defining the conditions under which the adult "Confirmed" members shall have the right to vote at congregational meetings.</p>	
<p>Article IV of the Pastor.</p>	
<p>Section 1. The pastor shall be a minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. He shall be a member of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America or become a member within a reasonable time. If the Synod refuses to receive him, or if he is deposed from the office of the ministry or excluded from the membership of the Synod, he automatically ceases to be the pastor.</p>	
<p>Section 2. The election or the acceptance of a resignation of a pastor shall be by written ballot at a properly called congregational meeting. In these matters, the Council and Congregation shall proceed in conference and co-operation with the synodical authorities. The meeting of a congregation for the election of a pastor should be presided over or attended by the President of the Synod or his representative (approved by the Church at the Baltimore Convention, 1938). In the election of a pastor, the Council shall nominate one person</p>	

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<p>and the vote shall be on his election. Two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary to a decision. When the congregation shall have duly elected a pastor, the official "Pastor's Call Blank" adopted by the United Lutheran Church shall be used to extend the call of the congregation to the pastor-elect.</p>	
<p>Section 3. Should the congregation desire to exercise its right of terminating the contractual relationship between it and the pastor, as authorized by the U. L. C. A. (See Minutes, 1938-p. 106), this right shall be exercised only after consultation with President of Synod, and after the same prayerful consideration has been used that was invoked at the issuance of the original call, and it shall become effective by a two-thirds majority of all the votes cast at a duly called congregational meeting. The meeting of a congregation for the termination of the contractual relationship between the pastor and the congregation shall be presided over by the President of Synod or a clerical representative appointed by him for that purpose.</p>	
<p>Section 4. He shall conduct the public worship of the congregation according to the principles and usages of the Evangelical</p>	

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*New Constitution*

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<p>Lutheran Church, preach the gospel as confessed by that church, administer the Sacraments, catechize, comfort, and admonish publicly and privately.</p>	
<p>Section 5. He shall be ex-officio president of the council and of the congregation.</p>	
<p>Section 6. In order that he may devote himself fully to the duties of his office, he shall receive an adequate salary, paid in regular installments. The amount of this salary and the times of payments shall be specified in the call. His expenses incident to attending the conventions of the conference and of the Synod shall be paid by the congregation.</p>	
<p>Section 7. He shall keep accurate records of all his ministerial acts in the "Parish Register" provided by the congregation for that purpose, which records shall be, and remain the property of the congregation, and he shall also be the custodian of the official seal.</p>	
<p>Section 8. The privileges and responsibilities of an associate or an assistant pastor, shall be specified in his call, prepared in co-operation with the synodical authorities.</p>	
<p>Article V of the Council</p>	
<p>Section 1. The Council shall consist of the pastor</p>	

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<p>(or pastors) and the deacons</p> <p>Section 2. There shall be six (6) deacons, communicating members of the congregation, in good standing, elected by the congregation, at its annual meeting, for a term of three years in such manner that one-third shall retire annually. Though eligible to succeed himself once and thus to serve for a period of two terms in succession, if elected a deacon may not then be elected to serve again until at least one year shall have elapsed from the time of his retirement. Should a deacon cease to be a communicating member in good standing, his office shall at once become vacant.</p> <p>Section 3. The deacons shall co-operate with their fellow-members and with the pastor in planning for and promoting the welfare of the congregation. While they shall attend specially to the business and property interest of the congregation, they shall not be unmindful of the spiritual duties prescribed by the Church in the office of their installation.</p> <p>Section 4. The council shall be the executive committee and the board of trustees of the congregation. It shall see that the Constitution and By-Laws are obeyed and that resolutions of the congregation are carried out. It shall arrange and carry out plans for the welfare of the congregation and for its work in connection with the Church at large. It shall guard the order of the services and the purity of teaching both in the pulpit and in</p>	<p>1st. Nov. 29, 1955: 2nd Nov. 28, 1954</p> <p>"there shall be nine (9) deacons"</p>

BY LAWS

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<p>the schools of the congregation. The Church Council shall be responsible for the employment and supervision of the paid servants of the local church.</p> <p>Section 5. The Council shall each year classify all adult "Confirmed" Members of the congregation as Communicating or Inactive members on the basis of the requirements set forth in Article IV, Section 3, with a view to determining which ones are in good standing, and to assisting the inactive members to improved standing.</p> <p>Section 6. The Council shall elect from either its own number or the other members in good standing, delegates to the conventions of the Conference and of the Synod, whose expenses shall be paid by the congregation.</p> <p>Section 7. The council shall not sell or encumber the real estate of the congregation unless authority is given at a congregational meeting. Nor shall it, without authority from the congregation, incur any financial obligation exceeding one-tenth of the amount collected the preceding financial year for current expenses.</p> <p>Section 8. The Council shall fill all ad-interim vacancies in its lay membership until the next annual meeting of the congregation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Article VI of the officers</p> <p>Section 1. A vice-president, secretary, and treasurer or treasurers shall be elected by the council for the term of one year. A financial secretary may be elected.</p>	

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<p>for a like term if one is desired. The secretary and treasurer, or treasurers, if not members of the council, shall be accorded the privilege of voice without vote in the meetings of the Council. The vice-president shall be a member of the Church Council.</p>	<p>Nov. Sec. 6. 1st Nov. 28, 1952; 2nd Nov. 29, 1954</p>
<p>Section 2. The vice-president shall be chairman of the Council and of the Congregation in the absence of the pastor or during a pastoral vacancy.</p>	<p>"A Bible School Superintendent shall be elected by the Congregation at an annual meeting, who shall serve for three (3) years. He may succeed himself one additional three year term."</p>
<p>Section 3. The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Congregation and Council in a volume provided by the congregation, which shall be preserved permanently in the Archives of the Congregation. He shall keep all records of the Congregation except those provided for in Article IV, Section 6, and Article VI, Section 4.</p>	
<p>Section 4. The treasurer (or treasurers) shall keep all accounts of the congregation. He shall receive the funds of the Congregation and disburse them on proper orders, making monthly remittance of all benevolence funds to the proper authorities. He shall make such reports as the By-Laws require. He shall furnish bond as required by the Council, at the expense of the congregation.</p>	
<p>Section 5. These officers shall be communing members of the congregation in good standing. Should they cease to be such, their offices at once become vacant. Such vacancy for causes established, shall be officially declared by vote of the Church Council, and shall be filled by the Council for the remaining unexpired term.</p>	

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<p style="margin: 0;"><i>Article VII</i> <i>of Discipline</i></p>	
<p><i>Section 1. The Council shall administer discipline as the representative of the congregation, subject to appeal as provided in the Constitution of the Synod. In all cases of serious difficulty the council and instructions of the Presidents of the conference and of the synod shall be sought and respectfully considered. Discipline shall in all cases be administered after the pattern of Matthew 18: 15-17, and in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Congregation and of the Synod.</i></p>	
<p><i>Section 2. The offences for which discipline may be administered are: conduct of an immoral or scandalous character; flagrant dishonesty; the holding and teaching of heretical opinions; persistent trouble making especially in the affairs of the congregation; the commission of serious crimes against the law of the land; and, in general, whatever conduct is grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ. Failure to fulfill the requirements of active membership set forth in Article III, Section 3, shall render the inactive members subject to discipline, judiciously applied with a view to the improved standing of the members in question. To this end the council may request an explanation of their failure, admonish them, and give them friendly counsel, make public their names as inactive members, and if necessary, inflict the penalties set forth in Section 5 of this article.</i></p>	

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<p>Section 3. The penalties that may be inflicted are: (a) censure in private or before the Council or the Congregation; (b) suspension until evidence of repentance is given the Council; c. excommunication.</p>	
<p>Section 4. Acts of discipline or inactive classification by the Church Council shall constantly be subject to review by the Church Council, at the request of persons so disciplined or classified, to the end that offenders may be restored to the rights and privileges of communing members in good standing. Offenders should be encouraged to apply for and secure such restoration under the direction of the pastor and Council.</p>	
<p>Section 5. Appeal from the discipline of the Council may be made to the Congregation and to the Synod in accordance with the Constitution of the Synod with which the Congregation is connected.</p>	
<p>Article VIII of Meetings</p>	
<p>Section 1. An annual meeting of the Congregation shall be held upon a date to be fixed in accordance with the provision of the by-laws.</p>	
<p>Section 2. Special meetings of the Congregation may be called by the Pastor when he deems necessary and shall be called when requested by the Council or in writing by ten communing members. In the call for special meetings, the purpose of the meeting shall be specified and at the meeting no other business shall be transacted.</p>	
<p>Section 3. In case of a pastoral vacancy, the Council shall</p>	

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call congregational meetings as may be necessary, or on the written request of ten communicating members.

Section 4. Notice of all congregational meetings shall be given by announcement at two consecutive weekly worship services or by mail to all voting members at least ten days previous to the meeting.

Section 5. The Council shall hold regular meetings as stated in the By-Laws.

Section 6. Any number of the members in good standing at any properly called congregational meeting shall constitute a quorum at a congregational meeting, except when the question is the election or release of a pastor, or the purchase, sale, or mortgaging of real estate when one-fifth of the the members in good standing shall be necessary to a quorum.

## Article IX

### of Societies

Section 1. No societies shall be organized or disbanded in the congregation without the consent of the Council.

Section 2. All organizations within the congregation exist to serve the welfare of the congregation as a whole, and as such are subject to the will of the congregation as expressed by the church council or congregational meetings. They shall, upon request of the Council, make such reports concerning membership, finances and work as may be specified by the Council.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Article I of By-Laws.</p> <p>By-Laws, not in conflict with this Constitution, may be adopted or amended at any annual meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds vote of the members present.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Article II of Amendments.</p> <p>Section 1. Amendments to this constitution may be made at any annual congregational meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that they have been proposed in writing by at least three members at the preceding annual meeting, or that they shall have been approved by the Church Council, and, by it submitted to the communing members of the congregation by mail, at least thirty days before the annual congregational meeting.</p>	
<p>Section 2. No amendments, however may be considered which would alter Article I or II or Section 2 of Article I of this Constitution</p>	