

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 Freemount Lutheran Church

Mailing address 2511 8th Ave

City Lindsborg State/Province KS Zip/Postal Code 67456

Telephone 785-227-3154 Fax

Email address freemountnalc1869@gmail.com

Congregation website freemountlutheranchurch.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 Logan Spohn Title President

Mailing address 2229 12th Ave

City Lindsborg State/Province KS Zip/Postal Code 67456

Home phone Cell phone 785-906-0317

Email address lspohn@eprod.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Logan Spohn

Mailing address

City State/Province Zip/Postal Code

Home phone Cell phone

Email address

Congregational Demographics

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy - 1 (P/T) Lay professionals - 1 (P/T Organist)
Secretarial - 1 (Volunteer)

Average worship attendance 35 Average Sunday school attendance 12

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

Freemount is a rural church located in central Kansas. It is in close proximity to two smaller towns, Lindsborg and Marquette. These two towns are mostly bedroom communities to two larger towns, Salina and McPherson, where most employment opportunities exist.

The community itself is agriculture based with a diversity of crops and livestock. Wheat, corn, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers and hay are the primary crops. There is also a large livestock industry in the area.

Marquette is the smallest of local communities and includes a main street with grocery store, sundries, tavern, brewery and a bank. A motorcycle museum is the largest local attraction for visitors to the community. A farmer's cooperative is located here where local farmers deliver grain and purchase farm supplies. Marquette has three churches, Lutheran (ELCA), Methodist and Evangelical Free.

Lindsborg contains the local elementary and secondary education buildings along with Bethany College (affiliated with the ELCA). The liberal arts college has an enrollment of approximately 900 students. There is a diverse array of shops and stores in town. Lindsborg is well known for its Swedish heritage and promotes it in the retail shops downtown. Lindsborg is also known for its arts and crafts and music traditions. A long tradition of presenting Handel's Messiah and Bach's Passion occurs during Holy Week each year. Lindsborg has at least eight different churches: two Lutheran (ELCA), two Baptist, Methodist, Covenant, Catholic, and non-denominational.

Both Lindsborg and Marquette offer retirement facilities, Bethany Village and Riverview Estates.

McPherson and Salina are larger communities with multiple colleges, large regional health facilities and retail outlets. Manufacturing along with oil and gas facilities provide

many jobs in the McPherson area. Due to the economic viability of the region unemployment rates are low.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Primarily Scandinavian with Western Europe heritage, Freemount was founded by Swedish immigrants and their traditions still exist in the church service and settings. The church is predominately older (50+) but there are some younger families in attendance.

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.

As a congregation we feel that teaching and living God's word as outlined in the Bible is the best ministry we can offer our communities. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are sent to share the Good News of salvation and to serve those in physical or spiritual need.

Let us serve and sacrifice for the glory of God by;

- Preaching the Word of God
- Inspiring a love of Christ in all
- Teaching others about our Lutheran faith
- Honoring His name in what we say and do
- Studying the Bible and its scriptures
- Being active in the community
- Actively pursuing our goals.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

To continue to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and present a place of worship in accordance with his Holy Word. To walk in the community we live in and show our Christian faith as God has revealed to us through the printed word of the Bible. To share and evangelize the wonders of God's true love and grace.

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

We have a weekly service on Sunday morning where we use the Lutheran Book of Worship setting one for the liturgy. Hymns are chosen by the worship and music committee from the Lutheran Book of Worship, With One Voice and the Red Hymn Book. Vestments are changed according to the church year along with banners in the front of the church. An organ is used for music and liturgy and communion is shared at least twice a month. Children sermons are presented on a rotation with members of the congregation and the pastor.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

We provide Sunday school on Sunday mornings for all ages. Currently there are two classes: a high school/adult class and a nursery class. Weekly Bible study is held discussing various topics.

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

Operation Christmas Child, Christmas Eve soup supper, Memorial Day Dinner, Fall Ice Cream Social, Periodic Food Bank Collections, Summer Evangelical Picnic, Community Lenten Services.

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

- A leader grounded in the scriptures and uses the scriptures for counsel, discernment and direction for sharing the Gospel.
- Teacher/coach to develop this congregation into an evangelistic ministry to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- A humble yet dynamic/enthusiastic leader who can motivate the congregation.
- 4. Strongly held convictions.
- Youth interaction/ pastoral care visits.

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.

Leaving the ELCA and joining the NALC (2011)

Celebrating our 150th anniversary (2019)

Faith to rebuild after a fire destroyed the church (1926)

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?

- Unified responses
- 2. Excitement for the future with lots of fresh ideas
- 3. Willingness to participate

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?

The COVID epidemic has caused some conflict within the church as it resumed in-person worship in March of 2020. Many area churches have shuttered premises and have not held services or have gone to a virtual service with little or no congregational participation. We adopted social distancing suggestions and offered protective face coverings and disinfectant products to maintain personal safety. The church to date has not returned to pre-pandemic attendance numbers. Some members have not yet returned.

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?**

We had a fair congregation/pastor relationship, there was some growth within the congregation in our faith and devotion to Biblical understandings. The pastor was biblically sound but not a dynamic preacher. He was personally difficult to get to know and very introverted. This created an atmosphere of apathy.

While we may have wanted more in pastoral involvement in such things as our weekly Bible Study (the pastor did not participate), there was growth with some members who yearned for more by studying on their own. The pastor was loved and respected by most members of the congregation but the relationship was strained at times.

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: \$ 87,641
Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$2,850
Other benevolence: \$5,452
Total debt of the congregation: \$0
Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$218,458

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: \$ 26,685 Parsonage/housing allowance: \$14,000
Social security offset: \$ Pension: \$
Health Insurance: \$ Vacation:
Continuing education (time/funding): \$2,100
Travel reimbursement: \$2,000
Other: Pastor was part-time

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 looking for a friendly, compassionate pastor, well-grounded in the Bible and of good moral character, who can skillfully lead us in conducting our ministry and in carrying out our mission of reaching the unsaved with the Gospel.

Our ministry to the community, we believe, is best accomplished by teaching and living out God's Word. Hence, a future pastor should be able to help church members grow deeper in their faith and stronger in their Christian walk by effectively using scripture to teach, preach, and counsel.

We look forward to working under the shepherding of a new pastor to develop a church community that meets the needs of a broad range of people, and worships God in spirit and truth. Our anticipation is that our membership will grow as we encourage absent members to return and invite unchurched people to join us.

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.

[enter text]

Completed by: Freemount Lutheran Call Committee

Date: 4/26/2021

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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