

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONSTITUTING CHURCH 1956 [WEGWEISUNG FÜR DIE JUNGE KIRCHE]

This was translated from the book: "Lutherische Kirche treibt Lutherische Mission, p. 167f

1. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa comprises all congregations which originated from the Hanoverian Evangelical Lutheran Free Church Mission (HELCFM) and which intend to persevere being on the foundation on which they have been build.
2. 1 Cor. 3:11: *For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*
3. Accordingly the ELCSA confesses that Jesus Christ is her only Head and Lord, - He the only begotten Son of the living God, He the Crucified for our sins and the Resurrected for our righteousness, the Exalted to the Right Hand of the Father, who is really present in His congregation on earth through Word and sacrament, the Saviour of the whole world, the Judge of the living and the dead, who will come again sitting on the clouds of heaven, the King of kings and the Lord of Lords,
4. Col. 1:18: *And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might have the supremacy.*
5. As firm foundation of faith and doctrine of the ELCSA God's own Word and nothing else is accepted and valid, i. e. All books of the Old and New Testament as the unerring true, (verbally - 1 Cor. 2:13) inspired by the Holy Spirit. As correct and binding interpretation of Holy Scripture all confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church are accepted and valid, i. e. The three ecumenical creeds of the ancient Church, the Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds, the unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the CA, the Smalcald Articles, the Small and Large Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther, and the Formula of Concord.
6. Accordingly all congregations are taught thoroughly Luther's Small Catechism, the evangelists must know the unaltered Augsburg Confession and accept it as the confession of their church; the pastors are bound through their ordination vow to the doctrine of the Lutheran confessions.
7. 2 Thim. 3:14-17: *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture*

is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

8. To join the ELCSA is possible for congregations which adhere to the same principles of faith and doctrine if they accept the laws and order of the ELCSA. No church fellowship exists with congregations and churches that have a different foundation, or on their side have and practice church fellowship with such who adhere to false doctrine.
9. Ef. 4:3-6: *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*
10. Admittance to the Holy Supper in the ELCSA is only admissible for those, who really in unity believe the Words of Jesu: *"This is my body! This is my blood! Which is given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."* Who confesses the presence of Christ's real body and blood in bread and wine has to renounce all fellowship with all who teach and live different to what God's Word teaches.
11. Acts 2:42: *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*
12. The superintendent as bishop of the church and the synod as gathering of all pastors, evangelists and representatives of the congregations are responsible to join all congregations of the ELCSA to work together.
13. Ef. 4:15-16: *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and build itself up in love, as each part does its work.*
14. The main goals of the synod are to build an independent Lutheran Bantu Church, when the right time has come. The white missionaries and the mission council in Germany and in Africa will do everything in fellowship with the Bantu-congregations to help that a young independent Bantu-church will be established.
15. Rom. 12:10-11: *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.*

16. The next task of the synod is to prepare a constitution which will help all congregations to serve its own members and the heathen for whom they are responsible to hear the Word of God.

17. *Act. 2:39: The promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call.*

These guide lines were a word from the mission to the young church. The name of the church was established by indigenous Africans who emphasized that they did not want a Bantu-bound church by name. Later this church became the LCSA as the ELCSA had already been registered under the ELCSA name.