

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 St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Mailing address 114 S 5th St
City Oregon State/Province Illinois Zip/Postal Code 61061
Telephone 815-732-2367 Fax _____
Email address splc61061@gmail.com
Congregation website stpaulnalcoregonil.weebly.com
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 Donovan Weigel Title Council President
Mailing address 114 S 5th St
City Oregon State/Province IL Zip/Postal Code 61061
Home phone _____ Cell phone 630-336-3847
Email address dcweigel56@gmailcom

Call Committee Chair

Name Margaret Cowan
Mailing address 1225 Arnold Ave
City Rockford State/Province IL Zip/Postal Code 61108
Home phone _____ Cell phone 309-525-3077
Email address margaret41265@yahoo.com

Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 45-55 after covid Average Sunday school attendance 4-6
65-75 pre covid

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

Oregon, Illinois is a small town of 3500 with a vibrant downtown, K-12 public schools all within 5 miles of Oregon; 35 miles from a mall and shopping district as well as 3 major hospitals in Rockford, IL. Oregon has medical offices and a pharmacy along with a grocery store, several family restaurants as well as fast-food venues. Three state parks provide camping and hiking. The Rock River runs through the town providing fishing, canoeing and kayaking.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

predominately white. Age distribution - 81-90 19; 10-20 17; 71-80 16; 21-30 14; 41-50 13; 51-60 12; under 10 8; 61-70 8; 31-40 5; 91-100 4

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: Loving Christ, Sharing Christ, Trusting Christ

Our vision statement is: To be a supportive family of believers striving to Christ-like to our neighbors.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

We would like to increase our community involvement; hoping that will increase our youth involvement and maybe our membership.

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

We primarily use Setting 1 in LBW and occasionally Service 5 in WOV (and have used others). We have one service which meets on Sunday mornings. We do not have a choir at present; but do have a Howell pipe organ as well as a piano and clavichord. We sing 3 hymns/service and enjoy hymn sings on occasional Sundays when we do not have a pastor. We offer communion every Sunday - pre-covid we had full communion every other Sunday and intinction the other Sundays. We offer mid-week Lenten services, using the Holden Evening Prayer service, and preceded by soup suppers. Since covid we enjoy outdoor services on our lawn, as weather permits. We have been meeting in-person since Mother's Day, 2020.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

Our Sunday School is very small at present - 4-6 children. In the past we have offered Sunday School Christmas programs as well as having the children sing during services occasionally. Our present confirmation class has 4 students who will all be confirmed in 2021. We co-host VBS with several community churches. We offer adult Sunday School and weekly Bible Study.

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

A small, but dedicated, group meet to sew quilts for Disaster Relief and lap robes for two of the local nursing homes. We also donate 20-30 health and school kits each year to NALC Disaster Relief. We participate in Shoe Box Ministry and donate to several local charities at Christmas time. We give 25% of our benevolence to a different local organization each month. We participate in Honey Sales for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. We have an endowment fund that annually disburses money to our high school graduates/college students as well as global and local charities. Our church also supplies a meeting space for AA organizations.

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

1. Christ Centered/Spiritual Leader - leads worship well and make the Bible come alive
2. Strong Communication Skills - extrovert, self-starter
3. Leadership/Character - approachable, good listener
4. Personal Outreach - equip laity for ministry, delegator, recruiting skills
5. Administrative skills - visits w/everyone, not just shut-ins, involved with community, good w/kids

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 1998 we had a special hymn commissioned for our church's 150th anniversary.
2010 when the congregation voted to leave the ELCA and in 2012 to join the NALC.
In 2023 we will celebrate our 175th anniversary.

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. Good involvement and conversation
2. Good/honest discussion about past and future pastors

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?

Several years ago we looked into purchasing a neighboring church building due to our location. We had several meetings and tours of the building. We voted and resolved to stay where we are. Recently, the discussion to hire a full or part-time pastor. We again had several informational, Q & A meetings, followed by a vote.

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?

Struggling, tense, unapproachable, introvert, used "boxed" or "canned" sermons

How did your council/congregational leaders work together with your last pastor? [Type an X by the appropriate response]

- 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)]

x Voice x Vote

Congregational finances

Total budget for last fiscal year: \$151,954

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$1,403

Other benevolence: \$2,038

Total debt of the congregation: \$0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$134,751

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: \$70,495 Parsonage/housing allowance: \$0
Social security offset: \$0 Pension: \$10%
Health Insurance: \$0 Vacation: 4 weeks
Continuing education (time/funding): \$500
Travel reimbursement: \$2,250
Other: Disability/Life \$1,072 Other reimbursable expenses: \$700

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.

St Paul is a small church (attendance 65-70 pre-Covid in a beautiful small town surrounded by three state parks, a river and an abundance of nature's natural beauty. In 2023 we will celebrate our 175th anniversary. We hope to call a full time pastor but are open to considering part-time to allow us to interview all who hear God's call. We currently have one service on Sunday morning, commune every Sunday and use setting one in the LBW. We also have soup supers and Wednesday evening services during Lent, using the Holden Evening Prayer Service. St Paul's benevolence is split between the NALC, Rockford Rescue Mission and a different local recipient each month. We also donate 30 plus quilts/year and 60 health/school kits to NALC Disaster Relief as well as participate in the Shoebox Ministry and make lap robes for local nursing homes. We are anxious to fill our pulpit with a pastor who will fill our hearts with God's love so we will want to share that love with others.

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.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwBogMPNsWY&t=8s>

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

[enter text]

Completed by: St Paul Lutheran Church Call Committee Date: May 23, 2021

Margaret Cowan, Chairperson; Sandy Strohecker, Secretary

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.