

# 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](mailto:dwendel@thenalc.org).  
Keep a copy for your records.**

## Congregation Name and Location

Name First Lutheran Church  
Mailing address P.O. Box 287  
City Kirkland State/Province IL Zip/Postal Code 60146  
Telephone 815-522-3886 Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address secretary@kirklandflc.org  
Congregation website https://www.kirklandflc.org  
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 Jo Boehmer Title President  
Mailing address PO Box 333  
City Kirkland State/Province IL Zip/Postal Code 60146  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone 815-751-2908  
Email address boehmer1592@gmail.com

## Call Committee Chair

Name Dianna Wittwer  
Mailing address 6498 North Eastline Road  
City Monroe Center State/Province IL Zip/Postal Code 61052  
Home phone 815-378-6654 Cell phone 815-378-6654  
Email address secretary@kirklandflc.org

## Congregational Demographics

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals 0 Secretarial 1 (PT)

Average worship attendance 100 (Pre-COVID), 45 (Post-COVID)

Average Sunday School attendance: 10

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

We are a rural farming community located in Kirkland, Illinois with close proximity to several large cities and international airports.

### **Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.**

Our congregation is predominately Caucasian. Our members are active and "young at heart", with a median age of around 55-60 years of age. We have a fair amount of young families, who bring their children to church to participate in our Sunday School and Youth Activities.

### **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.**

Yes, our congregation has a clear vision for mission. Our current mission statement is, "Putting Christ First." We have also used "FLC", which represents Faithful Loving Christians and First Lutheran Church.

### **What are the primary goals of your congregation?**

Our congregation has three primary goals moving into the future. Our first goal is growing our congregational membership and leading people to become followers of Christ. Secondly, we hope to increase our involvement in our youth population through Sunday School, Confirmation, and other youth activities. Thirdly, expanding our church presence into the community through evangelism is important for our future.

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

Currently, we offer a Saturday evening service, as well as a Sunday morning service. Our Saturday service is less formal accompanied by guitar and occasionally piano, while our Sunday service is more traditional. Saturday worship frequently uses *The Burning Cry* hymnal. At both services, we use the LBW (Lutheran Book of Worship) and the WOV (With Once Voice) hymnal, and we sing on average three to four hymns per service. Seasonal vestments and paraments are used. We have a strong music program with a very talented choir. Each week, an organ or piano is used to accompany the service. Holy Communion is offered at both services on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays and Sundays of the month. During the season of lent, we offer Midweek Lenten Services, as well as dinners beforehand. Each Sunday, we participate in fellowship hour after the service concludes.

**Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.**

Prior to COVID, we had a very strong Christian education ministry. Our Sunday School program averaged approximately 10-15 children each week, which takes place after the dismissal from church following the children's sermon. The children also participate in a Christmas Program, Vacation Bible School in the summer, and sing at our church service with the Cherub Choir. Confirmation class, which includes our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, averages- 4-6 students attending a two year program. Our strongest attended ministry studies include our adult bible studies, which include Thursday Night Bible studies, First Friday Friends, Lydia Circle, and Sunday Adult Forum.

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

Our congregation is active in our mission and outreach. Our food pantry, open to anyone in need, is a joint ministry between First Lutheran Church and the United Methodist church. On average, we provide assistance to 70 families each month. We also have a clothing closet available to anyone in need. Other areas of our outreach include Lutheran World Relief School Kits and personal care kits, sock collection for the Rockford Rescue Mission, collection of quilts and Afghans for various homeless shelters and nursing homes, and Operation Christmas Child. We also provide \$600 for a "Mission of the Month".

**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

\*\*Our knowledge of the NALC varies per individual, though all of our members are committed to being followers of Jesus.

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

1. Biblically knowledgeable (able to make the Bible and its stories come alive)
2. Relatable and personable
3. Actively involved in growing our youth
4. Recruitment-growing our church
5. Musically inclined

**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.**

In 1998, we celebrated our 125<sup>th</sup> year of establishment. This was significant because it shows our congregation's long standing commitment and stability. In 2010, our congregation moved to The NALC. This was important because the values of the NALC aligned with the bible and what our congregation believes. In 2020, our long-standing Pastor of 31 years retired, which was significant in many ways. In 2023, another significant event will arise when we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> year of establishment.

**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. The workshop taught us to use the analogy of a marriage bond between our called Pastor and the congregation and to be open-minded to new possibilities.
2. Another result of the workshop was that the congregation was able to share the characteristics and traits in calling a new Pastor. Everyone was invited to collaborate and participate in many ways.  
We felt very encouraged by the respect given to the different views presented by the members of our congregation.

**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?**

Because of human nature, small conflicts arise but they are respectfully resolved. There are no major ongoing conflicts in our congregation currently.

**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, and 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?**

Our last pastor led our church for 31 years. Throughout his time here, there was always a strong, respectful, and positive relationship present between him and the members of the church.

**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: \$172,000  
Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$10,000  
Other benevolence: \$7200  
Total debt of the congregation: \$0  
Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$94,000

### Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: <u>\$57,562.00</u>	Parsonage/housing allowance: <u>\$2,000-pars. Included</u>
Social security offset: <u>\$9,000.00</u>	Pension: <u>\$10,000.00</u>
Health Insurance: <u>\$12,623.50</u>	Vacation: <u>3 weeks</u>
Continuing education (time/funding): <u>\$1,000</u>	
Travel reimbursement: <u>All mileage reimbursed at yearly Federal mileage rate (currently 57.5 cents/mi)</u>	
Other: <u>3 bedroom, 1.5 bathroom parsonage across the alley from the church included</u>	

**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.**

We are looking forward to a new chapter at First Lutheran Church. We are excited for the possibilities that a new pastor can bring to our church. We feel that we have many things to offer a new pastor, including an established congregation, active members, a three bedroom ranch parsonage that is next door to the church, and a supportive close-knit community with nearby PreK-12 schools. Our congregation is intensively and purposefully praying for the call of a new pastor.

**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: [www.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.

<https://youtu.be/GSH6ltzp2nM>

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

We are looking forward to begin the next chapter in our church!

Completed by: Ashley Boyer *AB* Date: 12-29-20

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