

# CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



## Congregation Name and Location

Name **Immanuel Lutheran Church**

Mailing address **405 North Depot Street**

City **Altona** State/Province **IL** Zip/Postal Code **61401**

Telephone **309-484-5251**

Fax

Email address **ImmanuelAltona@gmail.com**

Congregation website **https://immanuellutheranaltona.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:

**NALC**  LCMC  Other

Current NALC Mission District: **Great Rivers Mission District**

## Congregational President or Vice-President

Name: **David Erickson**

Title: **Mr.**

Mailing Address: **2859 Knox Highway 3**

City: **Altona** State: **Illinois** Zip: **61401**

Home Phone: Cell Phone: **309-368-3502**

Email: **dnerickson@otelmail.com**

## Call Committee Chair

Name: **Krista Swanson**

Title: **Mrs.**

Mailing Address: **2557 Knox Highway 3**

City: **Oneida** State: **Illinois** Zip: **61467**

Home Phone: Cell Phone: **217-306-5073**

Email: **ImmanuelAltonaCallCommittee@gmail.com**

## Congregational Demographics

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 FT Lay professionals \_\_\_\_\_ Secretarial 1 PT  
Average worship attendance 2021: 59 / 2020: 51 / 2019: 73 Average Sunday school attendance 25

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

Immanuel Lutheran is in Altona, a west-central Illinois village with 550 people. Many members are engaged in farming or have agricultural roots. Galesburg (population 30,000) is less than 15 miles away and has several grocery and household shopping options, boutique stores, and excellent restaurants. Altona is centrally located less than an hour between the Iowa/Illinois Quad Cities area and Peoria, Illinois both of which have extensive offerings of small size cities. Along with four other nearby small towns, Altona is part of the ROWVA School District.

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

Ethnic Composition: Primarily white/Caucasian  
Age Distribution: All ages of members from birth to 90s

### **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.**

The Immanuel Lutheran congregation is ready to be refreshed as disciples of Christ in growth, service, and building on our foundation of faith.

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

Growth: both inward spiritual growth of individuals and quantitative growth in terms of members and active members

Strengthening Foundation of Faith: building on the established foundation of faith, with commitment to enhancing our education programs for all members and nurturing the faith of youth

Service: to become recharged in Godly service and engagement in the community

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

We are currently using the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (4<sup>th</sup> Ed) for liturgy and most musical offerings. We primarily use setting 4 and sing 3-4 hymns accompanied by our excellent pipe organ. One Sunday a month we diverge from that slightly, using a different setting (8) for liturgy and music on guitar and keyboard. In recent years we have offered Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month, on the third Sunday of months with five Sundays, and on various holidays. Full vestments were worn by the previous pastor, traditional in style with seasonal changes. We currently have one worship service a month at 10:15 on Sunday morning.

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

We offer weekly Sunday School for 3-year-olds through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The children are divided into three classes (PreK-K, 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>). A Sunday School class for Jr. High and High School youth is once per month. In recent years 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have gone through confirmation classes and been confirmed in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We have an adult Sunday School class with 8 members as the average attendance. Sunday School ministry is an area in which we would like to grow and strengthen. We particularly see a weakness in our older youth and adult programs and realize the importance of continued Bible based education in those phases of life.

For many years we have partnered with a neighboring congregation to jointly host a summer Vacation Bible School Program.

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

We are actively involved in the ROWVA Food Pantry, a “pop-up” food pantry offering for those living in our rural school district. Some of our older youth participate in an annual youth mission trip in conjunction with youth from other area congregations. Our “Lutheran Ladies” group does several service projects not only locally, but also as part of global programs, and Sunday School students participate in mission and outreach projects. We have an after-school group for 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, Faith Used in Everyday Life (FUEL) that meets once per week. This is a crossover between an education and mission and outreach program, drawing in non-member participants.

**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. Christ centered focus, action, and teaching based on Scripture as the true Word of God.
2. Spiritual calling as a pastor, devoted to personal spiritual growth, diligent in personal study, devotion, and prayer.
3. Strong Biblical educator, leader, and communicator, with the ability to teach and inspire all ages.
4. Personal and relatable to all people, with emphasis on youth and family, and willing to be a trusted resource for members.
5. Committed to local community involvement as a disciple of Christ and enjoys living in a small, rural farming town.

**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. Voted to leave the ELCA and join NALC in XXXX.
2. Celebrated 150 years since formation of our congregation in 2009.
3. The main part of our building including the sanctuary will be 100 years old in 2023.

**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. Shared commitment to the future and dedication to keeping our church going. Shared understanding of the need to find a strong leader for our congregation.
2. Understanding that a new path is ahead and that will mean we have to make some changes, we are ready to be refreshed.
3. A desire for growth in several ways; enhanced spiritual growth within each of us, growing as disciples of Christ, and growing our congregation.

**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?**

There is not currently significant conflict present within our congregation.

**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)..... **Human nature leads to differences of opinions and that does happen. As a church we respect and listen to each other and aim to work through differences without generating divisiveness.**

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

Our last pastor had been here for forty years, so had experienced a great deal of life with many congregation and community members. The relationship was positive and cooperative. He was a pastor to the community, providing valuable outreach and ministry to all. We realize that this is quite a long-term relationship and that we must be open to adjustments and changes that are inevitably ahead.

**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: \$198,285  
Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$8,400+\$3,000 (specifically NALC Seminary)  
Other benevolence: \$13,780  
Total debt of the congregation: \$0  
Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$85,735 (does not include a foundation endowment)

## Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: <u>\$57,750</u>	Parsonage/housing allowance: <u>\$5,000</u>
Social security offset: <u>\$5,030</u>	Pension: <u>\$14,800</u>
Health Insurance: <u>\$27,096</u>	Vacation: <u>\$0</u>
Continuing education (time/funding): <u>\$0</u>	
Travel reimbursement: <u>\$0</u>	
Other: <u>Car Allowance: \$4,500 / Utility Allowance: \$5,000</u>	

**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.**

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Altona is ready to be refreshed as disciples of Christ in growth, service, and building on our foundation of faith. We are looking for a stronger leader and teacher committed to spiritual growth in our congregation.

**Video Submission Instructions:**

Upload your video to YouTube or Vimeo. (Here are instructions on how to upload to YouTube: [www.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.

<https://youtu.be/2f20uplqjI0>

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

[enter text]

Completed by: Krista Swanson

Date: 10/21/2022

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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 715-418-1761 (cell).

**PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS.**