

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 Christ Lutheran
Mailing address P.O. Box 976
City Cullman State/Province Alabama Zip/Postal Code 35056
Telephone 256-734-6842 Fax
Email address cullmanchristlutheran@gmail.com
Congregation website cullmanchristlutherancullman.org
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 Wayne Christiansen Title Congregational President
Mailing address 419 County Road 1283
City Vinemont State/Province Alabama Zip/Postal Code 35179
Home phone 256.734.4516 Cell phone
Email address

Call Committee Chair

Name Debbie Veres
Mailing address 397 County Road 1283
City Vinemont State/Province AL Zip/Postal Code 35179
Home phone Cell phone 256.736.4976
Email address dcveres@aol.com

Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 15-20 Average Sunday school attendance 8-10

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

Cullman is considered a small town. Within a 5-mile radius of our church, Cullman's average household income ranges from \$25,000 to \$75,000 for 75% of our community. Eighteen percent earn \$75,000 to \$125,000.

Primary areas of employment are industry, professionals and farms. We have a growing interest in festivals and the developing entertainment district. We have a lake nearby that

hosts national fishing events and a sports complex that hosts numerous national, state and local competitions including our Field of Miracles for handicapped residents. We have

a community band with about 70 member who perform several times a year, a woman's choral group consisting of about 30 members, and a community theater for adults and

children.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

95% white with the majority being over 55 years of age.

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 mission includes regular Sunday worship with communion and outreach to the community. We want to make use of our fellowship hall for the community to use.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

Our goal is to develop a strategic plan in order to do the following:

Revitalize liturgical worship and music ministry

Faith-based ministry outreach to community

Community use of facilities

Stewardship initiative to support ministry endeavors and financial support

To become more well-known in the greater community

Develop intentional inviting through publicity

Social publicity, social media, vitalized web site

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

We have a traditional worship style and use the Lutheran Book of Worship, but are open to other worship settings. We alternate between settings 1 and 2 during the year and have used different Settings

for summer worship and Holden Evening Prayer during Lent. We used ELW for several years. We have traditional vestments, using blue for Advent and purple for Lent.

Our hymns are generally choral-style from LBW with some from WOV and other sources including ELW. New hymns are accepted by some and encouraged by others.

Holy Communion is offered every Sunday and on other occasions where appropriate.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

We have weekly Bible study and are currently studying "Joining Jesus, Show me How" by Greg Finke. We typically have between 8-10 join the study.

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

Our current Mission Statement is "Fed by the Spirit, we feed the community."

We feel called by the Holy Spirit to help the community live the faith, understand that Lutheran is not "weird," know our unique understanding of grace.

We feel literally called to feed the hungry and assist others in crisis.

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 congregations hopes for in its next Pastor

- Evangelism/Mission
- Ecumenical Work

- Interpret Theology
- Pastoral Care and Visitation
- Preaching/Worship

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.

Our building was destroyed by a tornado in 2011. While we were without a building, we worshipped at a local convent and came together during the rebuilding process.

We had a fellowship each Sunday before church and it was well attended. We received support from local congregations and churches and individuals across the nation

that enabled us to rebuild a beautiful space and remain debt free. We would like to find a way for the community to use our building. The tragedy and rebuilding process

has enriched our sense of community and strengthened our ability to work together.

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?

- [enter text]
- [enter text]
- [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?

Our only recent conflict has been the decision to leave the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and join the North American Lutheran Church.

A few members were not happy with this decision. Only a couple of families moved their membership.

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?**

Positive, but due to health problems she had to retire early. Our current part time minister, which we have a positive relationship with as well, is experiencing health problems and lives an hour and a half away from the church.

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 last fiscal year: \$ 86,620.00
Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 0
Other benevolence: \$ 49,100.00-Includes: NALS disaster response \$1,000.00, NALC Seminary \$500.00
Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0
Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 116,237.07

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: \$ 18,050.50 Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ 18,000.00
Social security offset: \$ 0 Pension: \$ 7,098.00
Health Insurance: \$ 0 Vacation: 0
Continuing education (time/funding): 0
Travel reimbursement: 6,295.38
Other: Disability \$1,638.00

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.

We are a debt free congregation with a beautiful new sanctuary and fellowship hall in downtown Cullman, Alabama. We prefer a traditional worship, being an older congregation.

We are seeking to expand our worship to increase attendance and attract younger couples.

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.

We are anxious to get a minister soon due to the poor health of our current minister. We also would prefer to have our minister live in the Cullman Community as we feel this would make the community aware of our beautiful sanctuary and fellowship hall.

Completed by: Cindy Gonstad

Date: 02-15-2021

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/).

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.