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| 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 Trinity Lutheran Church

Mailing address P.O. Box 725

City Saint Charles State/Province MN Zip/Postal Code 55972

Telephone (507) 272-9768 Fax N/A

Email address trinitylutheranchurchsc@gmail.com

Congregation website www.trinitylutheranstcharles.org

Seeking [x]  Full-time pastor [ ]  Part-time pastor [ ]  Either full-time or part-time\*

Call will be for [x]  Solo pastor [ ]  Senior pastor [ ]  Associate pastor

**Congregational President or Vice President**

Name Lyle Peterson Title President

Mailing address 14612 Border Line Drive

City Saint Charles State/Province MN Zip/Postal Code 55972

Home phone Cell phone (507) 272-6996

Email address LDPete4@yahoo.com

**Call Committee Chair**

Name Carole Jacobson

Mailing address 12124 Whitewater Drive

City Altura State/Province MN Zip/Postal Code 55910

Home phone Cell phone (507) 269-4809

Email address carolejacobson@gmail.com

**Congregational Demographics**

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

Average worship attendance 60 Average Sunday school attendance 12 Teen/Youth

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

St. Charles is an agricultural community of approximately 4,000 located in the picturesque Bluff Country region of Southeast Minnesota. Conveniently located within 25 miles of both Rochester (the home of the world-famous Mayo Clinic) and Winona (an historic riverboat town along the banks of the Mississippi River) - and just over 100 miles to Minneapolis/Saint Paul - many families choose to live here for the small-town atmosphere and proximity to larger cities for commuting and cultural opportunities. St. Charles is also located within 25 miles of Lanesboro, a quaint 19th century village nestled between the bluffs and the beautiful Root River. Lanesboro – known as the “Bed & Breakfast Capital of Minnesota” – is also home to summer river tubing and the Root River Bike Trail – named one of the best bike trails in Minnesota. It doesn’t get much better than an autumn ride along the Root River trail with a stop for hot apple pie along the trail in Whalen.

St. Charles hosts a young, culturally-diverse population and a thriving, growing school district with major expansions currently underway at both the elementary and high schools. St. Charles is known as the “Gateway to Whitewater State Park”, which is just seven miles from town. The park, one of the most beautiful in Minnesota, offers miles of hiking trails, numerous camping options and some of the best trout fishing in the Upper Midwest. St. Charles is just 20 miles from the Mississippi River and its many recreational opportunities.

**Describe the congregation’s ethnic composition and age distribution.**

50% of the Trinity Lutheran Church congregation are actively-working adults. 30% of the congregation are retired, and the remaining 20% are comprised of teens, youth and toddlers. 100% of the congregation is currently non-Hispanic white. Trinity has 84 members at this time.

**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.**

The Lord is leading Trinity Lutheran Church in a powerful, exciting way. The purpose of Trinity Lutheran Church is to worship and praise the Triune God while spreading the good news of His Word throughout our community. We are seeking a full-time minister. We expect our membership to increase allowing us to finance a property. The congregation is actively searching for property upon which we will build a worship center.

Here are some examples of how God is inspiring our congregation:

* Strong leaders have emerged – both men and women, older and younger – to take charge of things that need to happen. For example, someone arranged for the equipment necessary to allow services to be broadcast via FM radio. Another person volunteered to ask local landowners about selling land to the church. Yet another is using her time and talent to find music for the services so that we can sing along in our cars. Some are using their gifts of teaching to lead Bible studies that educate and refresh our members about the true meaning of worship, and there are many who volunteered to become council members just because they were needed.
* Church members are asking if they can become more involved! When does that *ever* happen?

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

The primary goal of Trinity Lutheran Church is to be an assembly of believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity, and where the Holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel (Augsburg Confession VII).

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

We have been following a basic traditional liturgy with hymn selections taken from the *Lutheran Book of Worship* and *With One Voice*. In the future, we hope to introduce an occasional blended service which would include some contemporary worship music. When we first began services early this year, we rented space in our local community center and used a small electronic keyboard for accompaniment. Services were held on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, and weekly communion was offered at both services. When the COVID-19 restrictions prohibited holding services at the community center, we started hosting “Drive-In Services” for the community on Sunday mornings. We had as many as 50 cars attend our worship services. When state guidelines permitted, we returned to in person services with a “Drive-in” opportunity as well. Basic paraments reflecting the colors of the church season are used. In coordination with our interim minister the Music and Worship committee prepares the basic order of worship, including hymns and scripture reading selections and provides minister assistants as requested by our interim minister. A bell choir has been organized and performs monthly during worship. Communion is provided twice a month at worship.

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

Being a brand-new church, we currently have a dozen students who are involved in Sunday School. The youth and their parents have been very active in the church. They have participated in a work camp event helping those in need, are spearheading the Christmas Shoebox program, and have been the hands and feet of Trinity’s Utility Building Outreach program.

We have an adult Bible study that is currently meeting weekly and averages 11 people. We organized, promoted and hosted two community gospel concerts in the park which attracted 176 local people. These two events raised over $1,800 for charitable organizations in our local community. We plan to show a series of Christian movies (from the *God’s Not Dead* series) in the community as well, and we will offer Bible studies for those who attend the movies. We are optimistic that we will attract 100 local community members above and beyond our own church members.

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

Trinity Lutheran Church is a body of believers committed to serving each other and the community in a powerful and compassionate way. Like the early church described in Acts 2:42-47, our focus is on demonstrating God’s unfailing love to each other, to our community, and to the world.

* We have a group of quilters who, over the course of the last year, have made more than 45 quilts that were donated to Lutheran World Relief and to local social service charities. Groups from our church have also assembled school kits and personal care kits which were donated to Lutheran World Relief.
* We have an active Women of Trinity group who meet monthly. The ladies coordinated a Holiday Bazaar in November and raised over $1600 for missions.
* The Men of Trinity have coordinated two “Gospel Concerts in the Park” with four more planned this coming summer. These concerts benefited the local VFW, Fireman, Senior Dining, Library, and Food Shelf. The Men of Trinity also partnered with the youth and their parents to carry out a Utility Building Outreach program. Homeowners agree to cover the cost of the materials and $400 for the labor provided by the volunteers.  The volunteers have a chance to work together developing and honing their skills as carpenters (just as Jesus learned the craft of carpentry in the Bible).  Jesus wants us to live according to Scripture and honing carpentry skills can certainly come in handy as well.
* In all, these events raised over $4,000 for missions and local charitable causes in 2020.
* We have a “Shut-In Ministry” to conduct frequent communication and check-ups with church members who can’t leave home for health reasons.

**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

 **X** Congregation understands, is on-board and involved

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

1. Delivers exciting scripture-based sermons and education
2. Gets along well with members and is fun
3. Enjoys recruiting and welcoming new church members as well as working with our youth
4. Regularly visits members, especially home-bound people and those in need
5. Excited about our new church and supportive of our efforts in the community

**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.**

February 16, 2020 - 59% of the Faith Lutheran Church of St. Charles voting members who were present at a congregational meeting voted in favor of having Faith Lutheran Church disaffiliate with the ELCA. Since the vote would have required two-thirds majority to disaffiliate, the vote failed and Faith Lutheran Church remained an ELCA Lutheran Church.

February 19, 2020 – Those Faith Lutheran Church members who voted to disaffiliate with the ELCA met and decided to form a new, independent Lutheran church in St. Charles, Minnesota.

March 15, 2020 – A Constitution and Bylaws were adopted to formally establish Trinity Lutheran Church of St. Charles, Minnesota

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

 **Yes X No**

**What were the three most significant results of the workshop?**

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A

**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?**

Between the months of February and June of 2019, ten members of Faith Lutheran Church of St. Charles completed a study to review ELCA and Faith Lutheran Church positions on various scriptural issues. The group studied the scriptures and identified seven areas of concern where both the ELCA and Faith Lutheran Church positions varied significantly from what is taught in scripture. These areas of concern were universalism, marriage, interreligious commitment, abortion, divine name, diminishing sin and change in purpose.

In January and February of 2020, seven Bible studies involving 77 people were held leading up to the February 16, 2020 vote to leave the ELCA. These studies were held in an effort to educate parishioners in a loving way about God’s teaching on these seven issues.

Ultimately, the February 16 vote failed to garner the required two-thirds vote needed to require Faith Lutheran Church of St. Charles to disaffiliate from the ELCA and set in motion the series of events that led to the creation of Trinity Lutheran Church of St. Charles. Those who have left Faith Lutheran Church to join Trinity Lutheran Church, as well as the new families who have joined Trinity Lutheran Church from throughout the community, are of one mind and heart on the issues mentioned above, and there are no longer any conflicts about these, or any, issues.

**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]**

 **X** 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?**

We are calling our first full-time pastor for Trinity Lutheran Church. Since the creation of the church in March, we employed pulpit supply ministers until we hired our current interim minister, Pastor David Schafer, on August 2nd, 2020.

**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

N/A. We are calling our first pastor.

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

 **X** Voice Vote

**Congregational finances in 2020**

Total giving for April-Dec 2020: $ 95,000

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: $ 2,000

Other benevolence: $ 7,000

Total debt of the congregation: $ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: $ 59,000

**Compensation of Full-Time Pastor for 2021**

Salary: $ N/A Parsonage/housing allowance: $ N/A

Social security offset: $ N/A Pension: $ N/A

Health Insurance: $ N/A Vacation: N/A

Continuing education (time/funding): N/A

Travel reimbursement: N/A

Other: Total Package Budgeted for Minister for 2021 is $77,000 to be segmented as Minister desires.

Supplemental Financial Information

2021 annual budgeted expenses - $88,000

2021 conservative estimate of income based on current offerings - $90,000

Current Designated Building Fund - $21,000

Current Cash Reserve - $38,000

Anticipated compensation package for new pastor

The total compensation package for this full-time position is $77,000 per year. The exact composition of the compensation package (salary, housing allowance, vacation and/or other benefits) is negotiable. The annual budget for an office space including rent, furnishings and equipment is $6,000 per year. We have office space leased and furnished for our new minister.

**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.**

Trinity Lutheran Church, a brand-new Lutheran church in St. Charles, Minnesota, is seeking its first pastor. We are a motivated and generous group of believers trusting God to bring the right person to make history with us. St. Charles, located in the beautiful Bluff Country of Southeast Minnesota, is a small but growing agricultural community with a modern, expanding school system. St. Charles offers the benefits of small-town living and the convenience of being just 25 miles from both Rochester and Winona, Minnesota.

**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.) Include a link to the video below. Make sure the link allows for public access to the video.

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

Completed by: The Call Committee Date: 12/13/2020

**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).

**Please keep a copy of this document for your records.**