

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 Hope Lutheran Church

Mailing address 5362 Nicholson Hill Road

City Hubbard Lake State/Province MI Zip/Postal Code 49747-9509

Telephone (989)727-3206 Fax (989)727-3343

Email address hopeluth@gmail.com

Congregation website hopehubbardlake.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 Edwin Degen Title President

Mailing address 14610 Hawkins Road

City Hubbard Lake State/Province MI Zip/Postal Code 49747

Home phone (989)727-2864 Cell phone (989)590-7043

Email address degenead@yahoo.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Ken Habermehl

Mailing address 6855 Marwede Road

City Alpena State/Province MI Zip/Postal Code 49707

Home phone (989)727-9954 Cell phone (989)916-7504

Email address kenhabermehl@gmail.com

Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 2019 = 118 Average Sunday school attendance 6-8 pre-COVID
 2020 = 65 (COVID)

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

Hope Lutheran Church Is nestled between two beautiful lakes and 3 thriving communities. The church is located in a rural farming area. However, six minutes to the south, lies charming Hubbard Lake (pop. 900) with its many year-round lake attractions. Ten minutes to the east, congregants enjoy Lake Huron and the many attractions of the small community of Ossineke (pop. 900). Fifteen minutes to the north, is the bustling lakeside city of Alpena (pop. 9,900) offering many industrial, commercial, and recreational opportunities.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Hope Lutheran Church is composed of primarily German heritage congregants with a cross section of other heritages and nationalities. We are an eclectic group of worshipers with diverse economic backgrounds comprised of farmers, small business owners, professionals, summer visitors, and retirees.

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.

Mission Statement: Hope Lutheran Church is a family of believers who receives the sacraments and shares the Word of God. This family responds to others by witnessing through Christian love. Like a family, we grow through our openness to change and through sharing our joys and our sorrows.

As a family, we are working towards growing our church. We feel a sense of renewal and a drive to come together to implement new and exciting changes. Our leaders acknowledge the need for expanding services for all members of our church family. Members continue to step forward to help and lead the way towards this goal.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

The primary goal of Hope Lutheran Church Is to worship the triune God and act as witnesses to His holy Word. We serve others through faith and love.

More tangible goals include increasing youth and senior programs and updating technology to increase membership and worship opportunities.

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

Hope Lutheran Church currently offers one traditional service at 10:00 am using the green LBW and blue WOV. Seasonal vestments and organ music is a part of every service. Traditionally, communion is held on the first and third Sundays of each month. Choir members provide additional music during the winter months. Hope also has many talented musicians offering violin, guitar, piano accompaniments, and vocal renditions on select Sundays and holidays. Many of our members are working towards and prayerfully considering how to incorporate a contemporary service.

Describe your congregation’s Christian education ministry.

Youth education has taken many forms to encourage and promote Christian education. Sunday School, children’s sermons, Children’s Church, Vacation Bible School, weekly confirmation classes and a youth group all support our children in spiritual growth. Pastoral led bible studies and book studies were available for all members and we look for those to resume.

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

Hope Lutheran offers community dinners multiple times a year including a special Thanksgiving dinner for those who are alone or needy. Community musical events are also offered several times a year. Revenue for our outreach programs is garnered through harvest dinners, soup luncheons, bazaars and quilt raffles.

We work through both local outreach and global mission programs/projects to spread the holy Word of God. Local outreach includes supporting and volunteering for the local food pantry and school backpack food program. Donations are given to local fire departments to support smoke alarm distributions. Crisis items such as blankets, personal care items and monies have been set aside for those in need as well. Global mission outreach programs include supporting clean water wells in Malawi, Uganda Education, Lutheran World Relief, homes in Kenya, NALC Theological Education Fund and the NALC Women.

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 hope for in its next Pastor

1. Biblically based and effective sermons that relate to today’s events or issues
2. Team Player/Facilitator—someone who works for consensus and unity
3. Connects with youth
4. Bible Studies

5. Cross-cultural—a pastor that can relate and interact with different age groups using the word of God to transcend cultural differences.

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. Merger of Trinity Lutheran Church and Salem Lutheran Church to form Hope Lutheran Church in 1978

The merger of Trinity and Salem united two congregations, each located in their own small neighborhoods, into what is now Hope Lutheran Church. This was a big decision for both churches but afforded us the opportunity to come together as a more diverse congregation.

2. The addition to Hope Lutheran Church completed in spring of 2007

The large addition of a fellowship hall, kitchen, bathrooms with showers, and classrooms was a huge undertaking for our congregation. Fortunately, we were blessed with contractors and service professionals who donated time and money to the effort. The fellowship hall is used for congregational meetings, wedding/baby showers, holiday dinners, funeral luncheons, vacation bible school, youth group activities, family game nights and volleyball.

3. Separating from the ELCA and joining the NALC in 2010

The decision to leave the ELCA and join the NALC was a difficult choice for our parishioners. Disagreement and hurt feelings existed after the final decision was made and some members left the church. However, new members joined due to the change in affiliation. Although leaving members did not return to Hope, old wounds were mended, and new community ties were forged in working together for the good of the community.

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. Understanding that God is in charge
2. Remaining in constant prayer
3. The call process is not a "hire or fire" concept but a covenantal process not unlike a marriage

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?

Recent minor conflicts within the church were resolved with the prospect of a new pastor. Those who have stepped away are once again returning to share their gifts and talents.

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?

Personality conflicts arose at times with communication coming to an end and parishioners stepping away from the source of conflict but not from the church. However, we also had positive interactions with our previous pastor in his ability to offer bible study opportunities and children’s sermons that were engaging for our youth.

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: \$ 186,159 (General Fund)

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 3,000

Other benevolence: \$ 2,860

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 346,313.15

Compensation of Last Pastor budget for 12 months (actual for his 11 months Jan 2020-Nov 2020)

Salary: \$ 42,000 (\$38,500) _____ Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ 12,000 (\$11,000) _____

Social security offset: \$ 2,985 (\$2,736) _____ Pension: \$ 5,000 (\$4,583) _____

Health Insurance: \$ 17,000 (\$14,439) _____ Vacation: 4 weeks including 4 Sundays _____

Continuing education (time/funding): \$1,200 (\$1,260) _____

Travel reimbursement: \$4,200 (\$2,433) _____

Other: Since all expenses were run through Hope Lutheran Church payroll, \$3,411 was budgeted for the church portion of Social Security. (Actual for 11 mo--\$3,155)

Out-of-Pocket medical reimbursement budget: \$1,000 (Pastor submitted \$0)

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.

Hope Lutheran Church strives to reach out to the community about the wonderful gift God has given us through Jesus Christ. We work at discipleship and outreach to encourage younger families to join our church and worship.

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.

<https://youtu.be/KhtTI-xpifU>

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

Alpena County offers a wide range of opportunities for spiritual renewal, recreational activities and educational experiences. Lakes, rivers, national forests and groomed trails provide serenity as well as recreational interests such as hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, trail riding, hiking, swimming, canoeing and myriad of other winter and summer activities. A splash park, hockey rink and convention center also add to the many experiences available. Alpena Public Schools is a Michigan Class A school system with an elementary school located in the heart of Ossineke. Other educational opportunities found in the community include Alpena Community College, NEMCSA Head Start programs and the National Marine Sanctuary.

Completed by: Hope Lutheran Church Call Committee

Date: 05-02-2021

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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