

# CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



Enter information directly into this document.  
**SAVE the document on your computer with your congregation's name,  
city 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. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Mailing address 3620 Red Rose Farm Road  
City Baltimore (Middle River) State/Province MD Zip/Postal Code 21220  
Telephone (410) 335-4210 Fax (410) 335-5388  
Email address stmatoffice@aol.com  
Congregation website www.stmatthewbq.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:

NALC  LCMC  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Current NALC Mission District: Atlantic Mission Region - Southern District

## Congregational President

Name Jeff Markley Title Council President  
Mailing address 7216 Oliver Beach Road  
City Baltimore State/Province MD Zip/Postal Code 21220  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (443) 465-9085  
Email address jeffdieman@comcast.net

## Call Committee Co-Facilitator

Name Kathy Duvall  
Mailing address 3612 Red Rose Farm Road  
City Baltimore State/Province MD Zip/Postal Code 21220  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (443) 992-1124  
Email address stmatoffice@aol.com



## *Saint Matthew Lutheran Church*

*3620 Red Rose Farm Road*

*Middle River, Maryland 21220*

*Phone: 410-335-4210 E-mail: [stmatoffice@aol.com](mailto:stmatoffice@aol.com)*

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

St Matthew is very aware of the cultural changes that surround our ministry and our need to adapt. Our current model of church requires change to survive in the present-day culture. We have functioned well over the years as a church that tends to its own. We have simply nurtured the current members of the congregation through direct pastoral ministry. In this day and time, we have been made aware and understand the importance of each member embracing their own mission as making and nurturing disciples of Christ.

We acknowledge the difficulties in changing a church ministry model from a very stable single-element pastoral ministry to include a strong focus upon a congregational discipleship ministry.

The vision we propose is meant to address those challenges with a respectful eye on both the present ministry model and the future of the ministry to a new congregation in the years to come. We want to balance the two for the sake of the Kingdom. We believe God is directing us to call a new pastor who will concentrate upon and embrace the growth of disciple making with those new to the congregation.

Our hopes and prayers are that the pastor who is called to our congregation will embrace a future for the ministry of all, connecting with all age groups. Our church and congregation have so much to offer our community and our community has so much to offer us. We have active worship, disaster, evangelism, social concerns, youth and parish education committees. We strive to understand the needs of all and nurture the path of following Christ in our everyday lives.

Our desire is to serve the Lord. Pray about it and if God is leading you, contact us and let us seek His will together.

*Philippians 4:6-8: "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Amen.*

Together in Faith,  
The St. Matthew Lutheran Church Call Committee

## Congregational Demographics

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

Pre Covid - Average worship attendance 110 Pre Covid - Average Sunday school attendance 50  
Current Average worship attendance 75 Current Average Sunday school attendance 10

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

Our church is in a small suburban water community called Bowleys Quarters, nestled in the eastern portion of Middle River in Baltimore County, MD. We are on the Chesapeake Bay. There is a wide variety of housing in our community from large waterfront homes to single family homes to townhomes to apartment communities. We are within walking distance of Seneca Elementary school. The Bengies-Chase Recreation and Parks Center and Eastern Regional Park are less than two miles away. Activities in our community include boating, fishing, crabbing, swimming and sports of all kinds. We are home to the Marshy Point Nature Center and Gunpowder State Park. We are 15 minutes away from White Marsh Mall and The Avenue at White Marsh for all of your shopping wants and needs. We still have some local farming with Richardson's Farm bordering Bowleys Quarters.

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

Our congregation is primarily white middle class and working class 50 years of age and older.

**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.**

Yes, we are a scripture-based congregation deeply rooted in God's Word. We are being lead in discipleship and evangelism. We are good at discussing and creating plans but not so good at implementing.

Our weaknesses:

- Struggling with the status quo
- lack of youth/young families/young couples/young adults
- working on implementing discussed plans to evangelize and outreach
- interaction within our congregation
- congregation loves to be invited but does not volunteer

Our strengths:

- preach on the Word of God
- good at taking care of the church community
- core of congregation is active
- respond greatly to short term needs
- strong in music ministry and Lutheran theology
- agree to disagree but love one another wholly through Christ Jesus

We understand that our weaknesses are a prescription for allowing Jesus into our lives wholly and 100%! And that "church" must be a Jesus-driven place - Christ Centered. There is an understanding that Jesus wants to guide and lead us for the good of the church. This is constant - we need to continually look within to better our relationship with Jesus.

**Vision Statement:** St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church is a renewed Lutheran congregation moving forward in faith, focused on living out Christ's great commission in our daily lives to go and make disciples of all people.

**Mission Statement:** St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church is an inspiring, nurturing, and sharing congregation empowered by God's love and Holy Spirit to bring His light to the world.

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

Expand discipleship to outside the church into the community by teaching, training & equipping.

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

We endorse the four core values of the NALC:

**CHRIST CENTERED:** Jesus Christ, revealed in Scripture, is the Lord of the Church and the only Savior of the World. The Holy Scriptures are the norm for all matters of our life and faith and the Lutheran Confessions, a faithful witness to the Scripture.

*We are strongest in this core value.*

**MISSION DRIVEN:** The Great Commission is our only mission. We go taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth, making Disciples committed to Christ, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching people all that Jesus commands, trusting in His constant presence and power.

*We are weakest in this core value.*

**TRADITIONALLY GROUNDED:** We are a part of the faithful witness of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church across time and space. We endorse the creeds, forums, practices, Word and Sacrament ministry and worship that are consistent with the Scripture.

*This is our second strongest core value.*

**CONGREGATIONALLY FOCUSED:** The congregation is the front line for mission and ministry. As interdependent partners we strengthen every local congregation to make it the most effective instrument possible for accomplishing Christ's purposes.

*This is our third strongest core value.*

As things are slowly going back to "normal" or as they were prior to the pandemic, we will have communion every Sunday with traditional liturgy and hymns. Our vestments on the Altar are basic but traditional. Our service times on Sunday mornings are 8:30am and 11am, with our 8:30am service being livestreamed. Our bulletins are produced completely on the computer. We have moved away from the ELW and have gone back to traditions of the LBW. We subscribe to the Sola lectionary series of SOWeR and use this weekly lectionary as our main source of scripture and guide for our bulletin liturgy. Our average weekly worship attendance is 75 people. Currently we are not collecting offering during the service but provide a box for members to place their offering prior to service. The box is presented during the service at the appropriate time. We have stopped communion by intinction, serving by table with boxes on each side of the Altar to place used communion cups. Our 8:30am service streams on our YouTube channel at [StMatthewLutheranChurchBowleysQuartersMD](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCStMatthewLutheranChurchBowleysQuartersMD).

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

Sunday school for preschoolers thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade pre-confirmation, two-year confirmation course for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades, post confirmation thru high school, and adult bible studies. We have many bible studies during the course of the week at different times according to the time of year. We encourage anyone who wants to start a bible study to do so. Since the pandemic, we use social media to connect and encourage our members, students, and community to continue their walk of faith with God.

This summer we held inside Summer Sunday School using the Tree of Life study from Concordia Publishing

House. Our VBS was a week-long program at the end of July held in the evening and this year experimented with God's Wonder Lab from Concordia Publishing House. Our Rally Day and the opening of our Sunday School year is held the second Sunday of September. Sunday school is held at 9:45am between services.

In the summer of 2021, our youth group took a trip to Ohio to the NALC disaster facilities to volunteer their time to help Mary Bates with tasks at the warehouse. They also went to the Noah's Ark Encounter and Creation Museum. Our youth group is not a large group but very active. We look to make plans for future trips and events with our Luther League Youth Group.

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

In the past, we were very active with support of local, national, and international missions and outreach. Since the pandemic, we have chosen to focus our outreach on a local men's cold weather shelter that is housed at a nearby church from November through April. They are also looking for a space of their own. This mission is made up of many churches in the area. The men's shelter is called The Churches for Streets of Hope.

**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 strong preacher of the Gospel.
2. A pastor who is able to practice and teach discipleship.
3. A pastor who is relational and has strong leadership skills.
4. A pastor who has new ideas but retains traditional values.
5. A pastor who keeps prayer in the forefront, is a good listener, and communicator.

**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. Hurricane Isabel 2003. This event centered the church and congregation in serving, and community outreach.
2. Leaving the ELCA in 2009 planted us solid in our beliefs!
3. The current pandemic has made us look at technology as a tool to reach our members and community in a different way to deliver the Word of God. We have been blessed to be able to have our services in person and still reach the shut-ins by social media.

**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. Made us recognize our strengths.
2. Made us recognize our weaknesses.
3. Made us recognize our needs.

**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?**

1. We have experienced typical transition conflicts but nothing that cannot be resolved. Our interim pastor has been instrumental in uniting our congregation to move forward in God's Work.

**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 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. Painful experience with conflict has been present, but it has been worked through, and we have learned from the experience.
- 

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

Pastor John was here for over 33 years, so the relationship was one of endearment and trust. Pastor John did a great job preparing us for his retirement. He brought in several pastors to preach while he was still here and gave us wisdom into the call process.

**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 Pastor John attended every council meeting and lead the council spiritually in their decision making of business matters.

**Congregational finances**

Total budget for last fiscal year: \$ 225,400 for 2022

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 9,600.00

Other benevolence: \$ 600.00 - AMR

Total debt of the congregation: \$61,346.89 as of June 30, 2022

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 89,917.94 as of June 30, 2022

**Compensation of Last Pastor**

The total compensation package of our former pastor was \$82,600. A breakdown will be provided upon request.

**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.**

The ministry of St. Matthew has been one of Word and Sacrament sustaining the functions of worship and

community for believers in Christ. The ministry of St. Matthew has been for many years one of caring and nurturing for all those who participate and are involved in the church. It has been a ministry of outreach to the community around it. The love and care amongst the members are welcoming to community members when they are looking for a church. We have for years been a congregation where folks who have experienced division and conflict in other churches come and find a home where they can be supported and encouraged in their faith.

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.

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

We have had strong leadership during our interim period which has helped us with understanding the importance of discipleship and living day-to-day in God's Word.

Completed by: The St. Matthew Lutheran Church Call Team Date: 8/3/22  
Michael Baxter, Larry Borreson, JoAnn Gibbs, Ray Grumbine, John Mehring,  
Tom Mehring, and Mary Ann Schultze



## **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**