

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 Christ Lutheran Church
Mailing address 25816 North Tournament Road
City Santa Clarita State/Province CA Zip/Postal Code 91355
Telephone (661)259-0200 Fax (661) 259-9202
Email address call@clcscv.org
Congregation website clcscv.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 Heidi Metlen Title Council President
Mailing address 28310 Stansfield Lane
City Santa Clarita State/Province CA Zip/Postal Code 91350
Home phone _____ Cell phone (661) 210-8490
Email address metlenkids@yahoo.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Don Vulich
Mailing address 24644 Varese Court
City Valencia State/Province CA Zip/Postal Code 91355
Home phone _____ Cell phone (818) 261-2393
Email address lapfcavulich@gmail.com

Congregational Demographics

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals 9 Secretarial 1

Average worship attendance 250 (post-Covid) Average Sunday school attendance 35 children (post-Covid)

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

Santa Clarita is a growing, middle-class suburb (population 210,000) of Los Angeles. It is filled with excellent schools and many family-friendly amenities. It is within an hour's drive of the beach as well as the mountains, which creates many opportunities for an active, outdoor lifestyle. Santa Clarita is consistently ranked as one of America's safest cities and one of California's best places to raise a family.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Christ Lutheran is a predominantly Caucasian congregation, which is largely reflective of the community that immediately surrounds us. There is a sizable Hispanic population in Santa Clarita, but that is not reflected in our congregation's demographics. Our overall membership tends to skew older, but there is a growing number of young families who are vibrant in the faith and dedicated to the church.

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.

Below is our vision for the next five years of mission and ministry:

Meaningful Worship: Our worship life will be rooted in the wisdom of the past and, at the same time, relevant to life today. We will leave on Sunday with a growing understanding of the faith, a greater confidence in Christ, and a desire to return the following week to worship, learn, and grow. Our online *Sunday Sermon* will be a compelling first step toward full participation in the life and ministry of CLC. We will grow to 500 people per week in worship by 2026.

Genuine Community: We will provide a genuine sense of community in which every person is known by name. Toward that end, we will be intentional about cultivating friendships marked by openness, authenticity, and love. By 2026, at least 200 people will be regularly participating in a *Sunday Circle* that meets monthly in local homes.

Formative Prayer: We will equip and encourage every member to have a deep, meaningful prayer life that is centered on God's Word and sustained by spiritual practices. Study, solitude, and Sabbath will be built-into the rhythm of our lives. By 2026, at least 200 people will be regularly participating in a short-term (2 to 3 month) *Covenant Group* that meets weekly.

Generous Living: We will pour ourselves into impacting the community around us. There are 200,000 people within 20 minutes of Christ Lutheran Church. By 2026, we will give \$200,000 toward making a noticeable impact in peoples' lives. Moreover, we will be intentional about the call to "invest and invite" – that is, we will be a people who *invest* in the lives of others and *invite* them into growing union with Christ.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

1. **Grow deeper:** We are surrounded by megachurches with a “fast-food” approach to discipleship that tends to taste good at first, but doesn’t create a healthy, strong culture of discipleship. In contradistinction, it is our aim to be a “slow-food” church that serves up the rich fare of the church’s ancient wisdom and practices (e.g. spiritual disciplines, liturgical practices, a rich retreat life).
2. **Grow younger:** Our target mission field is young families and young adults with minimal to no biblical understanding. We are committed to shaping our ministries in order to be helpful and compelling to this growing number of people in our community.
3. **Be multigenerational:** It is our aim to provide a “baptism to burial” approach to ministry that contains particular “milestones” and objectives at every age and stage of life.

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

Our worship practice at both services (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) is thoroughly liturgical, though not always according to the settings offered in the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW). It is our long-term goal (we’re not there yet!) to transcend the traditional vs. contemporary divide, instead providing worship that is both (a) rooted in ancient hymns/practices/wisdom and (b) relevant to peoples’ lives today.

Describe your congregation’s Christian education ministry.

Children’s Sunday School is offered at both services (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) and has an average attendance of 35 children (30 at 10:00 and 5 at 8:30). Confirmation Ministry is 7th through 8th grade and has an average of 8 Confirmands per class. High School Ministry (“Impact”) meets weekly on Tuesdays with an average of 15 teens post-Covid. Our Wednesday Night Ministries for all ages tends to see 40-50 adults meeting in small-groups, along with 25-30 children gathering for age-appropriate instruction.

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

We regularly send mission teams to national and international communities, including an annual trip to Egypt to serve in partnership with pastor Fawzi Khalil at his congregation Kasr el Dohara. Our high school ministry has a longstanding partnership in the gospel with House of Joy and Pastor J.R. serving the people of the Navajo Nation in Black Mesa, Arizona. The annual high school trip to the Navajo Nation has been a fruitful relationship for both sides.

We annually dedicate 10% of our budget (a total of approximately \$100,000) to the cause of the gospel outside of CLC. This includes local ministries for the poor as well as nationwide and global ministries aimed at transforming both hearts and communities.

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 Associate Pastor

1. Someone who is an excellent preacher and teacher
2. Someone whose gifts and temperament will complement those of our Lead Pastor

3. Someone who is “outsider focused” (that is, his/her ministry is not saddled with “church-speak” but instead communicates the gospel in a way that non and new believers can understand)
4. Someone who knows his/her gifts and has a deep sense of calling in relation thereto
5. Someone who is humble, hungry, and smart

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. Construction of the new sanctuary in 2004: This marked a peak in Christ Lutheran’s growth that has yet to be surpassed. Churches throughout Santa Clarita boomed in the early 2000s, but most (including Christ Lutheran) have either plateaued or declined since then.
2. Departure from the ELCA in 2009: This was a defining moment for Christ Lutheran and, while it led to the immediate departure of multiple households, it positioned the congregation for faithfulness and fruitfulness that would have been lost otherwise.
3. Retirement of Pastor Joe and arrival of Pastor Garrett in 2020: In the midst of a pandemic, no less! Pastor Joe led Christ Lutheran for over 20 years and shaped its culture in palpable ways. Pastor Garrett arrived in less-than-ideal conditions, but with a long-term commitment to building a ministry that is effective and fruitful.

Has your congregation participated in the Congregational Workshop Preparatory to the Call Process? [Type an X by the appropriate response]

Yes No (as an LCMC congregation, we’ve conducted a congregational survey and will report the most significant results below)

What were the three most significant results of the workshop?

1. The congregation’s primary desire is for an excellent communicator of the gospel
2. The congregation sees the need for an Associate Pastor with gifts that are complementary to those of our Lead Pastor
3. The congregation has a desire to reach new/next generation people

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?

There was significant conflict in the departure from the ELCA in 2009, but that has long since been resolved with no lingering animosities or resentments.

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).....

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.

Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) in Santa Clarita, California is a vibrant, midsize congregation in a growing, family-oriented suburb of Los Angeles. We are prayerfully seeking an Associate Pastor who loves the Word of God, enjoys the people of His church, and can flourish in a team-based ministry.

The person we seek will be an excellent preacher and teacher with the ability to communicate the gospel into a post-Christian milieu. He/she will be adept at connecting with non- and new-members, guiding them into greater engagement with the church and growing union with Christ. The right candidate will be hungry to see the growth of God's people, dedicated to continual learning and improvement, and eager to be a key part of our Lead Pastor's team.

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: Don Vulich & The Christ Lutheran Call Team

Date: July 8, 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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