

ELCE News

News from the Executive Council and around the ELCE

21st August 2021

Hello!

I know it is holiday time and we've heard the word 'staycation' quite often. How interesting that we adapt or create and can quickly adopt new words and phrases. It helps with fluency, advertising, and tweets! 😊 How much better that the Word of God – the Word made flesh and what he says to us is always with us and he doesn't change his words but we can hear them and live them new each day!

From the Executive Council

Today's meeting might be described as 'nuts and bolts' as the administration still happens and so perhaps quite a bit of what follows is deemed rather 'dry' but please note it and follow it up as it applies to you – so that we all walk and work smoothly! (Thanks.)

Safeguarding

A reminder that we need to be 'up to date' here and that means regular training. Also as we are (still) one charity, when a congregation has done its training, please contact the ELCE Secretary, Mrs Doreen Rosser, with the details. Please remember to get DBS checks for all people beginning a new role which requires one in the congregation (eg. Safeguarding Contact or Sunday School Teacher).

Links to online training were emailed to the pastors earlier in the year. Please review which seminars are best for your congregation. In April we recommended this safe guarding children course, for all Sunday school teachers, youth workers, and pastors, £40.00, should be undertaken as a minimum:

<https://thirtyoneeight.org/training/webinars/children-and-young-people/?subject=safeguarding+children+%26+young+people&eventtype=webinar&page=1>

Risk Assessments

Another reminder ... an annual 'walkabout' of the premises needs to be done and documented and if risks are identified that require action, then action should be done – and yes, all documented. Perhaps your congregation has done theirs for this year? (Thanks!)

GDPR (Data Protection)

We agreed that the Executive Council members would be Joint Data Controllers for the ELCE and the ELCE Trust Ltd and the website will say that the point of contact for Data Protection will be the ELCE Secretary.

We are reviewing the GDPR Policy and will send it out in due course but as a first comment – and if a

congregation hasn't revisited Data Protection for a while – we are recommending that the Data Controller for a congregation be more than one person and our recommendation is that it is the Church Council. (You will still need to list one officer (eg. Secretary) or one person as a point of contact.)

Looking forward ...

The Synodical calendar hasn't changed ...

Monday 6th September is still the due date for all nominations for the Synodical vacancies as at our Synod in November. Please send nominations to Paul Hill. Paul's email address is dtpaul@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.

Saturday 18th September Reading Day – 9:30am online The focus on this day is for congregations to have a clear understanding of how the restructure affects us at a congregational level.

Saturday 9th October Reading Day – 9:30am online The focus on this day is Synodical membership – individual and corporate; corporate as a CIO or an unincorporated body; full membership and auxiliary membership (and this will give us an opportunity to consider Westfield House and Lutheran Radio UK).

Friday 19th November and Saturday 20th November – our 67th Annual Synod. We are unsure whether it will be in-person or online. This will involve all the items we usually have at our Annual Synod – reports (particularly financial), elections, fellowship, worship, and also matters pertaining to the restructure – notably the Membership Agreement, the Congregational Constitution, and the decision on Synod Membership and Representation (ELCE Constitution).

Saturday 15th January a One Day Synod. The goal plan would be to decide the ELCE Constitution and resolve when to make application to the Charity Commission for registration and when the new structure commences.

Thank you for reading!

God bless! ... He always does!

– Pastor George Samiec

