

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

We encourage you to file online. In either case, completed forms must be submitted by February 15, 2021.

Electronic filing

If you have access to the Internet, you can file the Annual Congregational Report Forms online. To complete Forms A and C, go to ELCA.org/congregationreport and type in your Congregation ID number and password (found on the top right of Form A). After you have finished entering your data, you should print a PDF copy of both forms for your records.

Paper filing

If you do not file electronically, complete the paper forms and mail them to your synod office (the address can be found on the bottom right of Form C). Since only one copy of each form is included in this packet, make a copy for use as a worksheet before you begin. Remember to copy the completed forms for your records before returning the originals to your synod office.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORM A

1. Baptized membership at end of 2019:

This figure is taken from your congregation's last filed report. If it does not accurately reflect the membership at the end of 2019, you may correct it.

2. Baptized members received during 2020:

- By baptism: children (15 years and younger). Record the number of children baptized, whether or not their parents were members.
- By baptism: adults (16 years and older).
- By affirmation of faith:
 - Baptized people received into membership by the congregation, who are NOT transferring from another ELCA or non-ELCA congregation.
 - People who had been removed from the membership roll and this year were reinstated.
 - Baptized youth whose parents are not members and who are received into membership with their own and parental consent.
- By transfer: all people coming from ELCA or non-ELCA congregations.
- From other sources and statistical adjustment.
- Total members received this year. Report the total of 2a through 2e.

3. Baptized members removed during 2020:

- By death.
- By transfer.
- For other reasons and statistical adjustment: members removed due to inactivity can be reported here.
- Total members removed this year. Report the total of 3a through 3c.

4. Baptized membership, end of 2020:

line 1 + 2f - 3d = 2020 membership.

5. Total confirmed membership, end of 2020:

Record the number of confirmed members here.

6. Number of baptized youth who were confirmed in 2020:

This refers to people who participated in the confirmation service this year.

7. Average weekly worship attendance in 2020:

Do not include attendance at Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Good Friday, or special services such as weddings or funerals or midweek Lenten or Advent services (unless you hold midweek services throughout the year). Estimate if necessary. Report whole numbers only.

- On-site worship: Total number of people, including children and non-members, physically present for regularly scheduled on-site Sunday and regularly recurring weekday services (e.g., Saturday, Monday), divided by the number of weeks during which services were held on-site this year.
- Online worship: If your streaming platform provides viewership statistics, use those numbers for the seven-day period following the service. If not, consider using this or a similar formula that reflects the makeup of your congregation's households: Total number of devices connected to each livestreamed worship service plus the number of views or downloads of recorded services during a seven-day period following the service; multiply that sum by 2, then divide by the number of weeks during which online services were held this year.
- Combined Average: line a + line b, ÷ 2

8. Total number of people actively participating in the life of the congregation in 2020.

Count anyone who actively participates in worship, Bible study, choir, youth events, Christian education, service opportunities, etc. Do not count groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous or scouts that use the church building but are not participating in the life of the congregation. The number of active participants includes children and non-members. Some members may not be active participants.

9. Race/ethnic origin of active participants: The TOTAL must equal active participants on line 8.

This is not an exact count but an informed estimate. The number should reflect the participant's self-identification of race and ethnic origin as much as possible. "Multiracial" is provided for people of mixed race/ethnicity.

10-12. Phone number, Fax number,

Email: Email corrections to conginfo@elca.org.

13. Website: Please make corrections online (ELCA.org/tools/UpdateCongregation).

14. Location address: This address indicates the physical location of the congregation's place of worship. Please do not use a description, such as "Main Street at 2nd Avenue." Providing a street address allows Internet users to get accurate driving directions. Location address may differ from the mailing address. Email corrections to conginfo@elca.org.

15-16. These questions give congregations an opportunity to quickly identify some strengths and challenges in areas important to ministry. If possible, please discuss the questions with your council and/or leadership team before responding.

17-22. See financial worksheet.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORM C

These questions collect information that is used for the "Find A Congregation" feature on the ELCA website. Responses also provide crucial data that assist in assessing the success of existing programs and in preparation of new resources. Please note that there are no questions 23-29 between Form A and Form C.

Congregation's mailing address

The address listed at the bottom of Form C is what is currently on file as the mailing address for the congregation. Since mailing addresses and location addresses are often different, we ask for both addresses. Please email corrections to conginfo@elca.org.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

This directory identifies all of your congregation's lay leaders – council members, committee chairs, lay staff and other leaders – so that they can stay in the loop. Once these leaders are part of the directory they will begin receiving *Seeds Monthly*, a free email newsletter that features resources to assist in congregational ministries, event invitations, and other information. This directory should be kept up-to-date throughout the year to ensure the right people are receiving important communications.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- Go to ELCA.org/cld.
- Enter your Congregation ID and password.
- Add, edit or delete entries for current leaders. Be sure to include an email address to make sure leaders receive electronic communications. The address, email and phone information should be the lay leader's personal contact information and not the contact information of the congregation.
- If you experience any problems or have questions, please call 800-638-3522.