

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 Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Mailing address 29219 431 Ave.

City Menno State/Province SD Zip/Postal Code 57045

Telephone Cong. Pres. 605-661-2617 Fax _____

Email address cbulmer@goldenwest.net

Congregation website stonechurchmenno.com

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:

X NALC X LCMC _____ Other _____

Current NALC Mission

District Eastern South Dakota

Congregational President or Vice President

Name Curt Ulmer Title President

Mailing address 28936 433 Ave.

City Menno State/Province SD Zip/Postal Code 57045

Home phone 605-387-5256 Cell phone 605-661-2617

Email address cbulmer@goldenwest.net

Call Committee Chair

Name Karen Huber (member from Grace Lutheran)

Mailing address 43574 287 Str.

City Menno State/Province SD Zip/Postal Code 57045

Home phone 605-387-5446 Cell phone 605-660-3553

Email address _____

Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 10 Average Sunday school attendance _____

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

Rural farming community located 6 miles south of Menno on a black top road in the James River Valley.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Mostly of German descent and of farming background or still actively farming.
Those who worship regularly range from 50 – 80 years of age.

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 want to share God's Word through our Worship Services, summer Bible Fun Days and our Old-Fashioned Christmas Worship Service. As well as helping people in the community as needed and by being a casual, warm welcoming congregation/church. The church doors are never locked allowing anyone who is passing by to check out the building, stop to use the facilities, sit and take time to spend with God and meditate or simply have lunch outside at a picnic table.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

Christian fellowship, hearing and sharing God's Word and being available. We have been worshipping on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer months which allows people who may be camping or gone on the weekend a chance to worship in church that week.

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

We have Holy Communion the first week of each month. Our main hymnal is the Reclaim (introductory Edition), we also use hymns from the WOV, LBW and The Other Songbook. We mostly sing familiar hymns. Our service is very casual, the pastor doesn't wear a robe or vestments for regular worship mainly a collar. We don't use the liturgy as in the hymnbook, most of our service is printed in the bulletin. We want to hear and understand God's Word in plain English as we learn and grow in our own faith walk.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

We have 3 full days in the summer of Bible Fun Days (VBS) for members and community children. The evening of the 3rd day we have Worship Services where the children participate and share some of what they learned. They may also help with lighting candles, ushering etc.
We do hope to begin Adult Bible Study again soon.

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

In addition to our Bible Fun Days where we try to reach young people who don't go to church, we also have an Old-Fashioned Christmas Worship Service that draws people from a distance away (sometimes 30 – 70 miles). This service also includes the help of community young people who participate, helping in some manner. Once a year we also hold a Soup Kitchen that we call a Smorgasbord of Soups as we have about 7-8 different kinds of soup. This also draws people from the community and a distance out. Proceeds from the Smorgasbord of Soups are divided up and sent to a number of charitable organizations,

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

1. A Pastor who preaches from the Word of God
2. A Pastor who ties the scripture in with everyday events or happenings, who's sermon is easy to understand.
3. A Pastor who is personable and easy to talk to.
4. A Pastor who is down to earth, can easily strike up a conversation with a stranger.
5. A Pastor who is compassionate, will listen and can relate well to the everyday farm person, willing to learn about our lifestyles.

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.

Oct, 10, 2021 = 150th Anniversary of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Jan. 28, 1920 = The date two little churches joined together to form Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Later, in 1948 they built the current rock building which is Our Savior's.

Dec. 25, 1871 = The formation of the first church, the fore-runner of Our Savior's.

These dates brought our forefathers together - the last in 2021 brought past pastors and members together, all to worship our Lord.

Over the years, when the James River which is near us would flood, we've had a number of significant times as the church and community came together to frantically work to sandbag or build a dike whatever it took to save the church building from flooding. Every time, God was right there in the midst of all, helping, guiding, protecting.

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

- Yes No I believe that was when Pastor David Wendell came to the church.

What were the three most significant results of the workshop?

1. Some things helped us to stop and think about some aspects of our church
- 2.
- 3.

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?

We are a small group of members who regularly meet. Everyone seems to get along well so there hasn't been any significant conflict for quite a number of years.

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)...Years ago there was some differences of opinion that did become a problem, one was the ELCA sexuality issue.

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

The relationship with our past pastor of 10 years was very positive. The sermons, personality, and the fact that anyone could easily visit with her about anything was well received, along with other things.

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: \$ 20,000.00

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 150.00

Other benevolence: \$ 150.00 to SOLA and \$662 to other charitable places

Total debt of the congregation: \$ None

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 84,590.00

Compensation of Last Pastor / Compensation for the Pastor

Salary: \$ 1,100 a month paid to Grace Lutheran plus our mileage paid directly to the pastor for visitation on _____
Our Savior's behalf (per written agreement with Grace Lutheran Church for shared pastor)

Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ _____

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

Health Insurance: \$ _____ Vacation: _____

Continuing education (time/funding): _____

Travel reimbursement: _____

Other: _____

When the Congregational Vacancy List is updated, a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) is included announcing each congregation's ministry. This paragraph is the first contact with pastors being introduced to your congregation and community. Since you are most familiar with your congregation and your community, you will want to showcase or highlight the attractions of your congregation and community.

We are a church/congregation that is small in numbers but big in heart and desire to grow in God's Word, sharing with and reaching out to whomever we can.

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.

Our church is on the National Register of Historic Places; it is a unique place and setting. It is surprising how many people from all walks of life and places will stop in to visit this church. For some the first time they see the church they will stop, for others they may drive by a few times before they realize that they can actually go inside the church. Our hope and prayer is that God will meet them then and there and possibly touch their life in some small way.

We may be small in numbers, but Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:20 'For where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, there I am with them.' Unfortunately, there are a few people who attend this church, members and non-members that probably wouldn't go to any church if our little church closed its doors, so worshiping here is very important. If we can touch one life, that is one more life for Christ!

Our Mission Statement is: We are a people called by God, to make the love of Christ known in this community by: proclaiming the Gospel to those in need, service to our neighbors, and strengthening the bonds of fellowship in the name of Christ.

Completed by: Curt & Barb Ulmer

Date: 02/01/22, 8/29/2022

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 888-551-7254.

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS.