

# 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](mailto:dwendel@thenalc.org).  
Keep a copy for your records.**

## Congregation Name and Location

Name Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Mailing address 2300 East 15th. Street  
City Casper State/Province Wyoming Zip/Postal Code 82609  
Telephone (307)-234-6475 Fax (307)-232-9417  
Email address [pop@casperpoplc.org](mailto:pop@casperpoplc.org)  
Congregation website [www.princeofpeacecasper.org](http://www.princeofpeacecasper.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 Ian Alvstad Title Congregational President  
Mailing address 4520 E. 18th St.  
City Casper State/Province Wyoming Zip/Postal Code 82609  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (307) 258-6606  
Email address ialvstad@hotmail.com

## Call Committee Chair

Name Jerry Hansen  
Mailing address 2129 Mandan Trail  
City Bar Nunn State/Province Wyoming Zip/Postal Code 82601  
Home phone (307) 251-6037 Cell phone (307) 251-6037  
Email address Jerry.Hansen@nov.com

## Congregational Demographics

Number of Paid Staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals 1 Secretarial 1  
Pre-School Staff 6

Average Worship Attendance: Pre-Covid 120 2021 Attendance: 91 average

Average Sunday School Attendance: 28 (pre-K through 12th grade)

Average Teen Bible Study (monthly): 12

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

Casper, Wyoming, a city of 59,000 people, is a sprawling small city at the base of Casper Mountain which has something for everyone. Casper is rich in the arts with several theater groups, the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra, concerts, festivals, and museums. The Ford Wyoming Center (Casper Events Center), with a seating capacity of 10,000, is another major attraction that offers many entertainment opportunities and state sporting events.

Casper is also a wonderful place for indoor and outdoor sports. Casper has four widely used golf courses for golfers of all ages and skill levels. The North Platte River offers floating, rafting, kayaking and some of the west's best blue-ribbon fly-fishing. Lakes are just a short distance away for boating, swimming, fishing, and camping. Winter skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing are enjoyed on Casper Mountain.

[www.visitCasper.com](http://www.visitCasper.com)  
[www.CasperWY.gov](http://www.CasperWY.gov)  
[www.CasperWyoming.Info](http://www.CasperWyoming.Info)

**Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.**

Our ethnic composition reflects our community demographics. All are welcome.

Age distribution of the congregation is as follows:

Age Range	Active	2021
0-20	49	21%
21-35	33	14%
36-50	38	17%
51-65	52	23%
66+	58	25%
	230	100%

**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.**

Prince of Peace is a family of believers in God, called by the gospel of Jesus Christ to welcome, nurture and equip each other for worship, witness and loving service to God and all people.

**What are the primary goals of your congregation?**

- Increase attendance and membership of young families
- Expand and equip congregants for Lay Ministry, specifically shut-ins
- Guide and teach how to experience the Holy Spirit
- Strengthen our understanding of the Gospel through Apologetics
- Expand fellowship opportunities

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

We have one family-friendly service, which includes children, and starts at 9:00 am with Sunday School from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Communion is celebrated every Sunday. On months with a 5th Sunday, we have a healing service with communion. We enjoy a blended traditional and contemporary service using both hymns and current music. The liturgical style rotates six+ different types of services. A worship team consisting of singers, drums, piano, and other instruments lead the music during the service. We use traditional bulletins and projection screens during services. The pastor and/or member of the congregation leads a children's lesson each Sunday. We have one large Christmas Eve service, one large Easter service, and Wednesday Evening Advent and Lenten Services.

**Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.**

- Preschool
- Youth Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School
- Youth - Monthly Bible Study, Mission Trip, Camp
- Women's Bible Study
- Adult Sunday School
- Annual Camping Trip, Mountain Service, and Cookout

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

- Prince of Peace Preschool
- The MOB (Mission Outreach Board)
- Food for Thought (Local Food Outreach)
- Comfort Food (Food for congregation members in need of short-term meal assistance following illness, death in the family, birth of a child, etc.)
- Rescue Mission Serving
- Youth Mission Trip
- Baby Bottle Boomerang
- Parish Health News
- Operation Christmas Child
- Angel Tree
- Vision Beyond Borders

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

Our Church has a strong Mission focus, locally, regionally, national, and internationally. Ask us for details, we love to talk about it!

**List the *Top Five Things* your congregation hopes for in its next Pastor**

- Biblically based contemporary sermons that explain and guide the congregation in understanding and relating the wisdom of the Bible to family life and challenges of the present world
- Enjoys working, teaching, and inspiring the youth and preschool level young people of the congregation
- Compassionate and attentive with members and shut-ins who need support, care, and/or love or has the ability to equip congregational members to serve in this capacity
- Exhibits warmth and sincerity to all
- Mission-driven, appreciates and supports the need for growth and outreach to the community and the un-churched

**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.**

- 1969 Established Preschool
- 2009 Traded facilities with The First Assembly of God of Casper
- 2012 Completed a 3-year process of leaving the ELCA and began our affiliation with the NALC

**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. The importance of **Christ Centered**, biblically based leadership from our pastor as well as ourselves.
2. Be **Intentional** in our relationship with Christ, with others, with our mission, our words, our actions, and our time.
3. Cultivate **Relationships**, not only with our future pastor but also each other.

**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 most significant conflict within our church occurred when our church disassociated with the ELCA, a portion of our membership left our church.

**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 try to 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?**

Our congregation had a very positive and cooperative relationship with our previous pastor, who retired after serving our congregation for 17 years.

**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

Our Pastor is a guiding and voting member of the church council.

**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: \$ 326,023.00

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 19,600.00

Other benevolence: \$ 22,400.00

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0.00

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 311,454.36

**Compensation of Last Pastor**

Salary: \$ 67,184.00

Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ 20,155.00

Social security offset: \$ 7,235.00

Pension: \$ 20,647.00

Health Insurance: \$ Included in Pension Vacation: 4 Weeks

Continuing education (time/funding): \$1,000.00

Travel reimbursement: \$2,000.00

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.**

Prince of Peace was founded as a mission congregation in May 1960 and held its first worship service in September of that year. By the end of the year, POP had 164 baptized members and an annual budget of approximately \$13,000. The congregation continued to grow and refinanced the building loan in 1976, thereby moving from "mission" status.

During its history, POP has been served by twelve pastors. Our previous Senior Pastor served the congregation for 17 years.

Within the last few years, POP has not only moved into a new, larger building, but has also increased the preschool enrollment, and celebrated its 50-year anniversary.

The current Mission Statement of Prince of Peace:

Prince of Peace is a family of believers in God, called by the gospel of Jesus Christ to welcome, nurture and equip each other for worship, witness and loving service to God and all people.

Prince of Peace is praying for a Senior Pastor to lead and guide our congregation to fulfill Prince of Peace's mission.

**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](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.

We are a family full of joy, fun and love. We enjoy worshiping and being together.

Completed by: Jerry Hansen,

Date: 5/10/21

## 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](mailto: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/](http://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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