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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 Our Saviors Lutheran Church

Mailing address 4900 Kinsey Drive

City Tyler State/Province TX Zip/Postal Code 75703

Telephone (903) 561-1865 Fax

Email address

Congregation website oslctyler.com

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 Chris Burris Title Council President

Mailing address 2198 Rana Park

City Flint State/Province TX Zip/Postal Code 75762

Home phone Cell phone (303) 668-6643

Email address cburris9031@gmail.com

**Call Committee Chair**

Name Bill Hebb

Mailing address 4114 Pinecreek Dr

City Tyler State/Province TX Zip/Postal Code 75707

Home phone Cell phone (903) 521-2543

Email address billhebb@aol.com

**Congregational Demographics**

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals 6 Secretarial 1

Average worship attendance 124 (2019) Average Sunday school attendance 17 (Children and Youth)

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

Small city and suburbs. Smith County has a population of 230,000

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

97% of the congregation Is Caucasian. 53% of the congregation Is over the age of 60.

**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.**

Bringing Christ to the people… the people to Christ!

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

* Pray Daily
* Read the Bible regularly
* Worship weekly
* Relate to others for Spiritual Growth
* Tithe 10% of our resources
* Serve In ministry at and beyond our congregation

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

We use many parts of the liturgy, the pastor wears vestments and we sing both traditional and contemporary music. Holy Communion Is celebrated weekly.

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

There are 5 classrooms.  Kindergarten-1st grade, 2nd-3rd, 4th-6th, 7th-8th (confirmation), High School.  At this time there are about 14 students /Sunday.  A youth group, made of 9th graders -early 20s, meets every Sunday after the last service. A nursery is available for younger children. A children’s choir is available.

Vacation Bible School is a 5 day program running from 9:00 am – 2:00, one week out of the summer.  Lunch is included.   High school age campers, provided by Luther Hill Camp, stay with local family and teach the students. High School age Sunday School students attend a youth retreat during the summer at Luther Hill Camp.

Special Events include Round Up Sunday (first day back to Sunday School), Easter Egg Hunt, Carol Singing for Christmas and Christmas Tree Hunt.

There is one adult Sunday School class.

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

We have a very active social ministry that supports many ministries with ongoing and financial assistance. In 2020 we donated to the following organizations and causes: Haiti Education Fund, For the Silent, Salvation Army, East Texas Food Bank, Tyler Smith County Welfare Board, Meals on Wheels, Bethesda Health Clinic, Hope Haven, St. Paul Children's Foundation, Hands In Action, HiWay 80 Rescue Mission, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Shipping costs for clothes to India, Church Under a Bridge, Hospice of East Texas, Our Savior's Prescription Fund, Refuge of Life, Samaritan Counseling, Peace Lutheran Church (Disaster Relief), Promise Academy, Azleway, East Texas Crisis Center, Samaritan's Purse, Wreaths Across America, Doctors Without Borders, PATH.

We also have a quilting group that meet and produce quilts. In 2020, 150 quilts were distributed to the Tyler Police Department, the Tyler Fire Department, Children's Advocacy Center, the Shriner's Scottish Rite, and HiWay 80 Rescue Mission.

**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]**

 X 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. A good teacher of liturgy, catechism, and the Bible
2. Scriptural understanding with a focus on the Gospel.
3. Relatable, personable, approachable, and down to earth.
4. Has the grace and Intellect to respond to the current Issues of the world we live In. A strong defender of our faith and beliefs.
5. Sense of humor.

**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.**

1984 - Our current church building was constructed.

1995 - A large education wing was constructed which enabled us to expand our summer camp program, Sunday School program, and other outreach efforts

2010 - OSLC left the ELCA and joined the NALC

**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. 4 Core Values of the NALC
2. This Is more like a marriage than an employee/employer relationship
3. New Pastors don't fix anything

**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?**

There has been no significant conflict In over five years.

**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?**

Positive and Cooperative.

**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: $ 251,245

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: $ 9,451

Other benevolence: $ 15,452

Total debt of the congregation: $ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: $ 125,000

**Compensation of Last Pastor**

Salary: $ 38,210 Parsonage/housing allowance: $ 41,583

Social security offset: $ 6,140 Pension: $ 7,926

Health Insurance: $ 23,394 Vacation: Inc In Salary

Continuing education (time/funding): 600

Travel reimbursement: 1400

Other: 1,500 for Professional Expense

**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.**

Our Saviour’s ministers to our congregation through regular preaching and celebrating the sacraments together.  We actively catechize our congregation and engage with other churches and non-profits to care for people’s physical needs and to advance the Gospel.  We have an active senior’s ministry, social ministry, quilting ministry and children’s ministry that all contribute time, resources, and people to carry out multiple outreaches a year including our summer day camp, our Oktoberfest, Christmas in the neighborhood and other events.

**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.

[video link]

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

[enter text]

Completed by: Bill Hebb Date: March 1, 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

 2655 Innsbruck Drive, Suite A

 New Brighton, MN 55112-9304

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.**