

# CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



Enter information directly into this document.  
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city and date completed as part of the file name.**

**EMAIL COMPLETED PROFILE TO [dwendel@thenalc.org](mailto:dwendel@thenalc.org).  
Keep a copy for your records.**

## **Congregation Name and Location**

Name: Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mailing address: 525 Main Street

City: Berlin State/Province: PA Zip/Postal Code: 15530

Telephone: (814) 267-5014 Fax: N/A

Email address: officehtlc@gmail.com

Congregation website: www.holytrinityberlin.org and

https://www.facebook.com/FollowingJesusSince1777

Seeking: **Full-time pastor**

Call will be for: **Solo pastor**

## **Congregational President or Vice President**

Name: Barbara Pyle Title: President July 2022

Mailing address: 419 Glen Savage Rd.

City: Fairhope State/Province: PA Zip/Postal Code: 15538

Home phone: Cell phone: (814) 233-7368

Email address: missbarb73@yahoo.com

## **Call Committee Chair**

Name: Larry Shober

Mailing address: 357 Archery Road

City: Berlin State/Province: PA Zip/Postal Code: 15530

Home phone 814-267-4042 Cell phone: (814) 279-0330

Email address: lshober@verizon.net

## **Congregational Demographics**

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy- 1, Lay professionals- 0  
Secretary/Treasurers-3, Other- 1 music director, 2 organists, 2 cleaning personnel,  
2-youth co-directors

Average worship attendance: pre-covid 103, post-covid 72

Average Sunday School attendance: pre-covid 35, post-covid- 29

Like all of the country our church was affected by Covid-19 and our attendance numbers reflect that. As things begin to return to normal we hope our attendance will do the same.

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

We are located in a small town surrounded by a farming community.

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

We are a Caucasian, multi-generational congregation.

**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.**

We are Bible based with a focus on discipleship. We have a good base to build from and together over time and with the right pastor we believe it is where God is leading us.

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

To develop and grow our relationship with Jesus Christ and with one another so we can become a productive force in our mission to spread the gospel and become disciples of Christ.

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

Here at Holy Trinity we have 3 services each week- Saturday evening at 5:30, Sunday morning at 8 AM and Sunday morning at 10:40 AM. We use various liturgies throughout the year and they include LBW setting one, LBW setting 2, and the Liturgy of the spoken word also from the LBW. Settings one and two we have done both with singing and by spoken word. We have used the WOV liturgy by spoken word as well. The pastor currently delivers the sermon, as well as some children's sermons for the services. Volunteers from the congregation also do the children's sermons.

We hold communion twice a month. We have a healing service which includes anointing once a month. We host and participate in various community church services.

We include music in all of the services. We use hymns from the following hymnals, the LBW, WOV, Great Hymns of Faith, as well as from other sources when needed. Our organists/pianists provide a prelude and offertory for the service.

We have a Senior Choir, Youth Choir, Adult Bell Choir, and a small band that can provide a weekly anthem or special music for the 10:40 AM service. When there is enough interest there

is a youth chime group. We also have people and or groups provide special music throughout the whole year, but especially during summer services when the other ensembles are not meeting.

We have members from the congregation who volunteer for various duties during the services such as being lector, worship assistants, ushers, etc. Youth from the congregation are acolytes for the services and occasionally lead services as well. We have an Altar Guild committee who assist with setting up for each service. We have a committee in charge of taking care of the flowers for each service. We have a Worship and Music committee that works together with the pastor to make decisions on what the services will be like. The committee and the Pastor work hand in hand so that the congregation as a whole benefits from each service.

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

Our Christian Education Ministry includes Sunday School for all ages (Nursery-Adult). It is well attended averaging 29 attendees total per Sunday for all classes. We have a Christian Education Committee that works together with the pastor to make decisions regarding Sunday School and youth group activities. We have two youth groups, one for ages up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade and one for grades 7-12. Sometimes we have young adults who have recently graduated also participating in the latter group depending on the activity.

We have a youth room which is a dedicated space for the youth to have classes, relax, and do activities. We have various Bible studies throughout the year. We provide Catechism classes for our youth for Confirmation. The church provided Vacation Bible School with approximately 40 youth in attendance. We have two Youth Co-Leaders who help lead and plan the youth activities. They work with the education committee and the pastor.

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

We as a congregation support these mission projects: In-Tents Church Camp, NALC district, NALC National, Food Pantry, Local Disaster, St. Michaels (small neighboring Lutheran congregation), Meals on Wheels, Veterans Support, Compassion International, Samaritan's Purse, NALC Seminary, and Berlin Ministerium. Quarterly we have a mission focus of a concern of our congregation such as a needy family, local tragedy, or disaster. Other groups within our church have mission projects such as WNALC, youth groups, Quilters Mission Group, and Sunday School classes. Through these groups many Compassion International children are supported, along with District WNALC Disaster Fund, NALC National Disaster Response, Secret Santa, Ronald McDonald House, Cancer Society, Shoebox Project, Project Backpack, Alzheimer's Support Group, sponsor a Boy Scout Troop and other missions as the need arises.

**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 congregation hopes for in its next Pastor**

- A comprehensive loving partner to lead and guide us to become disciples of Christ while preaching the word of God in a church with a foundation of prayer.
- Someone able to channel all age groups and opinions into one forward moving successful mission.
- Someone with the ability to make hard decisions based entirely on the love and salvation demonstrated by Christ, ie: Use the most important commandment and not ego as a guide.
- Someone energetic, never satisfied with the status quo or with the last achievement, but always challenging the congregation to be forward moving in our mission to be disciples of Christ and to do the work of God.
- Someone who will plan to become part of the community, no other approach will work in the small town of Berlin.
- Someone who will have the patience to wait and learn who and what we are, and to develop mutual trust before making changes. (at least one year)
- Someone who will not ignore that evangelism and the great commission call us to reach out beyond our own doors, but will direct the primary focus and efforts of ministry to preaching and teaching the Gospel to and addressing the spiritual needs of the congregation, its members and their families.

**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. 1777 – Our founding as the first Lutheran congregation west of the Allegheny Mountains. We are a historical church.
2. 1889 – Construction of the present church.
3. Schism over ELCA. We decided to join the NALC.

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

Yes                       No

(2+ years ago with an updated congregational survey conducted in August of 2021)

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

- Identified where we were and where we wanted to go
- At the workshop everyone's voice was heard
- Developed the process for calling a pastor

**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?**

N/A

**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): In general, we try to respect and listen to each other and work things through without generating divisiveness. However, there have been times in the past where differences of opinion and inability to reach a mutual decision has resulted in people leaving the church.

**What was the nature of the relationship between your last pastor and the congregation?  
Positive? Struggling? Cooperative? Tense?**

Our current pastor has chosen to retire earlier than expected for personal reasons and we are sad to see him go. Our relationship with him was that of mutual respect, cooperative, positive, and productive. The following are excerpts from his retirement letter.

"It is with a heavy heart that I am calling my Pastoral ministry at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to a conclusion. We want you to know that, of all the congregations and parishes we have served, HTLC stands out as the most warm and welcoming of all. We are truly thankful for the ways that you have so graciously received us...We also need you to know that our children and grandchildren desire that we come back to Washington to be near them. And we in turn wish to be much more involved in their lives too. This reality is adding to what we see as an urgent need to close up our wonderful time among all of you."

**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: \$ 148,760

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 4,211.50

Other benevolence: \$ 9,001.09

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 234,417

**Compensation of Last Pastor**

Salary: \$ 42,230

Parsonage/housing allowance: parsonage

Social security offset: 7.65%

Pension: \$ 6,000

Health Insurance: \$ 3,780 (current pastor is on Medicare)

Vacation: 4 weeks

Continuing education (time/funding): \$ 700.00

Travel reimbursement: \$.56 a mile

Other: N/A

**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.**

**Berlin, PA, Holy Trinity Evangelical L.C.:** av att pre covid- 103 and post covid- 72 + virtual; We are a multi-generational church that wants to become disciples and share the gospel. Our ministry is in a small town; an especially safe place for raising a family, in the heart of farming country, where a close-knit community still recalls the hometowns of memory yet is within a few hours of the urban activities of Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Washington D.C. We seek to provide the comfort and support of the Gospel and a church family for all.

**Video Submission:** <http://www.holytrinityberlin.org/welcome-video.html>

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

Holy Trinity's Berlin community is in the heart of Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands, where both summer and winter outdoor recreation opportunities abound, including the Great Allegheny Passage (bike trail) and ski resorts. Other nearby places of interest are the Flight 93 National Memorial, institutes of higher education, and multiple cultural and historical opportunities. Surrounded by a farming community, the town population is about 2100 with a very good school system that has outstanding academic opportunities, sports and arts programs. The town has a unique Historical Society serving the community, a well supported food bank, service organizations: Lion's Club and Women's Club, a volunteer Fire Dept. and Ladies Auxiliary that do much for the community. The town is proud to be the home of the oldest continually active Fife and Drum Corp in the nation. Local churches have joined in a ministerium to assist in emergency need situations. One of the best things about living in our close-knit community is when someone needs help people step up in a big way.

"We have found the community and the area to be a wonderful place to live and surroundings (both historical and natural) that are wonderful to explore in every direction."- retiring Pastor

Completed by: Larry W. Shober, Call Committee Chr.

Date: September 3, 2021

## **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:**

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Congregation name, City, Date

**\*\*Email** a copy of the completed profile to the Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry, [dwendel@thenalc.org](mailto: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/](http://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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