



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
NEW JERSEY SYNOD
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
1930 Highway 33, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

October 26, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to bring your attention to a matter related to the Boy Scouts of America. As you may be aware, the Boy Scouts of America has filed for bankruptcy earlier this year, primarily due to the number of sexual abuse lawsuits. There are many questions about what this may mean for congregations that are (or were) chartering organizations for Boy Scout troops. In particular, congregations that chartered Boy Scout troops, at any time in their history, should consider whether to file a proof of claim in the bankruptcy to protect their interests.

The ELCA has prepared an FAQ document to help you determine whether to file such a claim. You can find that document

here: https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Boy_Scouts_of_America_FAQ.pdf?_ga=2.216493278.970055706.1603646701-102939920.1525131987

Please note the deadline to file a proof of claim is November 16, 2020. If you have questions about this issue, please consult your local attorney or the NJ Synod Attorney Diana Anderson (Diana@dianaandersonesquire.com)

We regard the safety of children to be of utmost concern and always work with appropriate authorities when we learn of anything that may jeopardize that safety. Thank you for the ways you insure safe practices and policies for our young people.

Serving Christ together,

Bishop Tracie L. Bartholomew