

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 Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Mailing address P O Box 396
City Export State/Province PA Zip/Postal Code 15632
Telephone 724-327-2190 Fax 724-327-0306
Email address elcnalc@gmail.com
Congregation website www.ourlutheranchurch.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:
X NALC LCMC Other
Current NALC Mission District: Mid-Northeast Mission District.

Congregational President or Vice President

Name Lou Hiener Title President
Mailing address 110 Carriage Drive
City Pittsburgh State/Province PA Zip/Postal Code 15239
Home phone 412-793-5639 Cell phone 412-337-0507
Email address hiener.lw@gmail.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Debbie Weigold
Mailing address 290 Thompson Rd
City Export State/Province PA Zip/Postal Code 15632
Home phone 412-607-9892 Cell phone 412-607-9892
Email address debbieweigold@gmail.com

Congregational Demographics

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

(Lay Professionals: Organist PT and Youth Leader PT)

Average worship attendance 75 Average Sunday school attendance 2

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

Suburb of Pittsburgh, PA (20 miles east). The church is in the Murrysville Municipality which includes Export PA. Approximate populations are: Murrysville: 19,000, Export: 900. Murrysville is our primary member address. It is a largely professional community with roughly 30% holding Bachelor degrees and 25% holding Advanced degrees. We also have members in the surrounding communities of Jeannette, Monroeville, Delmont, Plum, Irwin, Apollo, Harrison City, and East Pittsburgh, and we try to include those areas in our outreach.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Murrysville is approximately 95% white, 4% Asian, and 1% black, and our church mirrors this pattern with roughly 98% white and 1.6% Asian.

Age distribution: (Based on those who have attended worship within the last year)

65 & Over: 66%

Age 30-64: 27%

Age 16-29: 4%

Age: 0-15: 3%

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.

Our mission statement is: "Welcoming all in Christ's name, growing together in faith, sharing God's love in the world." We strive to grow and work together to share God's Good News, be the light in the community, be good stewards, and be a scripturally-sound congregation as we share God's gifts locally and globally.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

Increase discipleship in all members

Expand our presence to surrounding communities as the nearest NALC church is approximately 20 miles away

Expand our outreach locally, regionally, and globally

Increase member participation in all of our Bible Studies and opportunities to serve within the church

Continually work to attract younger families to our church

Provide concern and support for the aging and those experiencing illness or death in the family

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

The worship practice at Emmanuel could be described as liturgically appropriate for traditional Lutherans. We have 2 service books: ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) and WOV (With One Voice), available in pew back racks along with Bibles (English Standard Version). In addition, we continue to utilize the LBW (Lutheran Book of Worship) in our printed weekly bulletin.

Pastors typically wear an alb and stole and may wish to use chasubles for festivals. Assisting ministers wear their own choice of attire, and they read the lessons, prayers, and assist the pastor with Communion distribution. We currently have one authorized lay worship leader in the congregation who is available to substitute if needed.

Currently we have one service on Sunday mornings at 10:15. During periods of higher attendance prior to the pandemic, we supported an 8:15 and 11 am service schedule on Sunday morning and a once-a-month Saturday evening contemporary service. During the Covid pandemic, our worship was **broadcast using the Free Conference Call service. We have continued our online service broadcast, now using Zoom, to allow the service to be available to the membership and to include homebound, traveling members and guests who join on Zoom. A video presentation is also available weekly. These services are saved and can be seen via our Church website.** At various times Saturday night services have been offered and have featured variety of formats including contemporary music.

We celebrate communion every Sunday, and we usually do 1 or 2 outdoor services at our pavilion adjacent to the church building each year.

Traditionally, we have held mid-week Lenten services preceded by Lenten lite meals, a Palm Sunday procession with palms, stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday, and a Good Friday Tenebrae service, as well as a candlelit Christmas Eve service and a Christmas Day service.

We offer a variety of musical accompaniments in our Sunday worship, including Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Children's Choir, special musicians, and our Contemporary music ensemble, "In Tune with the Spirit."

A monthly community Taize' service was added to our worship schedule in the fall of 2019 and continued through the fall of 2021. The congregation is open to hosting additional community worship outreach.

We are excited that we are in the midst of celebrating our 200-year anniversary! Our celebrations were postponed due to the pandemic; however, we are still working on new celebration plans!

In 2022, our former pastor received the title of Pastor Emeritus, as he served this congregations for 28 years (December of 1988 -August 2016) and remains a part of the church family. Our previous pastor also served our congregation for over 20 years.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

We have a wonderful group of teachers for our youth that teach on a rotation basis in our Sunday school program organized by our Christian Education committee. Currently, we have very few children in our program. We would welcome any ideas to expand our Sunday school program by attracting younger

members with Sunday school age children.

Our adult Christian education ministry exists as a Wednesday morning bible study, Thursday evening Bible study, and an Adult Sunday school led by our current pastor and lay leaders.

We have also hosted vacation bible school over the years for our community children and families.

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

Some of the 2022 mission and outreach activities include:

- Regular financial support for a Haiti mission which provides medical clinics in an area of Haiti with no medical care
- Support for a shelter for women & children through donations of clothing and food
- Providing food and paper products for both a local and county-based food pantry
- Holding Sunday worship services thru Zoom calls in addition to in-person which are advertised in the community and those without internet can still attend by phone,
- Participated in establishing the local church-sponsored Friends Thrift Shop and continue to assist with volunteers at the store.
- Serve at the "Friends Kitchen Meals" an outreach of the Friends Thrift Shop
- Sponsoring a child thru the Compassion Child program
- Making quilts for Lutheran Relief
- Prayer Shawl ministry providing comfort for those ill or experiencing loss
- Providing school kits for Lutheran World Relief
- Providing polar fleece blankets for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
- Providing emergency supply bags for Meals on Wheels
- Publishing "Fish Hooks", a weekly topic on Christian faith, Bible study and Lutheranism, written by a church member and placed on our Church website that has over 1200 visitors each year. The Website is www.teamfishhooks.com
- Regular articles sent to the local paper inviting all to our services and showing our activities
- College and young adult ministry – periodic mailing
- Homebound visitation group
- Providing Christmas baskets for congregation homebound
- NALC Disaster Response collections during Lent.
- Quilts for our graduating high school seniors, by our women's group.
- Our church offers space for local Boy and Girl Scout troops and AA and ALANON meetings
- Our church has an online social presence with Facebook, YouTube, and our church website.

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. To be strong in their faith and able to bring Christ to us
2. To be loving, trustworthy, and compassionate; able to develop relationships with all of the congregation, attending to those who are unable to be physically present due to illness, injury, or being homebound
3. To preach biblically based sermons that relate to everyday life and offer communion weekly
4. To help our members develop their talents to become better disciples while developing a vision for our congregation's future in our community
5. To be open to the ideas of the congregation including using different ways of sharing the gospel and worship including contemporary music, Taize, etc.

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.

* In 1965, the church was relocated from a white clapboard building in a rather obscure area of Export to a lovely hillside on the border between Murrysville and Export, PA, where a brick structure was constructed. This gave us much better visibility and a much larger and more inviting facility for our outreach into the community.

* In 1997, a beautiful new sanctuary was added to the existing structure. This gave us increased worship space and allowed the previous sanctuary to be remodeled to be used as meeting space and gave us a greatly enlarged narthex, an elevator and increased parking. Other revisions completed in the next few years largely by members were a new nursery, new pastor and secretary offices, a choir room, and a large Fellowship Hall with moveable walls on the lower level of the new sanctuary enabling us to expand our programs and be of greater service to our community. In 2018 the mortgage was paid off.

* In 2011, after much study and many discussion sessions, the members of Emmanuel voted to leave the ELCA and join the NALC. This resulted in an influx of some very dedicated Lutherans who shared the same values and rapidly became very active.

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. Gave participants the opportunity to be heard, ask questions, and review any information with our Mission District Dean Nila Cogan and her workshop assistant, Pastor Baker
2. Gave participants a clear understanding of the call process.
3. Generated excitement as we look forward to the future. (“the best is yet to come”)

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?

Over the decades, our church has had some conflicts; however, with a strong spiritual base, we have weathered these storms, and our congregation became more cohesive as a result. Currently, within our church, there is a rejuvenated spirit - waiting for the right person to lead us forward in faith.

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: As a church we respect and listen to each other, and from time to time there are differences of opinion, but our congregation has remains united.

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

Positive:

Our congregation had a very positive relationship with our last pastor. He was deeply spiritual and strong in faith. This helped him remain steadfast and confident in the face of modern challenges to the church. Working with council, he was able to bring his deep knowledge of scripture and of church history to bear on almost every decision that needed to be made. During church meetings, he listened carefully, and he could be persuaded to a different point of view if you could make a good case. Lastly, those who worked with him enjoyed his dry sense of humor, which often made work a bit lighter.

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: \$ 209,254 (11-1-2020 to 10-31-2021)

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

Other benevolence: \$ 10,000 (5%)

Total debt of the congregation: \$ - 0-

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 100,000

Compensation of Last Pastor / Compensation for the Pastor

Salary: \$ 40,000

Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ 18,000

Social security offset: \$ 4,575

Pension: \$ 5,800

Health Insurance: \$ 4,370*

Vacation: 4 Weeks

Continuing education (time/funding): Not Specified

Travel reimbursement: (budget) \$2,000

Other : Relocation Expense may be available.

Other: \$3,780 (Additional insurance, Life, vision, dental, long & short term)

(Regarding Other: **The insurance for Pastor and family was obtained via the PA insurance market place.**

The premium was appx \$2,570 per year with an addition \$1,800 per year in out of pocket expenses.

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.

Murrysville, PA Emmanuel average attendance is 75; Is a suburb of Pittsburgh (20 miles east). Pittsburgh has transformed from a steel town to a beautiful, high-tech city nestled in the triangle where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers merge to become the Ohio. Offering great cultural opportunities, a world-class health system, professional football, hockey, and baseball teams, and festivals & events of all kinds, the Pittsburgh area is known for affordable housing and a wide variety of career opportunities should a spouse desire employment. The Franklin Regional (Murrysville) public school system is highly regarded, and the community, along with the adjoining community of Monroeville, boasts numerous restaurants, a variety of shopping options including a large mall, and two major hospitals and their associated physicians' offices of all specialties. Murrysville and the surrounding area are blessed to have an abundance of parks and hiking/biking trails and other amenities offering many opportunities for outdoor and indoor recreation. We have a modern, attractive, mortgage-free facility and a core of faithful and faith-filled members. We are eager to welcome a pastor who radiates the love of Christ, who can lead us in effective discipleship, and helps us to expand our outreach.

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](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://youtu.be/jmnd96U5ikc>

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

Completed by: Call Committee of Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Debbie Weigold, Chairwoman
Holly Pelusi
Joe Ugen
Lisa Pepka
Kathy Gustafson

Date: 9-16-2022

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.