

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 Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mailing address 2086 Parkview Avenue

City Abington State/Province PA Zip/Postal Code 19001

Telephone 215-659-2642 Fax _____

Email address secretary@holytrinity.net

Congregation website www.holytrinity.net

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 John Minges Title Church Council President

Mailing address 380 Concourse Blvd

City Dresher State/Province PA Zip/Postal Code 19025

Home phone _____ Cell phone 215-850-0604

Email address jmi4967604@aol.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Suzanne Brown

Mailing address 300 Valley Rd

City Merion Station State/Province PA Zip/Postal Code 19066

Home phone _____ Cell phone 330-256-0862

Email address momstaxisvc@gmail.com

Congregational Demographics

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): 1 Full-Time Clergy; 1 Full-Time Director of Music; 1 Full-Time Secretary; 2 Part-Time Nursery Staff

Pre-COVID Average weekly worship attendance: 140-150

Pre-COVID Average Sunday school attendance: 40

Average weekly worship attendance: 80-90

Average household online worship: 30

Average Sunday school attendance: 25

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

Holy Trinity is situated in Abington Township, a suburban community of more than 55,000 residents, approximately 15 miles from center city Philadelphia. It runs the gamut socio-economically and offers a diversity of people ethnically, racially, and religiously. What sets Abington apart are the bonds that have been built over the past 25 years among its major organizations, with the Abington Police Department and the Abington School District leading the way under the umbrella of the Abington Community Taskforce (ACT.) ACT facilitates a strong network of community leaders from 30 organizations that also include the local NAACP; Abington Hospital, a level one trauma center in the Jefferson Health System; houses of worship; and social service agencies who focus in whole or in part on the wellbeing of children and teens. Clergy have a seat at this table. ACT was responsible for this community being named multiple times as one of Colin Powell's America's Promise top 100 communities in the United States. Abington has also been named one of the top 100 places to live in America multiple times by *Money Magazine*.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Predominantly Caucasian. Our membership skews older with a large number of retirees and parents of grown children and a few young families. Geographically, our congregation is comprised of members of Abington Township and a variety of communities.

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 current mission statement is:

"Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation of people of God, bound together in love, for the purpose of glorifying God in worship and in fulfilling His will through spreading the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ to all humankind."

It became apparent from the congregational workshops that our congregants do not have a clear knowledge of our current mission statement.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

- Remain traditionally grounded.
- Grow in number and diversity.
- Build community internally.
- Serve community locally and globally – (currently Bread of Heaven Food Pantry, Operation Christmas Child, Sarnelli House in Kensington, missionary support, etc.).

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

We hold weekly worship services at 5 pm on Saturday and 9 am on Sunday. Both services follow rotating settings from the Lutheran liturgy, and all serving on the altar wear vestments. The entire service, including hymns, is printed in the weekly bulletin that each person receives. We receive Holy Communion at both services weekly.

Sunday services feature a robust music ministry including a regular chancel choir, recurring bell choir, and occasional guest brass and string musicians. The congregation sings traditional hymns with pipe organ accompaniment.

Saturday services typically have spoken liturgy but occasionally include more contemporary Christian music. Praise singers led music each week at this service until about a decade ago. Some of the singers have continued to provide music at this service sporadically.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

We have a long, strong tradition of Christian education with Sunday school classes for nursery children through adults, although attendance in children's Sunday school has dwindled in recent years. We often have two adult classes. Our confirmation classes meet during Sunday school. In the summer months, an adult class meets for 5-10 weeks. Virus aside, we would usually offer to our church and the community a week-long Vacation Bible School in early August. During our previous full-time pastorate, we had multiple weekly Bible studies/topical classes. We are also used to a special study in Lent.

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

Holy Trinity is a highly generous church, supporting everything that is asked of members.

- Run our Bread of Heaven food pantry year-round for county residents in need.
- Outreach through established Roman Catholic mission in economically-challenged and drug-ridden Kensington Philadelphia (provide clothes and keep clothing room organized, make sandwiches for homeless, serve meals, put on summer special events.)
- Collect needed items for Philadelphia's Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission to the city's homeless, Freedom Steps outreach to service people overseas, and nearby Cradle of Hope homes for single mothers and their infants.
- Fill shoeboxes (since 2006) for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child; became a receiving church in 2020 for shoeboxes from area churches and individuals.
- Recently began a partnership with Christ's Home for children from traumatic backgrounds. Collecting much-needed items three times a year.
- Organize American Red Cross community blood drives three times a year.
- Coordinate and run an annual community 5K to raise money for the Christian organization Water Mission.
- Take an annual offering for Bibles for China provided through Asia Harvest.
- Support missionaries Didi & Seraphina Panzo serving in the DRC (Congo).

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 congregation hopes for in its next Pastor

1. Knowledge of/faithfulness to the Word
2. Ability to preach and teach
3. Inspire new ideas for evangelism and outreach
4. Good communicator/people skills
5. Compassionate/Empathetic

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.

- Leaving the ELCA and joining the NALC in 2010-11.
- Changing worship times/going to one service in 2012.
- Celebrating congregational milestones: change of pastors 1987, 50th & 75th anniversaries in 1980 & 2005.

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?

- How we came together to make workshops happen during COVID.
- People affirming what they value about Holy Trinity and their desire to see growth.
- People speaking honestly about past hurts and problems.

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 word “conflict” might bring to mind a divisive contest among factions within the congregation. We have not recently had conflict of that sort, but the COVID pandemic naturally created challenges. It brought about differing views related to conducting in-person worship and meetings. Council set protocols and expanded ministries to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the congregation. Among other things, in-person worship was deemed as requiring the wearing of masks during worship and alternating pew occupancy. Online recorded and streaming services were offered to those uncomfortable with in-person worship. Although this addresses different needs, the ongoing pandemic requires continued prayer for our church to navigate this challenge as brothers and sisters in Christ.

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?

Our congregation feels blessed to have had our pastors’ leadership and solid biblical teaching for 33 years. They were well regarded and well liked, and the congregation highly valued their scholarship. They did have strong convictions, so when those clashed with others’ opinions, there was conflict. Our pastors received a warm and loving send-off which happened in a creative way during COVID.

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: \$ 451,573

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 25,000

Other benevolence: \$ 121,771 (this includes distributions from Mission Commitment Fund and Outreach)

Fund

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0 _____

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 1,636,551 _____

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: \$123,828/2 pastors = \$61,914 (one pastor) _____ Parsonage/housing allowance: \$13,500 (one pastor) _____

Social security offset: \$ N/A _____ Pension: \$8,800 (one pastor) _____

Health Insurance: \$12,814.50 (one pastor)* _____ Vacation: 5 weeks _____

Continuing education (time/funding): \$600 (one pastor) _____

Travel reimbursement: \$3,300 (one pastor) _____

Other: _____

*Note: The health insurance amount includes Medical, Dental, Vision, Short-term and Long-term Disability, and Critical Illness

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.

As a congregation, we regard ourselves as family. We rally to support one another in all our trials and joys, and we step up to meet needs as different members lead in mission and outreach projects. We strive to put Jesus first in all we say and do (human failings aside) as we relish being students of the Bible and Theology. We highly value and participate in our wonderful music program.

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: Call Committee Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Date: January 7, 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
2299 Palmer Dr., Suite 220
New Brighton, MN 55112-2202

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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