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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 American Lutheran Church

Mailing address 311 South Fourth Avenue PO Box 132

City Castlewood State/Province SD Zip/Postal Code 57223

Telephone 605-793-2444 Fax

Email address americlc@itctel.com

Congregation website

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 Dan Grupe Title President

Mailing address 45609 180th St

City Castlewood State/Province SD Zip/Postal Code 57223

Home phone Cell phone (605) 881-7647

Email address grupe.dan@gmail.com

**Call Committee Chair**

Name Rodney Fischer

Mailing address 410 6th Ave N

City Castlewood State/Province SD Zip/Postal Code 57223

Home phone (605) 793-2471 Cell phone (605) 237-1300

Email address rjf@itctel.com

**Congregational Demographics**

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

Average worship attendance 86 (pre-pandemic) Average Sunday school attendance 45 (pre-pandemic)

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

Castlewood is a rural, small town with a population of between 650-700 people. The community has it’s own school, post office, grocery store, volunteer fire dept., city government, etc. Its located approximately 20 miles from Watertown, which has a population of around 25,000. Information on the community is available at castlewoodcity.com

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

The congregation and community are mostly white. Our oldest member is in her 90s and we have members of all ages, including families with young children. We have an active Sunday School and Youth Group and a women’s circle group.

**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.**

Our written Mission Statement is, “The Mission of American Lutheran Church is to welcome, worship, teach and serve in the name of Christ our Lord and Savior!”

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

Increase membership, guide and inspire youth and others in the congregation and community. Energize those that hear our message.

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

We generally follow the order of service from the With One Voice hymnal, but occasionally follow the one from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. We generally celebrate Holy Communion the first Sunday of the month, but also on other occasions (Maundy Thursday, confirmation Sunday, etc.). We record a video of our Sunday services and broadcast them later in the week on an area cable TV channel. Because of Covid, we stopped holding in-person services for a short time this spring, then started uploading pre-recorded services to YouTube. We continued this after we reopened for in-person worship. We typically hold Lenten services, but typically don’t hold Advent services.

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

We have an active Pre-K through 12th grade Sunday School. Grades 7-12 can participate in youth group activities. Our pastor teaches Confirmation class to students in grades 7-9 (five students confirmed in 2020). We also offer first communion classes to 5th graders in the Spring of the year (Usually first communion is scheduled for Maundy Thursday). Pre-Covid, our pastor also lead a weekly bible study at the community assisted living facility. Most years we also have a VBS in the early summer.

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

We strive to spread the Word of God through our worship, not only to those able to attend but also to those watching the broadcast. We take a weekly children’s offering and send the funds to a group the supports missionaries in China. Our council sends financial contributions to several local and area charities, including the Castlewood Blessing Center (food pantry), the Beacon Center (Watertown shelter), St Dysmas (congregation in the SD penitentiary) and Prison Congregations of America, Christian radio stations, International Christian Concern, and community members going on mission trips. Our ALCW women’s group also financially supports charitable organizations. Our congregation annually serves the Watertown Banquet, which once a week serves a meal to elderly and other people in need in Watertown. A few years ago, our congregation’s youth group traveled to Golden Valley, MN and performed mission activities there. Our pastor is also a member of the Castlewood Ministerial Association (made up of clergy from the Lutheran, Presbyterian, Reformed and Catholic congregations). They bring the congregations together for occasional community services and are available to assist community members in need.

**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

 X 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. Biblically Focused
2. Versatile / flexible for multiple responsibilities.
3. Open minded to new ideas and current traditions – We’ll try to make that a two way street.
4. Passionate and inspiring – energetic in delivering the Word of God.
5. Be a part of the community as a whole – within our congregation and others 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.**

One event was building the new addition to the church in 1999. The most significant recent event was the decision to leave the ELCA and join the NALC in 2011. In 2020, our congregation is celebrated our 75th anniversary, which demonstrates our stability.

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

**X Yes No**

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

1. Define our missions and goals.
2. Led us to think about things that we may not have otherwise considered.
3. It was good to hear the presenter’s perspective as a pastor’s point of view. One good takeaway was reminding us that the pastor and congregation are in ministry together. We need to “call” a pastor instead of “hire” a pastor.

**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?**

The most significant recent conflict surrounded our move from the ELCA to the NALC. We had members on both sides of the decision – some said they’d leave the congregation if we made the change, others said they’d leave the congregation if we didn’t. After a close vote, we moved to the NALC. Regrettably we did lose a few members. There may or may not still be hard feelings, but in the years since they haven’t hindered our work as a congregation.

**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.

 X 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 had a good relationship with our most recent pastor, who served here for 13 years (Last service was Jan 3, 2021). Our previous pastor served here for eight years. Both of our last two pastors left due to retirement.

**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

 X 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)]**

 X Voice X Vote

**Congregational finances**

Total budget for last fiscal year: $ 107,174.00

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: $ 600.00

Other benevolence: $ 0.00

Total debt of the congregation: $ 0.00

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: $ 92,000.00

**Compensation of Last Pastor**

Salary: $ 47,550.00 Parsonage/housing allowance: $ 1,500.00

Social security offset: $ 2,948.00 Pension: $ 4,755.00

Health Insurance: $ 12,018 Vacation:

Continuing education (time/funding): As needed

Travel reimbursement: As needed

Other: We do have a parsonage available for the pastor and family to live in.

**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’re an active, welcoming congregation (avg attendance 86 per Sunday) in small town eastern SD and are looking for a pastor to lead worship, teach confirmation, and provide spiritual counsel. We welcome a passionate pastor willing to work together with our lay members in all areas of our ministry. We have a vibrant congregation that supports mission activities and has an active pre-K through 12 Sunday school and youth group. The position includes a parsonage with room for a family in a growing town with a school and grocery store and within a short drive to a larger community.

**Consider filming a video to be included with your Congregational Profile on the** [**NALC website Vacancy List**](http://thenalc.org/call-process)**. 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**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcXBhDNftvg&feature=youtu.be)**,** [**Example Two**](https://vimeo.com/242282875)**. 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](https://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://sdk12-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/jn3318\_k12\_sd\_us/EUd85YP-uNJLmY2GCvnGHJQBGZtu\_eQrVAoL\_p-FfObNUg](https://sdk12-my.sharepoint.com/%3Av%3A/g/personal/jn3318_k12_sd_us/EUd85YP-uNJLmY2GCvnGHJQBGZtu_eQrVAoL_p-FfObNUg)

In addition to this video, several of our services can be found on YouTube by searching for *American Lutheran Church Castlewood SD*. You can learn more about our community by viewing *castlewoodcity.com*

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

Completed by: Rodney Fischer Date: Jan 29, 2021

**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/](http://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.**