

# Vote to Leave the ELCA Set for May 1

May 1st has been set for the day Hope votes a second time to leave the ELCA.

The first vote was taken January 9th. At that time 88% voted to leave the ELCA. May 1st a second vote will be taken to leave the ELCA. If over 2/3rds the voting members present vote to leave the ELCA then a second vote will be taken at this same meeting to decide which Lutheran body we wish to affiliate.

In past forums both LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) and NALC (North American Lutheran Church) has been presented. It has been noted that we can vote to affiliate with (1.) one or (2.) the other or (3.) both at the same time.

We will meet one more time in forum on April 17 at 9:00 AM to discuss these three options one last time. The council has discussed all three of these options. They will come having discussed the three options further and with a leaning toward one of the three options, but wanting to hear the thoughts of Hope one last time before making their final recommendation.

*[A provisional constitution will also be voted on at the May 1st meeting. This provisional constitution will essentially be our present constitution minus the ELCA specific provisions. NALC has a model constitution which can be read at [www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org). (Click on "resources" and scroll down the page.) We do not have to adopt that constitution as a whole but must adopt three portions of it in order to join the NALC. These parts can be found in this newsletter. We ask you at a minimum to read these portions so we can discuss this at our April 17 meeting.]*

Upon making the final decision the council will send out a letter detailing the upcoming vote on May 1 at 9:00 AM.

Please continue to be in prayer for Hope and its members as we make these important decisions.

In Christ,

Pastor Joel  
Berthelsen