

American Lutheran Church Membership Policy

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is a benefit enjoyed by those who actively participate in ALC's body of believers. It is about belonging, relationships, encouragement, and mutual support. Hand-in-hand with the benefits come the responsibilities and expectations of contributing for the needs of the whole. The benefits and expectations of membership lie in a relationship between a confirmed individual and the church, and are not hereditary or transferable to another. If there is no ongoing relationship between an individual and the church, there is no membership.

The purposes of maintaining accurate membership rolls are for meeting the future needs of the congregation, facilitating sound decision making and governance, and insuring active members have first rights to offered faith services. Therefore, several membership categories exist to protect the congregation and acknowledge its members

Active Member – Any confirmed individual regularly participating in the life and relationships of the congregation is considered an active member. Minimum regular participation is quantified as communing once at a regular worship service (holiday and occasional services excluded) and contributing \$1.00 per calendar year. Only active members as defined may vote at congregational meetings and serve in any elected positions within the congregation. Shut-ins and the homebound are considered active members, as long as they continue to commune and remain as active as their circumstances allow, even though they may be unable to physically attend regular worship services. Pre-confirmation age children of active families are also considered active members, but without voting privileges or the ability to hold an elected position.

Former Member – Any previously active member who requests that their ALC membership information be transferred to another Lutheran congregation is a former member. With the intention of remaining an active participant in the body of Christ, former members wish to retain a relationship with ALC and/or consider ALC their home church. Former members may reserve the right for a funeral at the pastor's discretion and burial in this congregation's cemetery at the discretion of the Eden Park Cemetery board. No other active member privileges shall be granted.

Inactive Member - Any formerly active member of record who has not communed or contributed at a normal worship service for a period of five years will become an inactive member. Recognizing we are all in need of Grace, inactive members may renew their active membership following a consultation with the pastor(s), a vote of the church council, and participation in the congregation at levels befitting an active member. Membership is not automatically renewed by adhering to the expectations for active membership alone.

New Member - Any confirmed individual, and their pre-confirmation age children, who regularly attends worship, contributes, and communes, and requests or is invited to become an active member of ALC is considered a new member. New members may become active members following a consultation with the Pastor(s), a vote by the church council, and an installation and welcome at a regular worship service. Once a new member becomes an active member they enjoy the same privileges, and meet with the same expectations, as any other active

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member. However, they may not hold an elected position for the first 12 months of their active membership to allow relationships to form and acclimation to their new church home.