

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 St John Lutheran Church

Mailing address 7418 State Route 121 N

City Greenville State/Province Ohio Zip/Postal Code 45331

Telephone 937-548-5404 Fax _____

Email address stjohnluth121@embarqmail.com

Congregation website _____

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 Jeff Gower Title President

Mailing address 10270 Conover Rd

City Versailles State/Province Ohio Zip/Postal Code 45380

Home phone 937-526-3122 Cell phone 937-564-8618

Email address jeff123@centurylink.net

Call Committee Chair

Name James B Sander

Mailing address 8445 state route 121

City Greenville State/Province Ohio Zip/Postal Code 45331

Home phone _____ Cell phone 937-467-9508

Email address inwyk@outlook.com

Congregational Demographics

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals 4 Secretarial 1

Average worship attendance 94 Average Sunday school attendance 40

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

St. John Lutheran church located in Greenville, a small city of 13,000, which is the county seat of Darke county. It is 35 minute from Dayton Ohio and an hour and a half from the metropolitan areas of Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis Indiana. In addition to agriculture, the surrounding communities have a mixture of small and large industry including Whirlpool, Midmark, Fram and Greenville Technology.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

St. John Lutheran Church has a German heritage dating back to 1852. The church consists mainly of English-speaking Caucasians. The median age of all members and associates is 49 years of age. The median age of those attending worship on a regular basis is approximately 49 years. Below is a breakdown of member age by category.

2 -20 67

21-40 76

41-60 63

61+ 146

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 be a place locally an individual can receive warmth and friendship. A place to nurture the curious, educate the new and feed the mature Christian. To create a place to worship enhanced by technology but not overwhelmed by it and always from a traditional biblical understanding.

We are a place whose people know their gifts are needed by the World. We freely share our gifts to those people and places where the Spirit sends it.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

We have a welcoming environment free of judgments based on wealth or appearance but convicting of the heart. This creates a path whereby the individual can be reconciled to our Lord.

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

We are currently using Traditional liturgy on communing Sundays and a modified Traditional liturgy, alternately, with the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal. We have also used several of the additional ten settings in the ELW hymnal. Now the Feast and Celebration by Marty Haugen and the Chicago Folk Service by Art Gorman have been used previously but not currently. We enjoy a mix of traditional and contemporary hymns, using only piano or organ at this time, with the hymns being chosen by members of our Worship and Music Committee and chosen from the ELW hymnal or Praise hymnal. Our Pastor and Lay servers are robed for most worship services but not all. We celebrate Holy Communion twice a month plus high festivals. Additional music is provided by the adult choir. We began using fully projected services in the fall of 2018. Two identical screens at the front of the sanctuary allow for video to be incorporated into services. With the incorporation of video worshipers have the option of being hands free but a printed bulletin is still being used. We currently have an opening for a Music Director.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

We use "Connect Groups". Adults use Bible Study with Lay leaders. "Teen Connect" for grades 7-12 with a Lay leader. "Be Bold" grades 4-6 with 2 Lay teachers. "Kinder Connect" for age 3 to 3rd grade with various Lay teachers. All the above meet on Sunday. Women's bible study group is "Pricilla Bible" study. It meets once a month with various Lay leaders. R.O.M.E.O. (Retired Old Men Eating Out) for fellowship, eating out and prayer. JULIETS (Join Us Ladies In Eating Together) for fellowship, eating and Prayer. "Senior Citizens" This is a carry in meeting once a month for fellowship, eating, games and prayer. "The Sewing Group" does mission work that meets once a month. The above are administered by the Pastor, the Christian Education committee and the Task Force to Pathway of Discipleship.

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

St. John is active and supportive of mission and ministry through a variety of service projects, locally and globally. Examples of our global out reach mission include: Disaster Relief, World Hunger, support of missionary Didi Ponzio in the Congo, the congregation is currently raising funds to support missionaries in Malawi, Africa to provide state of the art water pumps for villages without access to good water, Heifer Project International, Lutheran Core, We Care Arts-Quilts and Children's Fund. Local Missions include: Grace Resurrection Center, Youth for Christ, Wernle Youth and Family Treatment Center, Wayne Hospital Chaplaincy, Grace Resurrection Soup Kitchen, Community Unity Christmas Drive, Greenville Ministerial Fund, FISH, Greenville Good Samaritan and Weekday Christian Education. Active church organizations include: Women's circles for Bible Study, J.U.L.I.E.T.s, Men's Bible Study, R.O.M.E.O.s, Youth group, CD ministry, home communion for shut-ins, Christmas caroling, and our parish internet site. These are our primary mission and outreach activities.

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. A pastor who is passionate about the Bible and its relevance for today's world.
2. A pastor who engages, teaches and challenges the people of the congregation and is our guide as we serve the greater community.
3. A pastor who walks with us in the Great Commission and can motivate the congregation to build relationships.
4. A pastor who shepherd/leader who has a love for children and youth.
5. A pastor who is active and energetic.

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. A gathering area that promotes socializing between members and visitors alike was added in the expansion and renovation of 1996.
2. The projector and screen project of 2018 for the ease of worship in a modernized sanctuary.
3. Connect Groups were instituted in 2019 which allowed parishioners to better share fellowship outside of the Sunday Worship services.

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?

1. We gained a greater understanding of the call process, the congregation's and the call committee's responsibilities.
2. We learned that the communication between the church council and the congregation needs to be improved.
3. We learned what those who attended want in our next 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?

There was mild conflict when we voted to add the projection screens. The conflict was resolved by the continued use of the screens and over a short time everyone learned how much a true worship enhancement the addition was. No members stopped attending as a result of the projection screens and their use.

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?

Cooperative. The congregation embraced the pastor immediately and this love lasted until he took a call elsewhere.

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: \$ 263,922.00

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 15,450.00

Other benevolence: \$ 23,796.00

Total debt of the congregation: \$ -0-

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 709,881.00

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: \$ 37,399.00 Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ 21,108.00

Social security offset: \$ 4,704.00 Pension: \$ 5,851.00

Health Insurance: \$ 14,574.00 Vacation: 4 weeks

Continuing education (time/funding): 500.00

Travel reimbursement: 3,600 car allowance

Other: _____

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.

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: [wikihow.com/Upload-a-Video-to-YouTube](http://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.

Completed by: James B Sander

Date: 4-6-2020

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/).

Should you have questions, call Pr. David Wendel, assistant to the bishop for ministry, at 719-650-8171 (cell).

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