

# CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



## **Congregation Name and Location**

Name: Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mailing address: PO Box 186

City: Little Mountain State: South Carolina Zip: 29075

Telephone: 803-345-2841 Website: [www.holytlc.org](http://www.holytlc.org)

Seeking: Full-time pastor

Call will be for: Solo pastor

Current denominational affiliation: NALC

Current NALC Mission District: Carolinas

## **Congregational President or Vice President**

Name: Kevin Shealy Title: Council President

Mailing Address: 762 New Hope Rd Pomaria SC 29126

Cell Phone: 803-924-3671

## **Call Committee Chair**

Name: Carter Lake

Mailing address: 820 Whippoorwill Rd Prosperity SC 29176

Cell Phone: 803-360-5762 Email Address: [carter.lake.w308@statefarm.com](mailto:carter.lake.w308@statefarm.com)

## **Congregational Demographics**

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy: 1 FT Lay professionals 3 Secretarial 1 FT

Average worship attendance: 130 Average Sunday school attendance 40

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

Little Mountain is a small town in a rural setting. There is some farming in the area, with a small industrial base. It is situated on the northern end of the South Carolina Midlands approximately 30 minutes from Columbia.

**Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.**

Average age is 46. 99% Caucasian.

**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 Vision Team was formed and completing its work when Covid struck. The Values Statement is as follows:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is a traditional congregation which believes God's Holy Word as revealed through the Scriptures. Following Christ's example, we seek to share the Scriptures as we worship, teach, and serve in fellowship and love.

Council is currently studying "Simple Church" by Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger seeking to simplify how we reach the world around us and beyond.

**What are the primary goals of your congregation?**

Preaching, teaching, and serving in Christ's name. Our main goal always is to grow in our walk with Christ. We want to find a compatible pastor who shares our view that our children are our future. We want to make disciples of Christ rather than names on a membership roll.

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

Ours is a traditional liturgy from the green Lutheran Book of Worship. Traditional hymns are mixed with newer songs from With One Voice. Communion is served the first Sunday of the month and on special days (Transfiguration, Christ the King, etc). Pastors have traditionally worn an Alb & Cincture with varying stoles. Colors follow the church seasonal calendar, but the previous pastor had other hand-made stoles that may not reflect the season (ex.-one with congregational children's handprints, names, & ages).

**Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.**

Sunday School, Day Camp, Bible Studies, Confirmation, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class, New Members Class, Marriage Counseling, Baptism Counseling. We are seeking new and fresh ideas to increase participation in Christian Education, including re-thinking the traditional Sunday School approach.

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

On-site Preschool; Trunk or Treat; Easter Egg Hunt; Vacation Bible School; Lutheran Men on Mission; Ladies Circles; Happy Mountaineers (seniors/retired); Teens for Christ; Prayer Shawl/Quilting ministry; Angel Tree, Backpack Blessings, and Good News Club with local school; Blood Drives; Water Mission support; Community Meal; Disaster Relief; Designated Emergency Shelter; Float in the Little Mountain Reunion parade; Sponsor of Joy Mission congregation

**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

  X   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. Spirit-filled; Spirit-led
2. Visible member of the community
3. Youth & children are a priority
4. Flexible & adaptive
5. Focused on the 4 Core Values of the NALC

**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.**

- Death of Pastor Brett Collins – 2021. Pastor Collins had us pointed in the way of following the Spirit. He challenged us to think and to grow our faith. His health issues never caused his faith to waiver and his tragic accident shocked us into action to fill his shoes.
- Joining the NALC – 2012. As with many congregations, this was a defining event in our history as Lutherans. The remaining members drew strength from each other and the support received.
- Construction of the Trinity Life Center – 2008. Despite divided opinions, the new fellowship hall was built and paid off early, allowing us a prime facility for all sorts of church and community events. Seating capacity is approximately 300 with a commercial-type kitchen.

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

  X   Yes                             No

**What were the three most significant results of the workshop?**

1. A clearer understanding of process considerations
2. Validated the anticipated characteristics of the next pastor
3. A greater sense of congregational unity

**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?**

- ELCA – NALC change. There was a great deal of tension in the congregation, centering on the newness and uncertainty of the NALC. There was overwhelming support for separating from the ELCA, but division on where to go. Some members were lost, the remaining members have come to understand and appreciate the NALC and the support it has offered.
- TLC construction. There was concern over the timing and financing, ultimately passing by 1 vote. Since it has been finished, we have come to see it as a wonderful ministry tool and a necessary addition to our facilities.

**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]**

  X   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?**

Overwhelmingly positive. You never left Pastor Collins feeling unloved or not valued as a person. He kept us on our toes with his wit and self-confidence. He was always the biggest kid around.

**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)]**

X Voice

X Vote

**Congregational finances**

Total Budget for last Fiscal Year: \$293,666

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$18,000

Other Benevolence: \$22,000

Total Debt of the Congregation: \$0

Total Savings, Reserves, and Endowments: \$214,000

**Compensation of Last Pastor**

Salary: \$51,392 Parsonage/housing allowance: \$3000 housing equity

Social Security Offset: \$11,428 Pension: \$11,252

Health Insurance: \$17,192 Vacation: 4 weeks

Continuing education time/funding: \$1,250 Travel reimbursement: \$4,500

Other: Church has a parsonage previous pastors have utilized

**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.**

At Holy Trinity, we are big on family! At the head of our family is, and must always be, the Lord Jesus Christ. He left us the Holy Spirit and the Word of God as guides, and we seek to let these rule in our church life. Our youth and children are vital to us, and they must be to our next pastor as well. We seek someone grounded in the traditions of Lutheran worship, but open to the leading of the Spirit. We are looking for a pastor who will be involved in the community, its joys and its sorrows, for better or for worse. Ours is a close-knit group but a welcoming family.