|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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 **Living Word Lutheran Church**

Mailing address PO Box 1771 (worship address is 301 North 33rd St. Rogers, AR 72756)

City Rogers State/Province AR /Postal Code 72757

Telephone 479-268-4103, Pastor Richard Solberg Fax

Email address

Congregation website www.livingwordlutheran.church

Seeking ☐ Full-time pastor X Part-time pastor ☐ Either full-time or part-time

**Congregational President or Vice President**

Name: Julie Hoggard Title: Council President

Mailing address: 2902 Parkwood Circle

City: Rogers State/Province: AR Zip/Postal Code: 72756

Home phone: N/A Cell phone: 479-721-6050

Email address: mycasajulie@gmail.com

**Call Committee Chair**

Name: Erica Denman Name: Keith Rumohr, Co-chair

Mailing address: 15154 Haynes Road Mailing Address: 15047 Park Ridge

City: Rogers State: AR Zip Code: 72756 City: Lowell State: AR Zip Code: 72745

Cell phone: 325-812-8441 Cell Phone: 214-226-8133

Email address: eriden325@gmail.com Email Address: krumohr@att.net

\*\*Note: Please send any electronic correspondence (email or text) to Keith Rumohr’s attention. Thank you.

**Congregational Demographics**

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

Average worship attendance 35 (pre-Covid) Average Sunday school attendance 18 (pre-Covid)

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

Rogers, a city of 68,000, is located in the progressive northwest corner of Arkansas, just miles from the Missouri and Oklahoma borders. It is part of a larger area referred to as Northwest Arkansas (NWA) which has a population of 546,400. This part of the Ozarks has a mixture of light industry, agriculture and retail and is home to Walmart, Tyson Foods, JB Hunt Transportation, and the University of Arkansas. In addition, NWA has many cultural and recreational advantages including Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Walmart AMP (Arkansas Music Pavilion), Walton Arts Center, numerous golf courses, Beaver Lake (487 miles of shoreline), and extensive hike and bike trails which connect a great portion of Northwest Arkansas. Rogers New Technology High School is ranked 5th in the state by US News and World Report. In addition to many young families in the area, NWA has a sizeable retirement community, as well. The following are helpful links that will provide more details about Northwest Arkansas.

[www.rogerslowell.com](http://www.rogerslowell.com/)

[www.northwestarkansas.org](http://www.northwestarkansas.org)

[www.bentonvillebellavistachamber.com](http://www.bentonvillebellavistachamber.com/)

[www.nwacouncil.org](http://www.nwacouncil.org)

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

Predominantly Caucasian

Toddlers: 0 Elementary: 4 Teens: 2 Ages 20-40: 7 Ages 50-60: 20 Ages 70 plus: 19

**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 mission of the congregation is to expand the Christian community through adoption of God’s great commandment: to love God with all our hearts, all our souls and all our minds and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

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

1) We are called to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our congregation by constantly investigating needs and by touching member’s lives in relevant ways.

2) We are called to meet the physical needs of our local and foreign missions.

3) We are called to share the gospel and to make disciples.

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

Worship services are liturgical, consisting of essential spoken liturgy accompanied by a combination of contemporary music and traditional hymns. Liturgy and lyrics are projected via PowerPoint. Holy Communion is open and shared semi-monthly.

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

We have an active pastor-led adult Bible study following worship. The pastor also provides First Communion and Confirmation classes, as needed.

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

The congregation directly supports one international and three local missions. Approximately 50% of our offerings are dedicated to these organizations. Many of our members are also directly involved in our missions by providing volunteer hours and support. Our current chosen missions are as follows:

1) **Restoration Village**: Restoring the lives of women and women with children in crisis by providing long-term housing and services. [www.restorationvillage.net](http://www.restorationvillage.net/)

2) **Micah’s House**: Transforming the lives of young men aging out of foster care in Northwest Arkansas. [www.micahshousenwa.org](http://www.micahshousenwa.org)

3) **Children’s Advocacy Center**: Providing a safe place for child abuse victims and their families to receive comprehensive services in a child-friendly atmosphere. [www.cacbentonco.com](http://www.cacbentonco.com/)

4) **Tanzania International Mission**: Partnering with the Morogoro diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, we support a surgical team to provide surgeries to those who otherwise cannot afford them. <https://tanzaniasurgery.blogspot.com/2019/06/we-have-arrived.html> We also support the Berega Orphanage that focuses on bringing the Gospel to families of its babies. [www.nytimes.com/2009/06/25/world/africa/25orphan.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/25/world/africa/25orphan.html) We have also provided funding for the construction of water retention systems and the sponsorship of a seminary student.

**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

**\_X**  Some in the congregation are involved, some aren’t

 Congregation understands, is on-board and involved

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

1. They effectively communicate and teach the Gospel.
2. They have a genuine enthusiasm for their church, their family, and their ministry.
3. They express a reliance on God’s guidance through the Spirit and give evidence of Christ’s values through their life.
4. They give strong evidence of seeking the truth of God’s Word and adherence to it.
5. They are interested in growing our congregation.

**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) Church formation in 2010 because of disagreements with ELCA’s non-Biblical stance on certain social and cultural issues. At that time, the decision was made to rent as we didn’t want to be encumbered with costs of building. We sought a part-time pastor who God provided in 2011. His gift of teaching encouraged us in our faith.

2) Forming a mission committee in 2016 helped the congregation to be involved in our four chosen missions. This included giving the excess of our annual budget to these missions.

3) Moving to Rogers Seventh-day Adventist Church sanctuary in 2017 to hold our worship services gave us a more worshipful atmosphere.

**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. [enter text]
2. [enter text]
3. [enter text]

**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?**

We have not had conflict since our beginning in 2010.

**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?**

We have had a positive relationship with both of our previous pastors as well as with our current interim pastor.

**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 Vote

**Congregational finances**

Total budget for last fiscal year: $89,350

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: $1,000

Other benevolence: $500.00

Total debt of the congregation: $ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: $ 124,500

**Compensation of Last Pastor**

Salary: $15,000 Parsonage/housing allowance: $ 9,000

Social security offset: $ -- Pension: $ --

Health Insurance: $10,000 Vacation:

Continuing education (time/funding):

Travel reimbursement: $500

Other: Our present interim pastor lives in the area and volunteers his services.

**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.**

Living Word Lutheran Church is known in the community as the “Small Church with a Big Heart.” We are

lay-led and mission-minded, supporting three different missions in our community and one in Tanzania. We rent the Rogers Seventh-day Adventist church for Sunday morning services (their congregation’s “day-off”) which allows us to remain financially unencumbered.

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

Our search is for a part-time pastor who desires a position with part-time pastoral responsibilities.

Completed by: Living Word Lutheran Call Committee Date: 2-25-2021

**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

 Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry

 3500 Mill Run Drive

 Hilliard, OH 43026-777

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

Should you have questions, call Pr. David Wendel, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry, at 614-777-5709 (Office), or 719-650-8171 (Cell).

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