

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



Enter information directly into this document.
**SAVE the document on your computer with your congregation's name,
city, state and date completed as part of the file name.**

**EMAIL COMPLETED PROFILE TO callprocess@thenalc.org
Keep a copy for your records.**

Congregation Name and Location

Name St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Mailing address 1130 St. Peters Road
City Lexington State/Province SC Zip/Postal Code 29072
Telephone 803-359-2470 Fax 803-957-3163
Email address office@stpeterslexsc.org
Congregation website www.stpeterslexsc.org
Seeking Full-time pastor Part-time pastor Either full-time or part-time
Call will be for Solo pastor Senior pastor Associate pastor
Current denominational affiliation: NALC LCMC Other _____
Current NALC Mission District Carolinas

Congregational President or Vice President

Name Debbie Arnold Title Council Vice President
Mailing address P.O. Box 564
City Lexington State/Province SC Zip/Postal Code 29071
Home phone _____ Cell phone 803-319-2922
Email address beachside79@gmail.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Brady "Toby" Porth III
Mailing address 1868 Old Cherokee Road
City Lexington State/Province SC Zip/Postal Code 29072
Home phone _____ Cell phone 843-514-0848

Email address porth@blanchardmachinery.com

Congregational Demographics

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 2 Lay professionals 7 Secretarial 1

Average worship attendance 189 Average Sunday school attendance 76

*Attendance is post-COVID and trending upward.

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

Lexington is a suburb of South Carolina’s capital city, Columbia. We are a former farming community that is rapidly growing yet keeping a small-town feel.

Describe the congregation’s ethnic composition and age distribution.

Primarily Caucasian. Age distribution is 0-95 with a growing young demographic.

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.

To be disciples of Christ who make disciples for Christ.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

Our mission is to enthusiastically and prayerfully make Christ known to our members and to people in the community through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

1. Recognize the need for prayer
2. Nourishment through worship
3. Daily Bible reading
4. Encouragement to serve
5. Respect and concern for caring relationships
6. Support through giving
7. Open communication and straight talk
8. Excellence in growth
9. Clear direction
10. Change readiness
11. Honesty and integrity

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

St. Peter’s utilizes the Lutheran Book of Worship and holds two Sunday morning traditional worship services at 8:30 and 11:00. We also offer Coffee Time between the services prior to Sunday School. Sunday School is offered for all ages at 10:00.

Special worship services are held during Advent, Lent and at other times of the year, including Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve. Holy Communion is offered every Sunday and on all major

festivals.

Music is a very important part of St. Peter's. We have a paid organist and four part-time, paid choir directors who oversee four volunteer choirs plus the handbell choir. Additionally, instrumentalists are incorporated during special services throughout the year. Prior to COVID, a contemporary mid-week service was held on Wednesday nights.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

St. Peter's has an active Sunday School program with seven classes split into age groups from 2 years old to "experienced" adult. There are also several small group Bible studies that meet throughout the week to include women's Bible study, women's book club, and The Chosen Bible study. Currently there are several small groups working through the Navigators 2:7 series. Confirmation Classes and new member classes are offered year-round.

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

St. Peter's hosts an annual Vacation Bible School, Music Camp, Christmas Program, and Christmas Cantata. Our Evangelism committee provides coffee mugs and informational pamphlets to visitors at the end of each service. Our congregation annually participates in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child program. We hold an Easter Egg Hunt, Fall Festival and frequent blood drives for the community as well as serving as a host site for Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). St. Peter's also boasts a strong Boy Scouts of America program.

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. Strong focus on Discipleship
2. Provide leadership in Christian education
3. Invest in building relationships with the congregation to include visitation
4. Preach the Gospel and teach sound theological doctrine
5. Develop and promote Christian family 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.

2012 – Voted to leave ELCA and join NALC by a 94% margin

2014 – Pastor Leon Rawl, Senior Pastor, announced retirement after 21 years at St. Peter’s

2020 – COVID-19 pandemic changed the face of worship (online services, membership)

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. Difference between “hiring” and “calling”
2. Pastor’s job is to equip the saints for ministry
3. There are no perfect pastors and no perfect congregations. But God has in store the perfect pastor for 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?

No significant conflict.

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?

Combination of positive, cooperative and tense.

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: \$603,251

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$35,500

Other benevolence: \$27,905

Total debt of the congregation: \$0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$884,404

Compensation of Last Pastor (annually)

Salary/Housing: \$97,103

Benefits - Pension, Health, Death: \$28,325

Vacation: 6 weeks Continuing education (time/funding): \$2,400

Car Allowance: \$4,800 Cell Phone: \$881

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.

St. Peter's, founded in 1780, is a congregation of disciples committed to living out our faith as Christ has taught us. Like many congregations, we have seen a decline in worship attendance in this post-COVID world but are seeing growth toward pre-COVID numbers. St. Peter's is seeking a Senior Pastor who can lead us as we grow in discipleship, shepherd us in the Word, and grow our youth and family outreach. The Holy Spirit has blessed our congregation in many ways, and we are excited about the opportunity to grow God's kingdom in our community.

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.

[video link]

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

St. Peter's (www.stpeterslexsc.org) has enjoyed a sustained period of growth both in membership and ministries over the past 20 years. Lexington is a vibrant, growing community with many desirable features. Please see the websites for the Lexington Chamber of Commerce (www.lexingtonsc.org) and Capital City Lake Murray Country (www.lakemurraycountry.com) for more details. For information on schools, please visit www.lexington1.net.

Completed by: 

Date: 05/24/22

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

SAVE A COPY OF THIS PROFILE TO YOUR COMPUTER. Use "Save As" and specify document file name as:
State, City, Congregation name, Date

****Email a copy of the completed profile to the NALC Call Process Coordinator, callprocess@thenalc.org**

Alternative submission method ONLY if you do not have email: Print and mail the complete profile to:

North American Lutheran Church
Attn: Pastor Shelly Schultz
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 Pastor Shelly Schultz, NALC Call Process Coordinator, at 715-418-1761 (cell).

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