

# 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](mailto:callprocess@thenalc.org)  
Keep a copy for your records.**

## Congregation Name and Location

Name St. John's Lutheran Church

Mailing address 126 E. South Street

City Creston State/Province IL Zip/Postal Code 60113

Telephone (815) 384-3720 Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation website \_\_\_\_\_

Seeking  Full-time pastor  Part-time pastor  Either full-time or part-time

**We are seeking to share a pastor with St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois, in a two-point parish arrangement.**

Call will be for  Solo pastor  Senior pastor  Associate pastor

Current denominational affiliation:

NALC X LCMC X Other \_\_\_\_\_

Current NALC Mission District: Great Rivers Mission District

## Congregational President or Vice President

Name Mark Gillis Title Congregational President

Mailing address PO Box 66

City Rochelle State/Province IL Zip/Postal Code 61068

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (815) 762-0873

Email address mgillis1955@yahoo.com

## Call Committee Chair

Name Mark Gillis

Mailing address PO Box 66

City Rochelle State/Province IL Zip/Postal Code 61068

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (815) 762-0873

Email address mgillis1955@yahoo.com

### **Congregational Demographics**

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

Organist: 1

Average worship attendance 15 Average Sunday school attendance 3

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

Small town

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

Caucasian; historically Norwegian; mostly elderly, though a couple of young families

**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.**

"St. John's Lutheran Church is a part of God's family: planting hope, nurturing faith, and harvesting love."

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

To encourage and strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ by gathering for weekly worship.  
To grow by doing evangelism in our community.

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

Modestly liturgical (mostly spoken liturgy except on monthly communion Sunday, when there is more sung liturgy). Hymns are sung from LBW, WOV, and other hymnals. Pastors wear vestments. Holy Communion on first Sunday of each month.

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

We have a weekly Sunday School class.  
We occasionally have Bible study

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

Annual Kumla (Norwegian meal) Festival; annual talent show; Rochelle Christian Food Pantry; community worship and "Sweet Shop" during Creston Booster Days; quilts for Lutheran World Relief; participate in "Creston Senior Connection; occasional potlucks. Members invite friends and neighbors to worship.

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 (We only recently joined the NALC.)
- 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. We hope our pastor, in preaching and teaching, will always be faithful to Scripture.
2. We hope our pastor will develop a warm relationship with our members, spending time with them in fellowship, and learning their names.
3. We hope our pastor will preach engaging sermons and lead inspiring Bible studies.
4. We hope our pastor will be visible in our community.
5. We hope our pastor will embrace the concept of a two-point parish ministry with St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois, and help us to make it work for the benefit of both congregations.

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. Congregation's founding in 1897
2. Church building expansion in 1956
3. Leaving the ELCA in 2021 because of its increasingly unbiblical teachings and direction.

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

- Yes                       No                      We engaged over three weeks in the Call Process Bible Study.

What were the three most significant results of the workshop?

1. An understanding of the pastor as called into a covenantal relationship with the congregation rather than just "hired" to "do a job."
2. An understanding that the pastor exercises spiritual authority in the congregation while at the same time being accountable to God's word and to the congregation.
3. An understanding that the pastor preaches not just a word *about* God, but the word *of* God.

**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 have had a healthy debate about whether to embrace a two-point parish concept, sharing a pastor with St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois. We have decided to pursue this approach and we are hopeful about it.

**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?**

We have had positive relationships with several interim pastors. Our last called (non-interim) pastor left in 2019 amid a somewhat tense relationship between him and the congregation. His ministry started well but did not end so well. He opposed our desire to leave the ELCA.

**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: \$22,200 \_\_\_\_\_

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ - 0 - (joined the NALC in this fiscal year)

Other benevolence: \$ 3,450 \_\_\_\_\_

Total debt of the congregation: \$ - 0 - \_\_\_\_\_

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Compensation of Last Pastor

The compensation package for our last pastor, who left in 2019, is not applicable to our current search for a new pastor. Our last pastor was called on a part-time basis, and mostly desired to receive full ELCA Health Benefits. (Salary was not nearly as important to him as the health plan.) We are currently seeking to call a pastor to be *shared* with St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois, in a two-point parish arrangement.

Salary: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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 125-year-old Norwegian heritage church, communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month with a traditional style worship service using LBW. Our mission statement is "God's Family, Planting Hope, Nurturing Faith, and Harvesting Love." We are located in Creston, Illinois (population approximately 550) about 60 miles west of Chicago, and near DeKalb, home of Northern Illinois University. Most of our shopping is done in Rochelle, just 5 miles west of us, which is where our nearest hospital is. Creston has its own grade school, K-8; Grades 9-12 attend Rochelle Township High School. There is a well-known meat market, a public library, a record shop, a Casey's gas station, a car wash, 2 elevators, a fairly new restaurant, a fire barn with volunteer firemen, and a community building.

We are sharing an interim pastor with St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oregon, Illinois, a 25-mile drive. Our two congregations hope to share a called pastor in a two-point parish arrangement.

**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.

[enter text]

Completed by: Interim Pastor Rasmussen and Call Committee

Date: 08/23/2022

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## **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](mailto: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/](http://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.**