

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 First St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Mailing address 2660 Senter Ave

City Burlington State/Province CO Zip/Postal Code 80807

Telephone (719)346-8966 Fax _____

Email address firstst.pauls@yahoo.com

Congregation website _____

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 XLCMC Other _____

Current NALC Mission District _____

Congregational President or Vice President

Greg Hallagin

Mailing address 2488 Senter Ave

City Burlington State/Province CO Zip/Postal Code 80807

Home phone _____ Cell phone (719)340-0008

Email address hallagin.farms@gmail.com

Name

Title Council President

Call Committee Chair

Name Roger Karspeck

Mailing address 25044 CR 59

City Burlington State/Province CO Zip/Postal Code 80807

Home phone 719-397-2422
Email address karfarm@st-tel.net

Cell phone (785)399-8073

Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 59 Average Sunday school attendance Pre COVID 8-10, Post COVID 2-4

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, rural, conservative, farming and ranching

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Caucasian, all ages, recently we have had 8-10 present for the children's message

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.

No, however we have a strong history of mission work locally, within the US and internationally. During this period of transition we are striving to strengthen and clarify our vision and supporting actions and activities.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

Rebuild our congregation post COVID. We are seeking a full time pastor to lead and expand ministry opportunities and congregation development while also continuing our current benevolence projects.

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

We use the liturgy from the Green, Blue & Red books. Use varies by season and worship committee choice. We usually have 3 hymns in addition to the liturgy.

Vestments: Paraments per Lutheran Seasons

Communion: weekly

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

Currently we have Sunday School (adults and kids), Vacation Bible School and confirmation. We also have a joint ministry with the United Methodist Church and First Christian Church for Lent, Youth Programs and Vacation Bible School

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

As a congregation a phrase that describes us well is "Tell us a need and we will do what we can to help." Some of the missions that have recently been supported are: Local Food Bank and our Blessing Box, Oaks Indian Mission and several current disasters.

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 * We are new to NALC
- 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. Active Pastoral Leadership
2. Be an active part of our community
3. Build a strong foundation with our community youth
4. Encourage congregational involvement in the life of First St Paul’s. For example: group bible studies, home visits,
5. Nursing home visits and services and various small groups

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.

SEE ATTACHED/END OF DOC

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?

N/A

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?

SEE ATTACHED/END OF DOC

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.

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

It was both positive and struggling.

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

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: \$ 139,500

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ _____

Other benevolence: \$ _____

Total debt of the congregation: \$ _____

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ _____

Compensation of Last Pastor

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. If you wish, your call committee may compose that summary, realizing it may be edited/formatted as needed.

[enter text]

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: _____ Date: _____



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 715-418-1761 (cell).

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Additional Info: First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Burlington, Colorado

Congregation Demographics: Average Worship Attendance

*2017: 84 *2018: 83 *2019: 86 *2020: 59 *2021: 59

Three most significant events:

1. In the late 1990's there was an attempted merger between First St. Paul's and Immanuel Lutheran in Bethune, Colorado. The merger failed but brought forth our current building and new membership from Immanuel. The new focus on extended community outreach and a larger space to worship brought the congregation together. The new building was also a point of contention with the ELCA. The ELCA fought the congregation during the entire building process and refused to support it in any manner. The building was fully financed by the congregation members and all loans related to the construction were paid off early. One of the purposes of the initial building committee was to open this space to our community and we have actively sought to do that. Red Cross holds their blood drives in our fellow ship area. In the early 2000's our local catholic church had a fire and were unable to have services in their building, they used our building until the repairs were made. We have hosted many banquets, fund raising dinners, weddings and funerals for our community as well.
2. Leaving the ELCA
3. Staying open during COVID and maintaining group involvement and doing so without a pastor since January of 2021.

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 was a general sense of disconnect from the ELCA for many years that seemed to grow more and more each year. A research committee was formed in the fall of 2020 to begin the process of identifying possible new Lutheran Associations to affiliate with. There was a lot of discussion regarding which of the many that are out there best fit with our congregational beliefs and practices. This initial phase was very challenging as we had to navigate between members who wished to leave the ELCA immediately, members who did not wish to leave and a large portion who were unsure and needed the time to process all of the information. As a congregation we were able to come together to decide to begin the process of leaving the ELCA. With this, came the process of meeting with the associations that seemed to best fit with our congregation. This was a difficult process and conversations focused on many issues but several

key points became: inerrancy, women's involvement in ministry, local church autonomy and issues related to the LBGTQ policies of the ELCA.

We were able to complete the process as outlined by the ELCA to leave the ELCA and join a new association. The processes of selecting a new association was not without difficulty. Membership was lost due to disagreements throughout the process. Our congregations final vote ended with a tie between NALC and LCMC. As such, we joined both associations.

As a congregation there is still healing to take place after this has all transpired. We are excited for the new possibilities ahead and are hopeful that we will continue to come together with a renewed sense of energy.

Vacancy listing:

First St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a rural church on the eastern plains of Colorado. Our congregation loves God, loves the Church community and loves our community. We invite a mission minded, teaching, loving Pastor to join us as our shepherd to guide us into the immediate future. It is important to us as image-bearers of God to head into the future following where the Lord leads us, willing to do what the Lord asks of us, under the loving shepherding of you, our new Pastor.