

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



Congregation Name and Location

Name St. John's Lutheran Church

Mailing address 6808 St. Rt. 314

City Mount Gilead State/Province OH Zip/Postal Code 43338

Telephone (419) 362-6051 Fax n/a

Email address n/a

Congregation website n/a

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 Dean VanHorn Title Council President

Mailing address 7800 County Road 97

City Bellville State/Province OH Zip/Postal Code 44813

Home phone _____ Cell phone 419-631-7856

Email address _____

Call Committee Chair

Name Dan Rhodebeck

Mailing address 6666 US Rt. 42

City Mt. Gilead State/Province OH Zip/Postal Code 43338

Home phone 419-362-3441 Cell phone _____

Email address jandan_42@yahoo.com

Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 15-25 Average Sunday school attendance suspended due to Covid 19

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

Rural, Small Farm, Single Family Housing

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

100% Caucasian- Age 0-49 25%, 50 and older 75%

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.

"To warmly welcome all who enter our doors, and to encourage the visitor to establish regular attendance".

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

1. To maintain our pulpit ministry and keep worshipping every Sunday morning.
2. To be able to sustain our giving to certain causes such as Lutheran World Relief, the Gideons International, and our local non-profit service for pregnancy and parenting resources.

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

Liturgy from the Lutheran Book of Worship, hymnal singing with live organist and pianist, vestments appropriate to the church year, Holy Communion once a month.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

We offer Sunday School for adults and school-age children. -*Currently suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions*-Also VBS for all ages, and Catechism class-a 2 year program for Junior-High age children.

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

We contribute to the American Red Cross by hosting blood drives 6 times/year and participate in activities to support U.S military personnel, support missionary work, adopt a needy family at Christmas)

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. Dependable and confident Leadership, especially for our worship services.
2. A good foundation in Bible Studies, with Biblically-centered sermons.
3. Be able to visit members who cannot always attend Sunday morning service.
4. Appreciation of music.
5. Someone whom younger people can relate, to help gain younger members.

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. 1968. We ended a 150-year tradition of being a parish church and sharing a pastor with other churches. For the past 52 years we have supported our own part-time pastor, in a single-site ministry.
2. 1997. Construction of an addition to our 1861 building: a fellowship hall, with a kitchen and restrooms all on the same level as the existing sanctuary, plus a full basement. This created a convenient space for meetings and gatherings for our church and our community.
3. 2012. Our vote to secede from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the vote to affiliate with the North American Lutheran Church.

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?

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?

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?

Positive

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 2019 fiscal year: \$ income: \$42,357.16 expenses: \$24,259.96

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 600.00 _____

Other benevolence: \$ \$3,400.00 _____

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0.00 _____

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ \$126,372.84(as of 1/31/2021890908)

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: \$ \$13,320.00 _____ Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ - _____

Social security offset: \$ - _____ Pension: \$ - _____

Health Insurance: \$ - _____ Vacation: _____
Continuing education (time/funding): - _____
Travel reimbursement: \$165.30 _____
Other: Year End Gift: \$ 500.00 _____

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.

St. Johns Lutheran Church of North Woodbury, Ohio is a small congregation with a 200-year history. We are in rural setting, with a surrounding Amish community. Although we are out in the country, we are on a main highway and not far from small cities such as Mansfield, Ontario, Galion, Mt. Vernon and Marion. We have easy access to the Interstate Highway and Columbus.

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.) 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.

[enter text]

sadw

Completed by: The St John's Lutheran Call Committee Date: 3/2/21

