

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 Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mailing address 369 Broad Street

City Montoursville State/Province PA Zip/Postal Code 17754

Telephone 570.368.8933 Fax _____

Email address pastorbethanynalc@gmail.com

Congregation website www.bethanynalc.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 Larry Barnard Title Council President

Mailing address 5981 East Route 0973 City: Cogan Station State/Province PA Zip/Postal Code 17728

Home phone 570.435.5408 Cell phone _____

Email address leb5981@gmail.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Hayley Potter

Mailing address 2960 Cochran Avenue

City Duboisstown State/Province PA Zip/Postal Code 17702

Home phone NA Cell phone 570.494.3581

Email address hrhian20@gmail.com

Congregational Demographics

Number of paid staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals 0 Secretarial: 2 PT

Average worship attendance 87** Average Sunday school attendance 21**

These numbers are 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.).

Small town

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Asian/Pacific- 1; Other-2; White-579

Age 0-19: 6%; Age 20-34: 25%; Age 50-65: 21%; Age 65+: 34%

Male: 39% Female: 61%

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.

We do not currently have a clear vision, however are continuing to work on it and are seeking assistance in developing one.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

- Grow our bible study and spiritual growth of the congregation.
- Find ways to reach out to the unchurched people in the greater Williamsport area
- Focus the congregation's energy to encourage involvement amongst one another; create a family atmosphere

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

We primarily use the Lutheran Book of Worship, with organ and often piano accompaniment with traditional LBW and WOV hymns. Vestments vary depending on pastor's preference, and we provide weekly Holy Communion. We often invite congregation to present special musical anthems and are rebuilding both our vocal and hand-bell choirs after COVID.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

Our Christian education ministry is led by members of the congregation. We currently offer adult and youth (nursery-confirmation) Sunday school classes. We also offer a summer Sunday school. Our confirmation classes consist of 3 years; the first two years, teachings are led by congregation members, the third and final year is led by the minister. We also have a yearly vacation bible school for children of the church and community. We also have Tuesday night bible studies.

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

Currently our congregation supports our community by donating supplies to the Montoursville Area School District backpack program that provides weekend meals for students. We also host several dinners throughout the year that are open to the community; most notably our annual chicken n biscuit dinner. We also open our doors for the American Red Cross Blood Mobile, the local Narcotics Anonymous group, and community members in need of community service. We offer missionary support in the form of monetary donations. We also host an annual lawn party for the community.

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. Pastoral care and hospital/homebound visitation-someone who will revitalize and mentor congregation members to perform hospital/homebound visitations
2. Family ministry- development of family ministry
3. Worship flexibility
4. Biblical application to everyday life
5. Encourage shared leadership within the congregation

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. Flight 800- happened in 1996, it was a community tragedy
2. Joining the NALC- happened in 2015, allowed congregation to move in the direction we were being spiritually moved
3. Start of the church- 1830, shows long history in the community and years of service.

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. Strong congregational participation
2. Cooperative and forthcoming involvement
3. Good exchange of ideas

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?

Ongoing discussion of the current and future worship schedule; whether to have 1 or 2 services and the times of services.

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?

Positive

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: \$230,572 expenses; \$198,285 income _____

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$10,804 _____

Other benevolence: \$4,630 _____

Total debt of the congregation: \$0 _____

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$869,615 _____

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: \$40,995	Parsonage/housing allowance: \$17,500
Social security offset: \$4,766	Pension: \$10,470
Health Insurance: \$14,500	Vacation: 24 Days
Continuing education (time/funding): 10 days	
Travel reimbursement: \$3,800	
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.

We at Bethany are looking forward to working with a new minister to improve our community outreach. Bethany is a spiritually strong congregation with generous financial outreach. We have been blessed with strong congregational support. We continue to pray and follow God's guidance throughout this process.

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.

We have a history of longer pastorates and stable community. We offer a good school system, and we are close to major transportation routes both north/south and east/west. Our airport has scheduled service via American Eagle (Piedmont) to Philadelphia. Cost of living is reasonable, and there are many cultural and recreational opportunities in the area. The congregation is highly invested in serving the community, working with other churches in the area. Many members have participated in the Bethel Bible Studies, and we have a strong adult Sunday School.

Completed by: Hayley Potter

Date: October 19, 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).

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS.