

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. John Prairie Hill
Mailing address 6605 Old Independence Road
City Brenham State/Province Texas Zip/Postal Code 77833
Telephone 979-836-8666 Fax NA
Email address prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com
Congregation website www.stjohnprairiehill.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 Jon Westerfeld Title Council President
Mailing address PO Box 2263
City Brenham State/Province Texas Zip/Postal Code 77833
Home phone NA Cell phone 979-277-2471
Email address jandarroofing@yahoo.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Judy Grote
Mailing address 1508 South Church
City Brenham State/Province Texas Zip/Postal Code 77833
Home phone NA Cell phone 979-277-4658
Email address judygrote@sbcglobal.net

Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 90 current/ 120 Pre-Covid Average Sunday school attendance 15

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

Rural Small Town-we have excellent schools both public and private. It is also home to Blinn College, a two-year college, with both educational and vocational classes. Quality medical clinics and a hospital serving the needs of the people of Washington and surrounding counties. Recreational activities includes museums, beautiful parks, local festivals, Lake Somerville, plays, concerts, cinema, athletic events, restaurants and plenty of antique shops. Brenham is situated halfway between Houston and Austin and 40 minutes from College Station, home of Texas A&M University. To view more information about our community you can google "VisitBrenhamTexas.com"

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

225 Caucasian	10 Latino/Hispanic	2 Multinational	1 Middle Eastern	
20% (19 & younger)	20% (20-34)	15% (35-49)	20% (50-65)	25% (Over 65)

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.

A family of faith gathering around Word and Sacrament, forming disciples and proclaiming the Gospel to the World. Our life together is centered around God's Word which is proclaimed in sermon, song, liturgy, and sacraments.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

Our goal is to provide opportunities for all members of the Church, both young and old, to deepen our faith through Christian education programs for all ages. In Confirmation classes and Bible Studies, we will explore our Lutheran heritage, and grow our congregational population through the Scripture and all aspects of the life of discipleship. We seek to reach out beyond our walls ministering to our community.

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

We follow the liturgy and hymns from 2 books of worship: Lutheran Book of Worship, published 1979 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship, published 2007. Our hymns are selected from the more traditional songs. Our accompanist provides music on our organ and piano. We utilize 2 large screens that project our worship service, along with a traditional printed version. Communion is practiced at each service. Vestments were not normally worn by the Pastor at the 8:00 service. Our second service was more formal - we have a white robe and traditional stoles to follow the colors of our paraments.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

In house ministry includes, children's Sunday School, adult bible classes, 1st Communion class, Confirmation classes, numerous active women's circles, and Men in Mission. Men in Mission provide scholarships to graduating seniors within the congregation. We also have members who visit our shut ins and send greeting cards to our members 80 years and older. Our quilting ladies make quilts/layettes for new babies baptized within our church. Each summer Vacation Bible School is provided for our youth.

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

Our current outreach includes: Quilting group who send many quilts to Lutheran World Relief, Good Neighbor Sunday (where we reach out to the community and ask them to join us for church service and a meal), and the Prairie Hill Food Pantry for distribution of food to those in need. Each month we have a special offering envelope designated to certain causes/groups. For 2022 the following groups will benefit from our special offering: NALC Disaster Response, Bread Partners, Habitat for Humanity, Lutherhill, Food Pantry, Great Commission Fund of NALC, Game Changers, Cemetery Fund, Good Samaritan (Pastor's Discretionary Fund), Casa for Kids, World Hunger, and Men In Mission Scholarship.

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. Bible-based sermons to help grow our Faith
2. Stability
3. A Leader to facilitate and encourage our programs and volunteers
4. To support outreach in all aspects of the church for not only our congregation but for our community
5. Encourage and support the growth of Youth Programs and the visitation of our shut ins

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.

1912 - Fire destroyed the church and the congregation came together to rebuild the church
2014-2021 very unstable time with our Pastoral leadership. Instability of the ELCA to assist with finding qualified candidates to meet the needs of our congregation. Voting to leave the ELCA and join NALC with the hope of moving our church forward with Bible based worship
2020-2021 Adjusting our services during Covid to meet the needs of our Congregation. From on-line services, drive-thru service, parking lot service, following protocols and having socially distance service and finally returning to somewhat of a new normal.

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. Prayer should be foremost in the process. Our committee is sharing the opportunity to lead each of our meetings in prayer
2. The meeting taught us how to navigate the process for calling a Pastor, what is required, the do's and

don'ts

3. Members came together to discuss what our congregation needs in our new Pastor. We also discussed the strengths and weaknesses of our congregation

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 instability and conflict with the direction and support of the administration of the ELCA. This conflict had been ongoing until recently when the congregation voted to leave the ELCA.

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, Strained

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: \$ 244,709

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 12,000 budgeted for 2022 (Not a member In 2021)

Other benevolence: \$ 11,500

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0.00

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 1,477,730 _____

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: \$ 47,222 _____	Parsonage/housing allowance: \$3,300 plus parsonage _____
Social security offset: \$ 5,161 _____	Pension: \$ 4,722 _____
Health Insurance: \$ 10,000 _____	Vacation: 28 days plus 4 Sundays _____
Continuing education (time/funding): \$2,000 plus 2 weeks _____	
Travel reimbursement: \$2,000 _____	
Other: \$1,000 _____	

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 have the workforce (people) behind projects, strong laity and generous donors for needs as they arise. We have an openness for the Spirit of God to work within us. We have found through experience that obstacles are merely challenges which the congregation recognizes and meets as they occur

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: Judy Grote

Date: September 24, 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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