

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

Congregation Name and Location

Name Zion Lutheran Church
Mailing address 1521 Prairie Rd
City Everest State/Province Kansas Zip/Postal Code 66424
Telephone 785-547-7572 Fax
Email address zlceverest@rainbowtel.net
Congregation website Zion Lutheran Church, Everest, Kansas
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 Doug Rodvelt Title President
Mailing address 1589 130th Street
City Horton State/Province Kansas Zip/Postal Code 66439
Home phone 785-547-3555 Cell phone 785-547-6382
Email address dougrod@rainbowtel.net

Call Committee Chair

Name Leland Hansen and Mark Knudson (Co-chairs)
Mailing address 106 Kansas Ave/ 1762 140th St.
City Hiawatha State/Province KS Zip/Postal Code 66434
Home phone 785-742-7240/785-547-3587 Cell phone 785-742-2789/785-547-6299
Email address lhansen@rainbowtel.net/mknudson@rainbowtel.net

Congregational Demographics

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

Lay professionals breakdown: Janitors (2), Organists (3), Music Director - Choir and Bell Choir (1)

Average worship attendance 71 (2019), 52 (2020) Average Sunday school attendance 17 (2019), 10 (2020)

Decrease probably 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.).

Farming – Rural community within 1 to 2 hours of several metropolitan cities and airport. Even though our congregation is in a farming community, we are not strictly farmers and housewives. The majority of our members are college graduates. These professionals have careers in teaching - at all levels including college; health care – nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy; engineering; banking; veterinary; human resources; agronomy; carpentry; plumbing; retired military; service department manager; field technical specialist; and various other business owners.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Zion Lutheran Church is four miles north of Everest, Brown County, Kansas located in the northeast section of the state. The congregation was formed in 1895 by a group of Norwegian families, and today a majority of the members are descendants from those founding families. Located in a primarily white area, most of the congregation is white, though all nationalities and ethnicities are welcome. There is a wide variety of ages (infant to over 90) with many young families with children. There are 266 baptized members and 206 confirmed members with 32 pre-school to high school youth members.

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 Statement is “Growing in Christ through the Word, prayer, and bible study to serve.” In order to accomplish this mission, we have traditionally given a portion of our income to the synod for missions to be distributed at their discretion through Mission Share (NALC). We have a local mission budget and our current mission areas are: Local Missions (including the local Food Pantry), Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse and Lutheran World Relief School Bags. Where there are specific needs, the Church Council usually determines the donation given. Sometimes an offering is given or a fundraiser held. The Women's Group, Luther League, and Sunday School have mission projects of their own as well. Local college campus ministries are also supported. A group of adults and teens even went to Haiti on a mission trip to help an orphanage/school there. We hope to continue some of these traditions, thrive to spread God's word to others, and reach out to our community. Zion is also looking forward to working with our new leader.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

- Youth ministry
- Area ministry and making new disciples
- Bring back current members to church and resume fellowship activities
- Bible classes
- Outreach to areas outside our immediate area

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

We alternate between the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) and With One Voice (WOV). We have Holy Communion 2 Sundays each month and on major church holidays. Occasionally, we have off-site services for congregational fellowship. The vestments have been traditional with white robe, black/white collar and a stole of the color of the church year season. Currently, we are having live in person services with livestreaming for shut-ins and those affected by COVID 19 health concerns.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

We have strong preschool through 6th grade classes and our Vacation Bible School program is well attended by community members as well as children of our church. We also have an active Luther League (7th grade through high school) that is involved with church activities. We look forward to having guidance with our young adult and confirmation classes, as well as our adult education classes.

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

The congregation is heavily involved in the local Food Pantry which is supervised by the local Ministerial Association. Donations are given year-round, but specifically in May and November which are the months Zion is in charge. Vacation Bible School is a huge annual event bringing in many area children for a week of Bible stories, songs, and activities. In addition, traditionally we have been involved in the Ministerial Association's Luminaries, Holy Week breakfasts, Fifth Quarter Dinner and activities; providing monthly church services and birthday parties for the area nursing homes; and sharing God's Word through music with our Easter and Christmas Cantata. However, many of these activities were canceled this year due to COVID 19 concerns. We hope to continue with these when it is determined to be safe to do so.

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

- Youth education – Confirmation, Sunday School, Bible School, and Adult Bible Study
- Member outreach – comforting visits to shut ins and nursing homes
- Engaging sermons – including a basic understanding of music
- Community engagement – willing to engage in and learn about all the communities that make up the membership of our congregation
- Family and congregationally oriented

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.

1895 – Our church was formed and began our long history of sharing our faith

1970 –Installed the 1st woman on the Church Council allowing women to be more involved in church duties and activities

1995 – Year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of our ministry

2017 – Leaving the ELCA and joining the NALC Year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of our ministry

2020 – 125th Anniversary Year

Has your congregation participated in the Congregational Workshop Preparatory to the Call Process? [Type an X by the appropriate response]

Yes **No**

though some indirectly due to COVID 19

What were the three most significant results of the workshop?

The congregation had time to review the profile and contribute remotely prior to the congregational meeting. The document was approved and changes suggested at the congregational meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2021. This meeting was also available virtually to include all members.

- The meeting was well attended which indicates the whole congregation is invested in finding a new minister.
- Everyone contributed to and provided different views of the wording through the discussion to create a cohesive message that best represents our congregation.
- Everyone is optimistic for our future as a living and thriving congregation in the NALC.

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 found as a church that our values and beliefs were more aligned with that of the NALC. In

2017, we voted (almost unanimously and well over 90%) to leave the ELCA and to join the NALC. We have since continued our journey to find a pastor who aligns with the NALC core values and mission.

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?

The relationship between the congregation and our last pastor was at times struggling, and at times 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

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: \$ 114,605

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 2200

Other benevolence: \$ 2400 (Food Pantry)

Total debt of the congregation: \$ -----

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 216,321.48

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: \$ 41,000.00 Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ 22,709.42
Social security offset: \$ 3,136.00 Pension: \$ 4,413.65
Health Insurance: \$ 1,291.00 (previous pastor's was covered by wife's job) Vacation:
4 weeks/Sundays
Continuing education (time/funding): 1,500.00
Travel reimbursement: 56 cents/mile
Other: Break down of Parsonage/housing allowance:
Home Equity Allowance: \$3,759.27 Utilities: \$ 3,000.00
Pension: \$ 4,413.65 Cell Phone: \$ 1,200.00
Social Security/Medicare: \$ 3,136.50
Parsonage: \$ 7,200.00

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.

Our church is a multi-generational congregation with members from age 1 to over 90 years of age and is a closely knit farming community looking for a spiritual leader. We are located in Northeast Kansas within an hour of an international airport. Our church is anchored in our local community, currently with an active youth ministry and local missions, and we are always looking for opportunities to serve with forward vision. We are excited to continue our spiritual path with the NALC.

More information can be found at :
https://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranEverestKS/?ref=page_internal

Video Submission:
<https://youtu.be/RrRWOPTS94w>

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

Our journey to the NALC began several years ago when a research committee was formed that compared our values and beliefs with those of the ELCA. In 2017, our congregation then decided it was best to leave the ELCA and start a new journey with the NALC, in which our values and beliefs were much more aligned. We are continuing our journey to find a pastor who aligns with the NALC core values and mission.

Completed by: Zion Lutheran Church Call Committee Date: 4/22/2021

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.