

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 JOY Lutheran Church (2-point parish with Salem Lutheran Church, Bark River, Michigan)

Mailing address 833 N Lincoln Rd

City Escanaba State/Province MI Zip/Postal Code 49829

Telephone (906) 553-7296. cell: (906) 280-8123 Fax N/A

Email address joylutheranchurch@icloud.com

Congregation website N/A

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 Deborah Wayne Title Council President

Mailing address 833 N. Lincoln Rd

City Escanaba State/Province MI Zip/Postal Code 49829

Home phone (906) 789-7452 Cell phone (906) 789-7452

Email address debw7452@icloud.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Tyler Hanson

Mailing address 5000 E Lane

City Bark River State/Province MI Zip/Postal Code 49807

Home phone (906) 280-7643 Cell phone (906) 280-7643

Email address tahanson13@gmail.com

Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 37 Average Sunday school attendance 14

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

JOY is located in Escanaba, MI (Zip code 49829) population 12,160 per 2019 census data. Escanaba is located in Delta County MI, population 35,784 per 2019 census data

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Do not have specific data but estimated ethnic composition is primarily mix of white European and Scandinavian. Generally, mirrors that shown on 2019 census data.

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 mission statement: *Sharing the Love of Jesus with JOY (Jesus-Others-You)* leads us to be disciples to share God's Love with all those we meet within and outside our worship community.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

Encourage, guide, support all those we meet within and outside our worship community to become aware of/accept/ share God's unconditional love for us all.

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

Our worship practice would be accurately depicted as traditional in form and function however would not be considered a "high church" experience. We utilize the Lutheran Book of Worship (green book) at our one Sunday worship service. Communion is celebrated at each worship service. Vestments are expected. Currently not singing liturgy but plan to do so now that we recently acquired the Hymnal Plus worship music system. Considering the possibility of adding a Saturday service that perhaps would be more contemporary in its style.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

We have a strong Sunday School program lead by two of our members that have many years of faith formation leadership and teaching experience. We currently have 14 youth members attending JOY's Sunday School program. Our pastor teaches our confirmation program with a current enrollment of 7 students. Pastor also leads our weekly bible study group. All the above-mentioned activities are open to not only all congregation members but also to anyone else within our community that would like to participate. We partner with Salem Lutheran Church for vacation bible school activities.

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

We are a new church (first worship April 11, 2021) therefore much of our energy has been focused on various pastoral and administrative formation tasks. In the Summer of 2021, we partnered with Salem Lutheran Church for vacation bible school which was open to all children within our community. In the Fall of 2021, our congregation participated in a community wide program (Mission of Hope) that provides clothing and school supplies to children in our community. Mission outreach will be a major component of our congregational core initiatives. We see that as being driven by our Mission Statement: Sharing the Love of Jesus God with JOY (Jesus-Others-You). Our congregation holds a "coffee" fellowship gathering after each worship service.

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 hope for in its next Pastor

1. Pastor displays a sense of call in their heart.
2. Pastor who embraces being a "shepherd" for our congregation: Guiding, teaching, supporting and fully engaging congregation members.
3. Pastor has prayer and daily devotion as part of their life.
4. Pastor enjoys preaching and teaching.
5. Pastor has a love for people. Able to relate well with the varied mix of personalities within a 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.

JOY is a newly formed church, with its first worship April 11, 2021. By far, the most significant event in our church's brief history are the issues that served as the genesis to JOY's founding members. Most, if not nearly all, of our members were previous members of other ELCA Lutheran congregations in our communities. These members were increasingly troubled by that synod's movement away from the biblical teachings to a more liberal and political belief interpretation of God's Word. More than several of our members tried to call a special congregational meeting at their Lutheran church at that time but were strongly rebuffed by that council's leadership and even by the synod bishop. As a result, a small group of people began to meet informally in the summer of 2020 to discuss the idea of forming a new Lutheran congregation/church. Things progressed to the point in September 2020 when a group of 12 people began meeting on a regular basis to faithfully and prayerfully discuss future plans of what could be. Fast forward to December 20, 2020 when JOY Lutheran Church was formed at our inaugural church meeting.

So, in summary, the movement away from a biblical based understanding of God's Word by many Lutheran synods resulted in the formation of our congregation as a NALC denomination. It important to note that our sister Church, Salem Lutheran Church located in Bark River Michigan, had also discontinued their ELCA association over 11 years ago for much of the same reasons, also choosing to be NALC affiliated.

The other significant events in our congregation's history would include the following:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 4/11/21 | Our <u>first</u> worship service |
| 4/25/21 | Celebration worship Service lead by our NALC District Dean Rev. Craig Nehring, Pastor Stephen Cowen, Pastor Len Gilley, and Lay Minister Cynthia Cowen. |
| 08/13/21 | Completed purchase of our current worship center at: 833 N Lincoln Rd, Escanaba, MI 49829. Started remodeling of the building. |
| 12/24/21 | Held first worship in our newly acquired and remodeled worship center. |

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. We need to be patient and be prayerful.
2. Defined what characteristics we are looking for in a pastor.
3. Sharing each other's strengths.

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?

No existing conflicts within JOY's congregation. Moving forward with a shared pastor with our sister church Salem Lutheran Church, there will be times that we will need to find common ground for what works best for both congregations.

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: General fund: \$21,020; Building fund \$48,990; Bible fund \$312

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ none

Other benevolence: \$250 Mission of Hope (outreach)

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 64,935 (mortgage)

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: fund balances as of 3/20/22: general fund \$5,599; building fund \$1,631; bible fund \$229; memorial fund \$365.

Compensation of Last Pastor- Pastor Stephen Cowen is a retired NALC pastor. Pastor Stephen has served as our interim pastor since JOY Lutheran Church was founded in December, 2020.

Salary: \$ 150 per week- for current interim Pastor Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ Parsonage available
 Social security offset: \$ yes Pension: \$ yes
 Health Insurance: \$ yes Vacation: yes
 Continuing education (time/funding): yes
 Travel reimbursement: Federal Allowance
 Other: _____

(Future compensation package will be based upon a full-time solo pastor providing pastoral leadership/services for our 2-point parish consisting of Salem Lutheran Church (Bark River, MI) and JOY Lutheran Church (Escanaba, MI)

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.

Our two-point parish is looking for a pastor to shepherd both congregations which are located in South-Central Upper Peninsula Michigan. We ask that you prayerfully consider our ministry and explore the possibility of becoming our spiritual shepherd. Our two-point parish is an interesting combination of Salem Lutheran Church, established in 1883 in Bark River, MI and JOY Lutheran Church newly established in December 2020 in Escanaba, MI. We know that our Lord is guiding us through this call process, bringing together our congregations and pastor so that we all grow in our love of Christ. As our ministry grows, others in our community will also know and share His love in fellowship at Salem and JOY Lutheran.

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: 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.

<https://youtu.be/mEPuNVKIFAk>

Provide any other information about your congregation that may be helpful in the call process.

[enter text]

Completed by: Deborah Wayne, Council President-JOY Lutheran Church Date: 04/21/2022

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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