

Safe Haven: A Step-by-Step Guide for Ministries



This guide is intended to help your congregation, faith-based institution or organization create or renew its commitment to provide a Safe Haven for all God's children in all areas of ministry. All congregations, institutions and ministries serving children, youth and the vulnerable in the Rocky Mountain Synod are encouraged to use this resource to build and sustain relationships, places and spaces for ministries as Safe Havens, and to develop guidelines for the prevention of abuse and harm of those we serve.



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God's work. Our hands.

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Disclaimer:

This document is intended as a guideline and resource.
It is not a manual or policy for you to implement. It does not cover every issue.
It is very important that any guidelines or policy one adopts or implements is
in compliance with all state and federal employment and privacy laws.
One should consult with those professionals knowledgeable of such laws.

It is crucial that each congregation creates their own document or
guidelines and procedures in the context of their own particular ministries.
It is also critical that as you begin this work, that your congregation’s
insurance carrier is informed of your intentions and consulted
for suggestions and resources.

Introduction

Why Become a Safe Haven?

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." Psalm 91:2

The church is one of the rare and wonderful places in the greater community where people of all generations come together and interact in one another's lives. What we share together in this community of faith rooted in the resurrected Christ and witnessed in Baptism is transformational, life changing, and world shaping. (2 Corinthians 4:1-2)

To be the unique and amazing assembly that God has called us to be, we must be able to gather in a tested and practiced community of trust. In this place of trust children can grow in faith, practice their God given gifts, and flourish being surrounded by support and love. In this place of trust the elders of the community are validated, engaged, and supported. In this place of trust those with emotional, mental, or physical challenges are welcomed, their hurdles reduced, and they are encouraged to take their place in the body of Christ. In this community of trust, everyone is protected, trained, equipped, blessed, and serves with the power of the Holy Spirit. (Consider Luther's explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, "just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith.")

The church must be a place where no one is put down, no one is taken advantage, and no one is measured by his or her wealth, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, ability, or age. The church has always been about the work of lifting up and caring for the powerless (Deut. 10:17-18). The church must be the one place where everyone trusts that they will be welcomed, safe, and nurtured. The

church must earn this trust and do everything in its power to shape, maintain, and radiate as a community of trust. (Ephesians 4:12-13)

Child and elder abuse, sexual misconduct, misuse of power and authority, violation of the vulnerable, bullying, violence, abuse of drugs and alcohol are just a few of the harm-filled interactions in our culture. Congregations cannot ignore this reality. In God's love, we must respond with direct, positive, and preventative actions to build and sustain the church as a Safe Haven – a safe place for all people.

Creating a Safe Haven is a lifelong process of learning, caring, and keeping a mutual covenant to protect and provide safety so all can flourish. This happens through relationships built on trust, integrity, and respect. Doing the work of putting together guidelines and a program for being a Safe Haven congregation is a first step. Awareness, education, and prevention planning are ways our Rocky Mountain Synod congregations can be proactive and provide a Safe Haven for the people with whom we work and serve.

The following pages provide a process for how to create such a plan. This is a start in the journey of being attentive to safety and care for all of God's people every day. It is not so much an establishment of policy as it is a continual shaping of a congregational and church culture of tested and practiced trust.

Creating Safe Haven congregations can nurture a congregational culture that values each individual as a child of God, created in God's image and marked with the cross of Christ. We are called to live a life of love in service to one another, bearing Christ's love to a world that longs for genuine, safe, unending grace and peace. God grant us the wisdom and strength to take these steps and live out our calling!

Steps To Become a Safe Haven Congregation

1. Steps For The Church Council:

- a. Review together the "History for Establishing ELCA Congregations as Safe Havens." (Appendix A)
- b. Discusses resolution adopted at Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly 2010. (Appendix A)
- c. Create and approve a resolution to create Congregational Safe Haven Guidelines. (Appendix B)
- d. Present Congregational Safe Haven Guidelines to congregation.
- e. Establish a Safe Haven Taskforce (Appendix C)

The taskforce is charged with creating an action plan integrating the ideas from this resource while council continues building a congregational commitment to becoming a Safe Haven for all children, families, and caregivers.

2. Steps For The Taskforce:

- a) Prayer and Bible Study (Appendix D)
- b) Review History: ELCA Resolution. RMS resolution. (Appendix A)
- c) Complete Survey: Where Are We Now? Where Are We Going?(Appendix E)
- d) Creation of Guidelines and Procedures
- e) Task Force Presentation to Council
- f) Suggest Process of Implementation and Follow Through
 - i. Training – recommend a process to educate and promote Safe Haven Guidelines within congregation
 - ii. Review, Evaluation and Maintenance
 - iii. Create a Plan to Inform new members.

3. Steps For Council Approval

- a. Establish or confirm recommendation for ongoing implementation and training.
- b. Educate and promote Safe Haven guidelines within congregation.
- c. Notify the Synod office

Announce that your congregation is committed to being a Safe Haven and that you have created or reviewed your guidelines and procedures.

4. Steps For Congregational Celebration

Affirm your congregation's covenant during a time of worship. Utilize "Covenant" and "Litany of Commitment" resource from (Appendix I)

5. Steps For On-going Implementation by Council and Congregation (Appendix I)

6. Steps To Share Your Congregation's Story.

How has your congregation been impacted by this process? How are individual members affected? Contact a Task Force member to share your story.

Appendices

Appendix A

History for Establishing ELCA Congregations as Safe Havens

1. Report to the 1997 Churchwide Assembly: Initiatives to Prepare for a New Century, "The social upheavals of our time and the growing gap between the rich and poor have been especially damaging to the lives of children and families. As we prepare for the new millennium, we must assure the youngest and most vulnerable members of our world that they have a future." —Bishop H. George Anderson

2. Safe Haven for Children ELCA Churchwide Assembly Action CA99.03.03

Passed by the 1999 Churchwide Assembly in Denver, Colorado.

<http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Resolutions/1999/CA99,-p-,03,-p-,03-Safe-Haven-for-Children.aspx>

3. RESOLUTION #3: Safe Haven Guidelines for Children, Youth and Adults Within Each Congregation in the Rocky Mountain Synod

Adopted at Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly May 27-29, 2010

<http://www.rmselfca.org/homepage/search/index.htm>

Appendix B

----- Sample Resolution -----

The process of your congregation becoming or renewing its commitment to being a Safe Haven is most effective if it begins as an intentional decision made by your entire congregation. As you take steps towards establishing Safe Haven guidelines you might incorporate some of the following language into a resolution to be voted on at your next congregational meeting. You will want to revise or add language to tailor the statement to your congregation and community.

Establishing Safe Haven Guidelines for Our Congregation

WHEREAS, in Baptism this ELCA congregation promises to support and pray for the baptized in a new life in Christ and is entrusted with the great responsibility to live together as God's faithful people; and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God . . ." (Mark 19:14, Luke 18:16); and

WHEREAS, God calls us to be a cross-generational community where the gifts of one another are honored and all are free from fear and freed to live in faith; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to our ministry with families, outreach to our neighbors and our testimony to the wider Church and world that we take seriously our responsibility to protect our children, youth, the frail and vulnerable and the adults who care for them, so all may flourish physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually; and

WHEREAS, we desire our families, our immediate community, the wider Church and the world to know we have made this a place where all persons are safe and we engage in ministry where all staff, caretakers, instructors, and leaders are caring and trusted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that (Congregation's Name, City, State) as affiliated with the Rocky Mountain Synod will commit itself to be a Safe Haven for all children, youth, the vulnerable and their families and caregivers, by building Christ-centered, positive, trusting relationships that nurture the healthy growth and wellbeing of all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this congregation will create a Safe Haven Team to establish basic Safe Haven Guidelines addressing protection and safety of all persons involved in our congregational ministries and programs unique to our congregation's context and ministry, (or review already established guidelines and policies), by the date of the 2012 Rocky Mountain Synod assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this congregation will establish a plan to train and educate all persons, including new members, who work with children, youth and the frail and vulnerable in our midst, to practice these Safe Haven guidelines and follow any and all procedures, and hold each other accountable to one another and to the congregation's Safe Haven Team.

Appendix C

Establishing a Safe Haven Task Force

We recommend that a taskforce of 5-7 people be formed in your congregation and commissioned to draft a document that explores and considers all the areas in the Safe Haven checklist included in this document. By having a representative from the various ministries serve on the team, you are more likely to raise the concerns of various perspectives as well as have broader support and understanding of the need for Safe Haven guidelines for your congregation.

People you might consider inviting to serve on the task force are:

- Council representative
- Youth Minister or someone from youth ministry team
- Christian Ed representative (Sunday School/VBS/Learning Team)
- Older Adult Ministry representative
- If you have a school or early childhood center on our campus, then someone from this group
- A member who is a social worker
- A member who is a lawyer
- Someone who serves as a leader in the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts
- A teacher
- Your pastor

Appendix D

Theological Framework for Congregations as Safe Havens

Read the Affirmation of Baptism, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 236.

Becoming a Safe Haven for children, youth, and the vulnerable among us affirms our Baptism into the priesthood of all believers.

As the church, we bear witness to God's grace and love that comes through Holy Baptism. As we work together for the wellbeing of our children, youth and the vulnerable among us, we live out the Sacrament of our Holy Baptism.

Bible Study

(Adapted from ELCA Safe Haven Bible Studies)

Foundation

- Recognize that Jesus called children to him and blessed them, and that in his action we are also called to be a place where children are blessed and safe.
- Recognize that for the frail and vulnerable, there are stormy seas all around and that, like Jesus, we are called to calm them.
- Understand that we, as the Church, are called to be a Safe Haven for all of God's people.

Opening Prayer

God of safety and comfort you have blessed children, defended the weak and broken, stilled storms and calmed seas. Still our hearts and minds today and help us open ourselves to the ways that you are calling us to be places of refuge for your people. Be with us and strengthen us for this task. Amen.

Bible Reading - Mark 10:13-16 (The Message)

Ask someone to read the following passage.

The people brought children to Jesus, hoping he might touch them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus was irate and let them know it: "Don't push these children away. Don't ever get between them and me. These children are at the very center of life in the kingdom. Mark this: Unless you accept God's kingdom in the simplicity of a child, you'll never get in." Then, gathering the children up in his arms, he laid his hands of blessing on them.

Take a quiet moment to reflect on the passage. Ask another person to read the following passage.

Bible Reading - Mark 9:33-37 (The Message)

They came to Capernaum. When he was safe at home, he asked them, "What were you discussing on the road?" The silence was deafening—they had been arguing with one another over who among them was greatest. He sat down and summoned the Twelve. "So you want first place? Then take the last place. Be the servant of all." He put a child in the middle of the room. Then, cradling the little one in his arms, he said, "Whoever embraces one of these children as I do embraces me, and far more than me—God who sent me."

Again, take a quiet moment for reflection. Invite conversation about the following questions. Encourage a few moments of silence to let everyone gather his/her thoughts. As conversation begins, pay attention to those who are sharing and those who are not. It may take a direct invitation to prompt some people to share. Or have people share in pairs or triads for a more intimate conversation.

Discussion Questions

1. Imagine that you were a child again and that Jesus took you up in his arms and blessed you. How would that make you feel?
2. Why would people bring their young children to Jesus?
3. What do these two passages tell us about how Jesus feels about children?
4. To whom does Jesus "speak sternly"? With whom does Jesus become angry? Who is Jesus teaching and what does he hope they learn?
5. If we take these passages seriously, how will our attitudes and actions toward children change?
 - Will those changes come easily?
 - When might Jesus become angry with our congregations and us?
 - What might Jesus say sternly to us if he were in this room? How might Jesus take us up in his arms and bless us?

When conversation has wrapped up, ask someone to read the following passage.

Bible Reading - Mark 4:35-41 (The Message)

Late that day he said to them, "Let's go across to the other side." They took him in the boat as he was. Other boats came along. A huge storm came up. Waves poured into the boat, threatening to sink it. And Jesus was in the stern, head on a pillow, sleeping! They roused him, saying, "Teacher, is it nothing to you that we're going down?" Awake now, he told the wind to pipe down and said to the sea, "Quiet! Settle down!" The wind ran out of breath; the sea became smooth as glass. Jesus reprimanded the disciples: "Why are you such cowards? Don't you have any faith at all?" They were in absolute awe, staggered. "Who is this, anyway?" they asked. "Wind and sea at his beck and call!"

Take a quiet moment to reflect on the passage. Then invite the group into conversation.

Discussion questions

1. There are children, youth and vulnerable adults in your community for whom every day is a stormy sea. What are the stormy seas for the residence in your community?
2. Our children, the youngest and most vulnerable members of our world are in great danger when their tiny boats are swamped by the waves. What are the dangers that are swamping their boats and threatening their lives?
3. Jesus said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Martin Luther invited people to become "little Christs." What might we do to be like Jesus and rebuke the wind and seas that threaten to swamp the boats of the vulnerable and those most at risk in our communities? How can we create a place that welcomes and comforts ALL in our congregation and community?

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, we ask that be with us as we seek to create safe places for your people in this congregation and community. Help us to make wise choices and calm any fears and doubts that we may face along the way. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Appendix E

Survey – “Where Are We? Where Are We Going?”

Listed below are areas to consider in creating your congregation’s Safe Haven guidelines. Use the checklist as a guide to establish the parameters and focus of your team’s task. In determining whether to include a particular topic, read the accompanying descriptions in appendices F-H. The resources listed under each topic are simply examples for you to explore to learn more about a particular area and to help you determine whether this is an area to include in your congregation’s guidelines. The web links might also help you determine how you will approach a particular ministry area. This is not a comprehensive list - you may decide to address additional areas and concerns.

Area of Consideration	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Description of Behaviors			
Description: Appropriate Relationships	_____	_____	_____
Abuse	_____	_____	_____
Covenants	_____	_____	_____
Mentoring	_____	_____	_____
Bullying	_____	_____	_____
Drugs and Alcohol	_____	_____	_____
Programs			
Facilities	_____	_____	_____
On-site / off-site	_____	_____	_____
Sunday School	_____	_____	_____
Nurseries/Child care	_____	_____	_____
Emergency procedures	_____	_____	_____
Transportation	_____	_____	_____
Administrative			
Supervision – Team Approach	_____	_____	_____
Description of Populations	_____	_____	_____
Definition of Staff and Volunteers	_____	_____	_____
Medical release and consent	_____	_____	_____
Confidentiality	_____	_____	_____
Electronic and Social Media	_____	_____	_____
Reporting	_____	_____	_____
Documentation	_____	_____	_____
Screening	_____	_____	_____
Finances	_____	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____	_____

Appendix F

Areas to Consider in Behaviors

1. Appropriate Relationships Between Adults and At-risk Populations

Intentional boundaries are essential for appropriate relationships between adults and those for whom we care, interact with and take responsibility.

Resources

- <https://www.cpg.org/administrators/insurance/preventing-sexual-misconduct/overview/>

Click on Model Policies

- <http://www.diocal.org/resources/clergy-resources/safe-church-policies> Click on Called To Right Relationship

2. Abuse

The at-risk populations are vulnerable to many types of abuse. It is important that we take all the steps necessary to help protect those we care for from being abused.

At-risk Child Abuse Resources

- <http://www.yesican.org/defined.html>
- <http://www.faithtrustinstitute.org/resources/articles/child-abuse>

Click on Working Together to Protect and Care for Our Most Vulnerable

At-risk Adult Abuse Resources

- <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/psa/adultabuse.asp>
- www.interfaithpartners.org/bookletfaithsafety-bw.pdf

3. Covenants

Covenants within groups help develop circles of trust, develop accountability and open lines of communication.

Resources

- <http://www.umsexualethics.org/LocalChurches/LocalChurchPolicy.aspx>
- <http://www.livinglordlutheran.org/SafeHavenOnline.htm>
- http://www.rmselfca.org/ministries/faith_formation/safe_haven/index.htm

(see cross+generational covenant on right hand side of page)

4. Mentoring

Mentoring is the process of matching mentors with people who need or want a caring, responsible person in their lives.

Resources

- <http://www.credoconfirmation.com/Leaders/LeadersArticles/tabid/292/ArticleId/35/Sample-Confirmation-Mentor-Covenant.aspx>
- <http://foothillschurch.org/amcmsmedia/doc-ymhealthymentor.pdf>

5. Bullying

By preventing situations of bullying, we are teaching others how to treat people with respect and value. See 2011 RMS Synod Assembly Resolution #5: prevent bullying, harassment and related violence

Resources

- http://www.cobbk12.org/preventionintervention/bully_prevention_resources.htm
- <http://www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/anti-bullying-resources-menu>

(This is an excellent new resource a congregation might consider including as part of an annual all-congregational training.)

6. Drugs and Alcohol

Policy set for drug and alcohol use will be beneficial for church members, staff, and all guests of the church.

Resources

- <http://www.crcsa.org/newWeb/Documents/DrugandAlcoholPolicy.pdf>
- <http://www.hopeuk.org/church/pastoral/writing-a-church-drug/>

Appendix G

Areas to Consider In Programming

1. Facilities

One way to insure that everyone who uses the church building feels welcome is to provide clear guidelines for the use of the facilities.

Resources

- <http://htbc.info/w/calendar/facility-use-form/>
- <http://www.hopeucc.org/get-informed/building-use/>

2. On-site / Off-site

The church organization is responsible for the safety and nurturing of the people we serve whether the activities are at our church campus or in another location.

Resources

- <http://www.churchmutual.com/index.php/choice/risk/page>
- <https://www.cpg.org/administrators/insurance/preventing-sexual-misconduct/overview/>

Click on Model Policies

3. Sunday School

Setting procedures and policies for the Sunday School program will help to ensure students are learning and growing in the safest environment we can offer.

Resources

- <http://ministry-to-children.com/sunday-school-safety-security/>
- <http://theinclusivechurch.wordpress.com/2011/11/16/child-protection-signs-for-kidmin-volunteers/>

4. Nurseries

Implementing childcare policies for the nursery ministry helps to ensure child safety and proper child development.

Resources

- <http://www.crosswalk.com/560402/>
- <http://www.peacelutherankgva.org/nursery.shtml>

5. Emergency Procedures

Being prepared for an emergency will help reduce the impact that the situation will have on the congregation.

Resources

- <http://stmonica.adl.catholic.edu.au/PolicyPdf/EmergProc.pdf>
- <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/em/Faith/Faith.htm>

6. Transportation

Transporting others to activities adds risks that are beyond our control. There are many ways to help minimize these risks by setting policies for the person driving, passengers, and the vehicles used.

Resources

- <http://www.wkpz.com/documentdownload.aspx> Click on Forms Page near bottom
- http://www.nclutheran.org/youth_family/resources/other_resources.php Click on Sample Transportation Policy

Appendix H

Areas to Consider in Administration

1. Supervision – Team Approach

Supervisors of a congregation are the senior pastor, the council president, and/or other staff who are the program coordinators of the associated ministry. Team collaboration is essential to success in safe haven practices.

Resources

- <http://www.gulfcoastsynod.org/SafeHaven.html>
- <http://www.alban.org/conversation.aspx?id=2868>

2. Description of Populations

Populations of high-risk ministries include but are not limited to serving the disabled, children, elderly, and the developmentally disabled.

Resources

- <http://www.dioco.org/safe-church.html>
- <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Messages/Human-Disabilities.aspx>

3. Definition of Who is Staff and Who are Volunteers

It is important to have a clear understanding of the role and responsibilities of all who offer themselves for church related service.

Resources

- <http://www.dioco.org/safe-church.html>
- <http://www.gulfcoastsynod.org/SafeHaven.html>

4. Medical, Indemnity and Consent Forms

These are forms that enable churches lawful consent to provide medical treatment for a participant. Also, forms for the lawful protection of the church.

Resources

- http://www.churchmutual.com/index.php/choice/risk/page/rm_forms-apps/id/40

5. Confidentiality

This area covers the process of reporting abuse, the gathering of information for background checks and other screening and reporting details.

Resources

- <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Office-of-the-Secretary/Congregation-Administration/Legal-Issues-for-Congregations/Questions-About-Protecting-Children-and-Adults-from-Abuse.aspx>
- <http://www.gulfcoastsynod.org/SafeHaven.html>

6. Electronic and Social Media

Facebook, Twitter, and blogs are used by millions of people, adult and youth. What are your congregation's guidelines for staff, youth ministers, members and volunteers? Including permission to take or post photos.

Resources

- <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Communication-Services/Resources/Web-Ministry/Social-Media.aspx>
- <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Communication-Services/Resources/Web-Ministry/Photos.aspx>

7. Reporting

Reporting is important in order to create and maintain a safe church. Reporting to local and state officials first is required by law.

Resources

- <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Vocation/Rostered-Leadership/Leadership-Support/Safe-Place.aspx>
- <http://www.youthspecialties.com/articles/what-youth-pastors-should-know-about-reporting-child-abuse>

8. Documentation

Documentation of injury or abuse is essential to a safe church.

Resources

- <http://www.oxforddoc.com/pdf/SamplePolicyGuideOneIns.pdf>
- <http://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/www/?linkServID=870C5B9F-7E06-42F9-A7A5636836DD4C67&showMeta=2&ext=.pdf>

9. Screening

For the safety for our children and families, annual screening and training is encouraged.

Resources

- <http://www.gulfcoastsynod.org/SafeHaven.html>
- www.dioco.org/safe-church.html

10. Finances

- *Background Checks*

Consider background checks for all persons who handle or disburse church funds.

- *Bonding*

Consider bonding all persons who handle or disburse church funds.

- *Receipts*

Require two-deep confirmation of all offering receipts and deposits.

- *Payables*

Separate payables requests from check writing authority and have financial secretary confirm both.

- *Monthly Financials*

Monthly financials should be presented to the council and made available for inspection and review by the congregation.

Resources

- <http://www.nancybondinsurance.com/insurance-solutions/business-insurance/church>
Nancy Bond offers Risk Management Workshops for Treasurers and Directors and Officers, "What you need to know!"

Appendix I

Ongoing Implementation by Council and Congregation

Implementation

Consider who will be responsible for implementing your new Safe Haven Policy and guidelines. Will this be the same Taskforce that created the policy or another team? Who will be responsible for on-going education of the congregation, new members, visitors and leaders?

Response Team

If there is a situation, a violation of your policy or a concern brought forward, who will respond?

On-going Review

It is highly recommended that your congregation review the Safe Haven policy on an annual basis.

Appendix J

Celebrate!

Your congregation's commitment to being a Safe Haven
is worthy of a congregational celebration!

*Use the following Litany in a worship service or congregational meeting
as an act of affirmation of your congregation's covenant to be a Safe Haven.*

Covenant to be a SAFE HAVEN

We, the members of _____ living out our faith at
(street address) (city, state, zip) in the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America, affirm our commitment to be a Safe Haven for
children, our youth, the frail and vulnerable among us; knowing that living into this
covenant is a lifelong process of learning and caring; and knowing that we work
along side others in our immediate community, our synod, the wider church and
the world to develop ministry, programs and places where all God's children may
flourish; we ask God to guide us and help us.

Litany of Commitment

LEADER: We long for all God's children, the young, the elderly, frail and
vulnerable, to be free from fear and free to live in faith.

PEOPLE: May we develop trusted relationships with ALL God's children in our
households, congregation and community.

Leader: Thank you, God, for entrusting to us the care of your children and youth
as well as the opportunity, responsibility and the joy.

PEOPLE: Lord, deepen our commitment that children and youth are central to the
life of this congregation. Help us provide safe spaces and relationships to
encourage and celebrate their many gifts and nurture their faith as your disciples.

LEADER: Dear Lord, help us live out being a Safe Haven for the frail and
vulnerable among us.

PEOPLE: God, help us be prepared and to create safe relationships and spaces for
ALL your children.

LEADER: May all our actions, relationships and ministries reflect the love and care
of Jesus.

PEOPLE: In your most Holy Name. Amen.

Appendix K

Additional Resources and References

- Safe Haven for Children, ELCA
Permission is granted by the publisher to reproduce Safe Haven for Children: A Resource for Congregations
<http://archive.elca.org/init/safehaven/index.html>
- RMS - Safe Haven Web Page
http://www.rmselca.org/ministries/faith_formation/safe_haven/index.htm
- Legal - ELCA
<http://www2.elca.org/legal/congregations/safeguarding.html>
<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Office-of-the-Secretary/Congregation-Administration/Insurance-and-Risk-Management/ELCA-Endorsed-Insurance-Program-Safety-and-Loss-Prevention-Materials.aspx>
- Boy Scouts of America
<http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>
- Girl Scouts of America
http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gc_central/safety/
- The Episcopal Church – Safe Guarding God’s Children (*This training is provided by the RMS*)
<http://safeguardingonline.org>
- The NEW Safe Haven Guidelines, 2008 Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod of the ELCA. See pdf at bottom of page:
<http://www.gulfcoastsynod.org/SafeHaven.html>
- Stop It Now
http://www.stopitnow.org/faith_community_prevention
- Nancy Bond Insurance
Nancy is a friend of the RMS and of our ELCA schools. She provides our Safe Guarding God’s Children training.
<http://www.nancybondinsurance.com/insurance-solutions/business-insurance/church/>

Members of the Rocky Mountain Synod Safe Haven Task Force are available to assist with general questions on the process of creating your Safe Haven guidelines. They cannot and will not provide legal advice nor approve or disapprove of your congregation's guidelines or policies. They will give you encouragement and support!

To reach one of the members of the Synod Taskforce, contact:

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The Initial "*Safe Haven: A Step-by-Step Guide for Ministries*" was created by the Rocky Mountain Synod Safe Haven Taskforce established in 2010. Members were:

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Revisions to this document were made December, 2012 by the above team plus the addition of two RMS "Safe Guarding God's Children" trainers to the team.

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