

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 Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

Mailing address PO Box 579 Physical Address: 3180 West Main St.

City Claremont State/Province N.C. Zip/Postal Code 28610

Telephone 828-459-7195 Fax 828-459-7109

Email address mtcalvarylutheran@att.net

Congregation website _____

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 Paulette Houston Title President

Mailing address 806 Davie Ave.

City Statesville State/Province N.C. Zip/Postal Code 28677

Home phone _____ Cell phone 828-455-0537

Email address houston_paulette@rocketmail.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Tracy Peek

Mailing address 3180 W. Main St.

City Claremont, State/Province NC Zip/Postal Code 28613

Home phone _____ Cell phone 828-291-3588

Email address peek4@hotmail.com

Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 85 (Pre-Covid) Average Sunday school attendance 30

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

small town part of Hickory metro area in Catawba County

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

White with a couple non-white.

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.

Not at this time. The last two years have been focused on major building problems and fixes. Since we entered the call process we have been intentional and constant in conversations about where God is leading us and what our gifts and passions are. Up to this point we are focused on the "least of these."

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

youth/intergenerational activities on a regular basis
leadership development - leading good meetings, training people to back up every leader,
serving the community through the backpack program

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

LBW first setting, hymns from LBW and occasionally WOV, pastors wear vestments, the church owns a set of chasubles, church has a choir that sings almost every week, communion is first Sunday of every month plus festivals and some commemorative Sundays. We appreciate a pastor who does not read his/her sermons.

Sunday night Lenten services, sometimes pastor's rotate with other NALC congregations.

We participate in the community World Day of Prayer service, community Thanksgiving Eve Service.

We do weekly children's sermons by lay people and pastor.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

Normally three adult classes. One uses Augsburg material. One is Bible study using material the teacher finds from different sources. One shares concerns from current events and church families and then discusses different topics chosen by the teacher. Confirmation is taught during Sunday school by the pastor. One child's class with kids age three to fourth grade, material chosen to coincide with Sunday scriptures.

VBS is combined with a few churches in the community.

Lenten children's activities during Sunday night services.

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

At Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry we sort food items, stock shelves and fill orders, we sort clothing also. We donate money and food to the Backpack (weekend food for school kids) through Corner Table. We collect items for the NALC Disaster Response and have packed items at the warehouse. We have a lady who makes prayer shawls which go to hospice, cancer patients, and home bound members.

We donate to these ministries:

Carolina's Mission District \$2500.00
Claremont Elementary School Backpack Program \$1430.00
Habitat for Humanity \$100.00
New Covenant Lutheran Mission \$500.00
Saint Martin's Lutheran Mission \$500.00
Catawba County Children's Advocacy \$555.00 plus clothing and other Items needed.
Claremont Rescue Squad \$35.00

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. Person of Integrity
2. Gift of teaching all ages, explaining the scriptures clearly so we become better equipped disciples.
3. Visit sick and homebound once a month and give communion.
4. Personable/participates in many of the church activities and groups
5. Be available to church members/ return calls and texts sooner than later/ office hours

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.

100th anniversary in 2002- that we survived that long and continue to have a solid ministry in our community.
Leaving the ELCA and joining the NALC
2001 and 2007 - During controversial times about pastoral issues with two pastors, one after the other, several people left. For those who stayed we learned that we were here for the long haul because it was then that we pulled together and paid the bills, grieved over the loss of many members and friends, and looked to the future God had for us.

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

Yes No

We sent questionnaires to the congregation which included the questions from the workshop. We held a cottage meeting two Sundays for in-person discussion of these four questions: How do the people of Mt. Calvary deal with tension and conflict in the congregation. What is your understanding of Christian vocation and "Calling a pastor vs. Hiring a pastor." What about Mt. Calvary would be attractive to a pastor or make him/her hesitant to accept a call? What are our strengths and weaknesses? How do we choose (qualifications), train, develop, and keep our leaders healthy?

What were the three most significant results of the workshop?

1. People came together for serious open, honest discussion about who we are and our mission. We are unclear about the focus of our mission at this time. This has caused us to get serious about conversations focused on where our passion is and where God is calling us
2. Identifying past issues, weaknesses, especially as regards leadership development.
3. Defining a direction for the future and our relationship with the pastor.

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?

Our last pastor left February 2020. Near the end of his stay we realized expectations were unclear concerning some things we assumed the pastor would naturally do. As we discussed these in an attempt to clarify, we realized that we could not come to a compromise. The resolution was that the pastor resigned.

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?

Tense.

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.

Claremont, N.C. (Part of The Hickory, Catawba County Metro Area.)
Average Worship Attendance - 85 - Sunday School - 30 (Pre-Covid)
Mt. Calvary has consistent youth and mission causes with community focus, yet we are not clear at this time in defining what our main goals should be when moving forward.

The Church Council has recognized that our mission statement needs to be changed as we work towards defining our focus with a stronger emphasis on "The Great Commission". We are seeking a Pastor with a love for teaching scripture to help influence and motivate our congregation to grow with a renewed purpose, to help us define that purpose, and to help us become more effective in bringing people to Christ.

The response and feedback from the congregational workshop / cottage meetings, and questionnaires have identified weakness in areas of leadership involvement. Both the committee and the congregation recognize that we need a stronger congregational willingness to serve. In order to encourage more of our people to step up and lead we are planning a training seminar to offer a greater understanding of leadership duties, purpose and function. We would like our new pastor to help strengthen and encourage us in these areas.

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: Tracy Peek (Church Call Committee Chairperson)

Date: 05/21/2021