

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 record**

Congregation Name and Location

Name First Lutheran Church

Mailing address PO Box 188

City Miles City State/Province MT Zip/Postal Code 59301

Telephone 406-234-4161 Fax _____

Email address flc@midrivers.com

Congregation website flcmilescity.com Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/First-Lutheran-Church-Miles-City-Montana-140827955966700/>

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 Lillian Ostendorf Title President

Mailing address _____

City Miles City State/Province MT Zip/Postal Code 59301

Home phone _____ Cell phone 406-853-0502

Email address tlostendorf@rangeweb.net

Call Committee Chair

Name Lea Moore

Mailing address 487 Signal Butte Road

City Miles City State/Province MT Zip/Postal Code 59301

Home phone _____ Cell phone 406-853-0411

Email address leamoore71@gmail.com

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Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 55 Average Sunday school attendance 7

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

Miles City is a rural community in Eastern MT. The city itself has a population of 8,000 people. Custer County is made up of 12,000 citizens.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Our congregation is mostly white (Caucasian) and range in ages from 0-102

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 love what Christ loved;
To proclaim what Christ proclaimed;
To do what Christ would do.*

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

Our goal is to strengthen the congregation and build the family relationships in order to continue the catechesis process, equipping us to walk with Christ in the Great Commission.

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

We currently follow traditionally Lutheran worship practices. As a liturgical congregation, we follow the three-year common lectionary and utilize the 1978 copyright version of the LBW in our worship services. We subscribe to Sola Publishing's SOWer and SEED programs as resources for worship preparation. Our current tradition utilizes vestments and Holy Communion is distributed weekly during our Sunday worship services and taken to homebound members monthly.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

Through our Social Ministry, we set the groundwork for faith formation. Sunday School is provided for ages PreK-6th grade. Confirmation for 7-8th graders on Wed evenings. Youth Group for 7-12th grade currently meeting on Wed evenings. Ongoing adult education includes Bible and book studies.

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

1. *Weekly Live Radio Broadcast: funded by donations since 1955, serving large surrounding area*
2. *Parish Nursing since 1997: volunteers from the congregation provide weekly Blood Pressure checks, health screenings, education, emotional, spiritual, and health guidance for members and families.*
3. *Quilters: one of the oldest ministries. Making and sending quilts to Lutheran World Relief, local women's shelters, baptisms, high school graduates, VA residents.*
4. *Meals on Wheels: members volunteer to serve community homebound elderly.*
5. *BLAST (Bible Learning After School Together): Every Wed after school from 2-4pm 50-60 community children K-6th grade gather at the church for spiritual learning, activities, snacks, and fun. The 4-6th graders walk over to the VA nursing home for service, fun, and games with the veterans.*
6. *Let Me Shine Preschool. Over a 100 3-5 year olds gather 2-3 times each week for a faith-based kindergarten readiness program. It is self-sustaining and operates on a separate budget, while employing 7 part-time teachers and aides.*
7. *Vacation Bible School: held for 5 days in June to provide a fun filled faith-based program for all community youth.*
8. *Support of VA through BLAST, member worship with residents Sunday mornings.*
9. *Holy Rosary Nursing Home: volunteers host BINGO in February and Birthdays in August*
10. *Support local Outreach Clinic with their baby bottle fundraiser and supplies.*
11. *Custer County Food Bank: Our BLAST children deliver the food gathered by the congregational members each November. We consistently are recognized as the largest single donating entity.*
12. *We open our doors for many community events: Community Orchestra, Preschool screening, Police training, Community concerts, local club meetings.*

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. *Biblically Grounded with ability to tie Gospel to everyday life.*
2. *Encouraging and Engaging church members of all ages*
3. *With Energy and Enthusiasm, guide us in growth as we also continue the ministries we do well.*
4. *Youth Involvement*
5. *Appreciate Rural Eastern Montana*

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. *2019, Changing Affiliation to the NALC from ELCA, a revitalization of our congregation*
2. *1993, Creation of Let Me Shine Preschool with 9 students. Now grown to over 100 3-5 year olds.*
3. *1962, Move from original, smaller church to larger, current church. Represented growth and hope for the future*

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 are seeking a pastor, not a savior
2. This is a relational partnership, not a hiring of an employee
3. The congregation is optimistically enthusiastic about what the Lord has planned for us.

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?

Blessed to say no recent or current conflict. Even changing affiliation from ELCA to NALC was a positive experience focusing on opportunity. During this process, we have learned the use of intentional communication to prevent issues from becoming significant conflicts.

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.

(Not recently, but over the course of FLC history)

- 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 and Cooperative. Our pastor retired after serving FLC for 34 years. While we miss his spiritual guidance, we look forward to the opportunities ahead. Change=Opportunity

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 (Role of Vote will be clarified in letter of Call with pastor input)

Congregational finances

Total budget for last fiscal year: \$ 128,000

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 1,000

Other benevolence: \$ 0

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 15,000 FLC Foundation investment, \$29,000 Building Fund

Compensation for the Pastor

\$84,000.00 to be dispersed as Pastor needs _____

When the Congregational Vacancy List is updated, a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) is included announcing each congregation's ministry.

We are excited to welcome a new pastor to First Lutheran Church in Miles City, MT! Our recent affiliation change to the NALC has renewed an energy and enthusiasm within the church. We are eager for a new pastor to become part of our community, someone to guide us on our journey as we continue to grow in Christ, witness to our faith, care for our neighbors, and make disciples.

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](https://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://vimeo.com/720775449>

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

Miles City is an amazing community to be a part of.

<https://mileschamber.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zj072pbNJHQ>

Completed by: Lea Moore

Date: June 1, 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
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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