

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 Christ Lutheran Church

Mailing address 32300 Schoenherr Rd

City Warren State/Province Michigan Zip/Postal Code 48088

Telephone (586) 293-0700 Fax _____

Email address churchoffice.tammy@comcast.net

Congregation website www.christlutheranchurchwarren.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 Cheryl Gothro Title Council President

Mailing address 23311 Courtland Ave.

City Eastpointe State/Province Mi. Zip/Postal Code 48021

Home phone 586-779-3759 Cell phone 586-212-5586

Email address clprg@wowway.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Mark Woy

Mailing address 37364 Pocahontas Drive

City Clinton Township State/Province Mi. Zip/Postal Code 48043

Home phone 586-329-1683 Cell phone 586-413-5020

Email address mawandpaw90@gmail.com

Congregational Demographics

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals 1 Secretarial 2
(Music director)

Average worship attendance 2020 142 service / streaming Average Sunday school attendance 7
2021 133 2019 pre-covid 163

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

Christ Lutheran is located in the northern part of the city of Warren, Macomb County, Michigan and borders Sterling Heights, and Fraser. Warren is the third largest city in the state with Sterling Heights close behind. We are located in a highly-populated suburban area of middle to upper middle-class families. Population in those three cities is 279,000 people. There is a mix of cultural backgrounds, the population is primarily Caucasian. Average median family income is \$63,000 per year and the average median age is 39.4 years for Warren, 40.6 years for Sterling Heights, and 42.9 years for Fraser.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Christ Lutheran Church is composed of a mixed congregation with a variety of nationalities. It is primarily Caucasian. The average age of the congregation is above 60 years with the majority of people retired. There are also younger families and members in their 30's, 40's, and 50's.

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 **vision** statement is "Connecting Christ and the community to renew the world." We welcome God's children who walk through our doors. We glorify God through the sacraments, celebrate His word in the liturgy, and praise Him through song and prayer. God calls us to carry His message to the World. We respond to the needs of our congregation and community by offering a variety of outreach activities. Prayer is the cornerstone in nourishing our relationship with God-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We value God's desires for the spiritual, psychological, emotional, and physical well-being of all His children.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

Our primary goals as a congregation are to worship God, to serve our community with faith and love, to grow and increase membership, to upgrade our use of technology, and to increase our community outreach efforts to interest new people to become followers of Christ.

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

We have a traditional service at 9:00am and a contemporary service at 11:00am with corresponding music. We also offer special services: Lent, Advent, festival and holiday services. Musically, we use (at the traditional service) organ and piano accompaniment with adult vocal and hand bell choirs. The contemporary service also uses organ / piano music, as well as two praise bands using various instruments and contemporary music. We also use the LBW Hymnal and occasional guest accompanists at all services. Communion is offered weekly at alternating services. We use liturgy from the LBW Hymnal at both services with slight modifications to the contemporary service. Robes and vestments are worn by Pastor at traditional services and some contemporary services. The choir also occasionally wears robes.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

We grow in our spiritual education through adult sermons and children's sermons, adult Bible studies on Sunday and Wednesday, catechism, Sunday school and vacation Bible school for youth.

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

We support various worldwide and local ministries through benevolent contributions approved by the church council. We, as a church body, provide food pantry, holiday food baskets, trunk or treat, shoebox ministry, homebound visitations with communion, and many miscellaneous programs introduced by members and sponsored by committees for outreach.

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. Scripture driven / Bible based preacher.
2. Inspirational teacher.
3. Possessing religious integrity.
4. Exhibiting relationship skills with all age groups.
5. Promoting a vision for growth.

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) The retirement of Pastor Neihaus (1960-1994). He was the founding pastor of Christ Lutheran Church and served for over thirty years.
- 2) We noted a significant increase in membership during the early 1970's. This prompted a significant expansion of the facility (including a new, larger worship area) and an increase in ministries.
- 3) Joining LCMC and NALC promoted the continuation of a scriptural-based ministry.

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

Yes

No

Several members of the congregation had participated in a workshop at Christ Lutheran to facilitate the call process.

What were the three most significant results of the workshop?

1. Educate members regarding the call process
2. Enlisting several members who attended the workshop to be on the call committee
3. Developing a list of desired pastoral attributes

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?

Like all churches, we have not been without conflict. Since we are a strong, loving congregation, we have worked through it. There is only a small portion of the congregation dealing with the lingering effects from a staff conflict in 2018.

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 last pastor guided us for 14 years. He retired in 2021. Our relationship with him was a positive one with support going in both directions between him and the parishioners.

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: \$ 235,757 _____

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 1700 _____

Other benevolence: \$ 14,500 _____

Total debt of the congregation: under \$100,000 _____

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 440,077 _____

Compensation of Last Pastor

- The church will work with candidates to structure their compensation package to maximize their benefit.

Salary: \$ _____ Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ _____

Social security offset: \$ _____ Pension: \$ _____

Health Insurance: \$ _____ Vacation: _____

Continuing education (time/funding): _____

Travel reimbursement: _____

Other: * Total compensation was around \$90,000 including all items listed above.

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.

Christ Lutheran Church, Warren, Michigan

Our vision is "Connecting Christ and the community to renew the world." We respond to the need of our congregation and community. Prayer is the cornerstone in nourishing our relationship with God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We value God's desires for the spiritual, psychological, emotional, and physical well-being for all His children. We support various worldwide and local ministries through benevolence. We, as a church body, provide: food pantry, holiday food baskets, trunk or treat, shoebox ministry, homebound visitation with communion, and many more member sponsored programs. The pastor we seek will be a person guided by the Holy Spirit to take this call. The pastor's sermon should be scripturally driven/Bible-based; he/she should be a preacher who possesses religious integrity and an inspirational teacher. He/she should also possess relationship skills with all age groups and have a vision for growth.

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.

- 1) Christ Lutheran is a friendly, caring, and giving congregation of disciples of Jesus. We focus on our spiritual growth and the growth of others in our community. We are seeking a full-time **permanent** pastor to help guide us through our daily lives in Christ.
- 2) We are looking for a pastor **who has earned a Masters of Divinity from an accredited seminary, and has been ordained. He/she should have the experience of a parish pastor, and be willing and eligible to be dual-rostered with the NALC and LCMC.**
- 3) You can submit your interest and resume by e-mail or postal mail to the congregational president or the call committee chair listed at the beginning of the profile.

Completed by: Mark Woy

Date: 12-16-2021

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.