

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 First English Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mailing address 516 N. Main St

City Victoria State/Province TX Zip/Postal Code 77901

Telephone (361)575-3623 Fax (361)575-8877

Email address

Congregation website felcvictoria.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 Marilyn Hamilton Title Council President

Mailing address 271 Tower Rd.

City Goliad State/Province TX Zip/Postal Code 77963

Home phone (361)645-2013 Cell phone (361)550-7544

Email address marilynhamilton271@gmail.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Dru Swoboda

Mailing address 1680 Old Port Lavaca Rd

City Victoria State/Province TX Zip/Postal Code 77905

Home phone Cell phone (361)652-4869

Email address Dru.Swoboda@imperialdade.com

Congregational Demographics

Number of paid staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals 2
Secretarial 1

Average worship attendance Pre COVID 201
Average Sunday school attendance Pre COVID 18

COVID 97
COVID 5

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 with rural surroundings

Population of 61,268

Farming

Industrial

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Predominantly Caucasian.

Age 0-20 47 members

Age 21-49 77 members

Age 50-80 205 members

Age 80+ 68 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.

- To teach the love of God based on the Bible
- To serve God and all people in our community
- To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by following the lessons and guidance of the Bible

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

- Grow our congregation and youth program by bringing people to Christ
- Provide more outreach to our shut in members and the community
- Continue to be Christ centered and mission driven

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

Two Sunday worship services weekly (8:00 am and 10:30 am) that include hymns, liturgy and Holy Communion.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

Pastor led adult Sunday school class, Youth director led youth Sunday school class

FELC houses a Christian based school

Church congregation has different circles / groups / Bible studies that meet on their own schedules.

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

Heritage Day, Angel Tree at Christmas, participate in drives for Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry, Food Bank of the Golden Crescent, Quilting group

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

- Application of the Bible to today's time
- Sociable / people skills
- Actively involved
- Pray from the heart
- Provide spiritual enrichment

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.

- In the early 1900's, many families no longer spoke German in their homes, English becoming the preferred language. The only Lutheran church in town was the German Trinity Lutheran Church. The pastor, Rev. Karl Weiss, refused to offer services in English. When asked why, he replied, "**Weil, Gott Deutsch ist.**" Families met in homes, reading scripture and praying. Most sought the ministry of the local Presbyterian pastor to baptize souls and to bury the dead. Where upon about 13 families formed FELC, first meeting in a funeral parlor and a movie theater. A small white frame church was built on the present property in the area of Kovar Plaza. A two story parsonage was moved from Indianola and located next door. The congregation flourished with the Rev. J. C. Felger as pastor. In 1937, an Assembly Hall was built at

the rear of the original church. The current sanctuary was dedicated in 1952 on the location of the parsonage. A library and church offices were included. The original church was sold and dismantled. The usable material went into the construction of a Missionary Baptist church on the south side of town. Pastor Felger retired in 1954 after 34 years as our minister. The Assembly Hall was named Felger Hall in memory of Pastor Felger and his son Clarence who was our organist for many years. In 1962, the Educational Building was dedicated containing a Library, classrooms and church offices. In 1995, the Activity Center and Kovar Plaza were completed. The church offices were moved across the street to a building purchased by the congregation and remodeled by the volunteer "gray haired construction crew". The congregation had wanted to purchase the remaining vacant property on that block. It became available several years ago and was acquired. Last month the final payment was made on the remainder of that block, known as the Elder Property. All debt required by these projects was retired well in advance of note maturity.

- In 2002, Pastor Bill Hassel envisioned a fall festival and suggested it be called "Heritage Day." It consists of a meal, live and silent auctions, a Country Store. Barbecue plates are offered for dine in, delivery or take out at a cost of around \$10. First responders receive complimentary plates. The food is prepared onsite by volunteers. It is known in the community as the best church barbeque in town! Receipts are divided five ways. Four charitable agencies selected by the HD committee each receive one-fifth and FELC retains a fifth to be distributed for benevolent purposes during the succeeding year. All funds are disbursed prior to the next HD festival. Approximately \$676,000 has been raised and distributed since the inaugural event. All work is volunteer other than the auctioneer and security. The congregation underwrites all expenses allowing 100% of money raised to be given away.
- Beginning in 2010, many in the congregation became aware that the core Biblical beliefs and values of our congregation didn't align with the ELCA whereas the mission of the NALC and LCMC were more in line with the beliefs of our congregation. We had called a young ELCA pastor who promised to lead us thru the process of determining our future course while maintaining a neutral position. Unfortunately, we became much divided when he failed to remain neutral. We were not successful in securing the two-thirds majority required by the ELCA constitution, narrowly missing that benchmark on each ballot. After much prayer and consideration, we became separated from the ELCA by their denouncement when we joined the NALC and LCMC and hired an NALC rostered pastor. He is retiring April 4. While this decreased our membership by almost 50%, we have continued to prosper. The roll figure above includes many inactive members.

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?

- Provided direction
- Received congregational response
- Solidified what we were looking for as a congregation

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?

As mentioned in the historical events and as any congregations do, conflicts can arise from time to time at different levels with different ways to resolve them. There is not a current conflict throughout the congregation at this time.

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)..... 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. However, they always seem to work out quickly.

What was the nature of the relationship between your last pastor and the congregation? Positive? Struggling? Cooperative? Tense?

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 (The Senior Pastor has this responsibility)

Congregational finances

Total budget for last fiscal year: \$ 460,105.00

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 7,200 + \$1,500 TO NALC South Mission District

Other benevolence: \$ 32,300.00

Total debt of the congregation: \$ Zero

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 386,900.00

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: \$72,134.00 / year (based on tenure/experience) Parsonage/housing allowance: \$24,000 / year

Social security offset: \$ Pension: \$7,072.00

Health Insurance: \$21,500.00 (includes spouse) Vacation: 2 weeks after 1 year, 3 weeks after 3 years, 4 weeks after 5 years

Continuing education (time/funding): negotiable

Travel reimbursement: \$1,000.00 (gas receipts turned in), possible auto allowance

Other: \$4,480.00 / year for dental, vision, short term disability

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.

FELC is a church that is deeply rooted in traditional Lutheran doctrine and spreading the Word of the Bible with all people in the community. Giving back to the community by fundraising and using our time and talent; our church congregation works together to live out our church mission. In looking for the next pastor for FELC, the congregation has come together and verified the relationship with Christ that we desire and would like to share to those in our community. We are in need of growth and someone to guide our congregation in the right path. Our first step in growth was hiring a Youth Director in 2020 and our next one will be by finding a Senior Pastor to join our congregation family.

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.

All of the above events and answers have been dedicated to the Glory of God in the effort of a successful ministry for all and to win souls for Christ! PRAY THAT IT CONTINUES!

Completed by: First English Lutheran Call Committee

Date: 3/23/2021

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).

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