

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



Enter information directly into this document.
SAVE the document on your computer with your congregation's name,
city and date completed as part of the file name.

EMAIL COMPLETED PROFILE TO dwendel@thenalc.org.
Keep a copy for your records.

Congregation Name and Location

Name Ponoka Trinity Lutheran Church
Mailing address 5501 54 Ave
City Ponoka State/Province AB Zip/Postal Code T4J 1L8
Telephone 403-783-4141 Fax _____
Email address tel.church.ponoka@gmail.com

Congregation website trinityponoka.ca

Seeking *Full-time pastor Part-time pastor Either full-time or part-time
Call will be for Solo pastor Senior pastor Associate pastor

Congregational President or Vice President

Name Grant Jorgenson Title Council Chair
Mailing address Box 4216
City Ponoka State/Province AB Zip/Postal Code T4J 1R6
Home phone 403-783-7453 Cell phone 403-341-9335
Email address gjorgenson@live.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Shawn Campbell
Mailing address 4001-50 Ave
City Ponoka State/Province AB Zip/Postal Code T4J 1C5
Home phone 403-783-8222 Cell phone 403-783-1458
Email address shawcamp256@gmail.com

Congregational Demographics

Number of paid staff (full- or part-time): Clergy _____ Lay professionals _____ Secretarial 1

Average worship attendance 100 Average Sunday school attendance 15

Indicate the type of community in which your congregation is located (is it small town, small city, suburban, large city, farming, industrial, etc.).

Ponoka is a small town in central Alberta located between Edmonton and Calgary. The population sits at 7229 according to a 2016 census. Centennial Center is a publicly funded psychiatric hospital in Ponoka; it has a world class brain injury treatment center and a school of nursing program. This, together with agriculture and oil field servicing, makes up the primary industries in our community.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Trinity is primarily of European descent and would be classified as a elderly congregation, but it does have a small base of dedicated young families.

Does the congregation have a clear vision for mission — a clear and shared understanding of where God is leading you? If so, state it as succinctly as possible.

In a growing relationship with Christ to disciple others through love.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

- To feed and equip members for ministry*
- Adapt church as the world changes around us*
- Be led by the Spirit to minister to each other and our community*
- Be present and relevant in our local community*

Describe your congregation's worship practice (liturgy, hymns, vestments, music, hymnals, and frequency of Holy Communion).

We practice neither stiff traditional liturgical worship nor full contemporary styles. Instead, we are flexible and adapt to different styles. The last pastor implemented weekly communion which was received with mixed response. Presently, and previous to our last pastor, we commune twice a month. Music is a combination of traditional hymns, modern worship songs, piano, guitar, and drums. Although we have one, the organ has not been used for a few years.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

Our education ministry has changed over the years as needs and leaders have come and gone. At one point, there was a strong and active after school ministry, confirmation classes, youth group, and Sunday School. In the past 7 years, there has been only confirmation and Sunday school for age 3-6 years old. Currently, it is all on hold due to C-19.

Describe the congregation's current activities for mission and outreach.

-Stephen Ministries

Ladies Aid/ Bible Studies for both men and women

Presently, we are supporting Canadian Food Grains Bank, WMPL, YWAM Thailand -global missions- as well as the Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre, Shalom Counselling Centre, Food Bank, LAMP, Northern Canada Evangelical Mission (Maskwacis)- local missions- and other seasonal or specific events like the Community Christmas Dinner and food hampers, Camperships, and Central Alberta Youth Unlimited golf challenge.

The NALC is committed to moving away from an institutional understanding of the Church, to the biblical commission to be a community of followers of Jesus who focus on being disciples and making disciples. Which best describes your congregation's understanding of this movement? [Type an X by the appropriate response]

- Totally unaware
- Have heard about it
- Have been involved personally
- Some in the congregation are involved, some aren't
- Congregation understands, is on-board and involved

List the *Top Five Things* your congregations hopes for in its next Pastor

- 1. Deep love for Jesus that spills forth*
- 2. Person of prayer*
- 3. Gospel orientated*
- 4. Holy Spirit driven*
- 5. Equiper/encourager*
- 6. Shepherd's heart*

What were the three most significant events in your congregation's history? Provide the years in which these events happened and why they are important to your congregation.

1. *The amalgamation of 1970 combined three small congregations, all from different Lutheran Synods, and was most significant in that it required church members to work together in FAITH and harmony (*not always an easy task).*
2. *Building of church (1975), and later the addition, which were both significant undertakings and required commitment both spiritually and financially.*
3. *2011 - Left ELCIC due to doctrinal differences*
4. *2013 - Joined LCMC*
5. *2020 - Joined NALC*

Has your congregation participated in the Congregational Workshop Preparatory to the Call Process? [Type an X by the appropriate response]

Yes No

What were the three most significant results of the workshop?

1. *Clearer understanding of who we are;*
2. *Deeper understanding of what discipleship really means and also a clearer vision of what a relationship between congregation and pastor should look like (closer to a marriage);*
3. *We were able to see that we were unified in our vision for the church;*
4. *A decision that we need to simplify our Mission Statement.*

Describe the nature and extent of any significant current or recent conflict in the congregation. Is this conflict resolved, or ongoing? If resolved, how was it resolved?

There were differences between our congregation and previous pastor; our previous pastor changed his own spiritual views and vision for the church and asked Trinity to follow a few years into service. The congregation had a hard time following that lead, and no common ground was able to be found between pastor and congregation. This eventually led to the knowledge/understanding that the Pastor's calling at Trinity had come to an end.

How does your congregation handle conflict/tension? Which of the following do you think best describes your congregation? [Type an X by the appropriate response]

- As a church, we respect and listen to each other and work things through without generating divisiveness.
- As a church, we try to respect and listen to each other, but it is not uncommon for differences of opinion to be a problem and for some people to choose sides. Some have left our church because of conflict. Conflict hurts our sense of unity, but we tend not to talk about it.
- Painful experience with conflict has been present, but it has been worked through; we have learned from the experience.
We have had some painful experiences with conflict, and they linger in the background.
- Open conflict is present, and we need a minister who can help us deal with it.
- Other (describe).....

What was the nature of the relationship between your last pastor and the congregation? Positive? Struggling? Cooperative? Tense?

Positive to begin, struggling later on and tense towards the end. There was differing opinions among members as the status of the relationship

How did your council/congregational leaders work together with your last pastor? [Type an X by the appropriate response]

- Leadership is shared, with shared decision-making
- Pastor makes important decisions
- Council makes decisions with pastoral input
- Council makes decisions without pastoral input

Is your pastor a member of council with: [Type an X by the appropriate response(s)]

Voice Vote

Congregational finances

Total budget for last fiscal year: \$ 147,775.00

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ Just became a NALC congregation

Other benevolence: \$ 22,370.00

Total debt of the congregation: \$ debt free

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 145,085.00

Compensation of Last Pastor

Trinity will provide compensation as per Canadian LCC and/or ELCIC guidelines

Other: We will offer the option of housing in the church parsonage and/or provide a market value housing allowance.

When the Congregational Vacancy List is updated, a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) is included announcing each congregation's ministry. If you wish, your call committee may compose that summary, realizing it may be edited/formatted as needed.

Ponoka Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation that loves Jesus and wants to share that love with the Ponoka community. We are looking for a pastor full of love, grace and mercy that can encourage and equip us to go forth and make disciples. We value and find richness in traditional liturgical worship. We also appreciate contemporary worship and are open to the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance within our traditional form of worship.

Because we are an aging congregation, outreach to seniors and journeying through the last days is a vital part of Trinity's ministry, especially during this season of covid when so many seniors are isolated and alone. We would want our next Pastor to be able to work and connect with all ages, hopefully we will have more younger families in the future.

The Ponoka church community as a whole has many youth programs and ministries that we support financially and encourage our young families to be a part of. We actively participate in church community services and encourage and look for opportunities to love our brother's and sister's in Christ.

Consider filming a video to be included with your Congregational Profile on the [NALC website Vacancy List](#). We invite your call committee to make a 3-5 minute video introducing prospective pastoral candidates to your context and congregation. The video can be informal, explaining what your congregation is seeking in a pastor and showing images of the members of your congregation and your worship environment. Here are some sample videos: [Example One](#), [Example Two](#). These samples were not produced by the NALC. They are both simply examples of the type of content you could include in a video.

Video Submission Instructions:

Upload your video to YouTube or Vimeo. (Here are instructions on how to upload to YouTube: [wikihow.com/Upload-a-Video-to-YouTube](http://www.wikihow.com/Upload-a-Video-to-YouTube).) Include a link to the video below. Make sure the link allows for public access to the video.

[video link]

Provide any other information about your congregation that may be helpful in the call process.

Completed by: Hilda, Marilyn, Sarah, Jodie, Annitta, Grant, Charles, Shawn Call Committee
Date: Nov. 5 2020

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

SAVE A COPY OF THIS PROFILE TO YOUR COMPUTER. Use "Save As" and specify document file name as:
Congregation name, City, Date

****Email** a copy of the completed profile to the Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry, dwendel@thenalc.org.

Alternative submission method **ONLY** if you do not have email: Print and mail the complete profile to:

North American Lutheran Church
Attn: Pr. David Wendel
2299 Palmer Dr., Suite 220
New Brighton, MN 55112-2202

In addition, mail or email a copy of the completed profile to your mission district dean (can be found at thenalc.org/mission-districts/).

Should you have questions, call Pr. David Wendel, assistant to the bishop for ministry, at 719-650-8171 (cell).

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