

St. John Lutheran
Congregational
Profile



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Congregation Name and Location

Name: St. John Lutheran Church

Mailing address: 315 Rosewood Ave

City Boerne

State/Province TX

Zip/Postal Code 78006

Telephone 830-249-3651

Fax: None

Email address amy.stremmel@stjohnlutheran.com

Congregation website www.stjohnlutheran.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 Southwest Texas Mission District

Congregational President or Vice President

Name: Kirby Wisian

Title President

Mailing address: 319 Ammann Road City: Boerne
Code: 78015 Home phone 830-366-3222
address kirby.wisian@gmail.com

State/Province: TX Zip/Postal
Cell phone 210-835-4691 Email

Call Committee Chair

Name Kurt Wandrey

Mailing address 3306 Shelton Dr

City ~~Kerrville~~ State/Province ~~TX~~ Zip/Postal Code ~~78028~~

Home phone

Cell phone 208-818-6790

Email address pastorwandrey@gmail.com

Congregational Demographics

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): 22 Clergy 2 Lay professionals 2 Secretarial 1

Average worship attendance 465 (in-person and online)

Average Sunday school children attendance: 35 children / Adult classes 69

Average Wednesday classes 33 children / Adults 80

Indicate the type of community in which your congregation is located (is it a small town, small city, suburban, large city, farming, industrial, etc.). Boerne is both literally and figuratively an entryway into one of Texas' most beautiful regions, the Texas Hill Country. Listed by the U.S. Census Bureau as one of the country's fastest-growing regions, the area's rapid expansion has meant numerous new housing subdivisions as well as an influx of industry, business, and tourism.

Boerne (pronounced Bur-nee) strives to hold on to its warm, small-town origins. Oak trees still grow together in canopies above many city streets while a trip to the grocery store almost guarantees an encounter with friends and neighbors.

The surrounding countryside is lush and arid, dramatic, and pastoral. Streams and rivers soften the sharp-edged limestone topography. Roosters and goats, still raised within city limits by a few old timers, may wander about under cell phone towers that have risen within the last few years.

Established by a young group of Germans who considered themselves classical philosophers - or Free Thinkers - Boerne originally did not allow churches inside the city limits. Today, however, the town is home to numerous congregations.

Enormously important within the ranks of the city's population is its volunteerism. Citizens selflessly donate hours to religious, social, educational, environmental, political, and historical causes.

Boerne's quaint Main Street, also called the Hill Country Mile, is lined by many of the buildings that formed the vibrant core of the county's "city life." Visiting the area's beautiful caves, exploring the local nature center, enjoying historically authentic exhibits, birding, cycling, hunting, or biking, Boerne provides the ideal blend of the urban and the rural.

The proximity to San Antonio provides an international airport, The Alamo, The Riverwalk, and numerous concert and museum venues.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution. We currently do not keep track of ethnic composition or age; however, we feel we have a multi-generational composition of worshipping members.

Does the congregation have a clear vision for the mission — a clear and shared understanding of where God is leading you? If so, state it as succinctly as possible. The mission of StJLC is "Know Jesus and make Jesus Known." Our vision to carry out that mission is captured by the StJLC discipleship picture: "Worship Weekly, Walk Daily, Connect Consistently, and Serve Monthly." Disciples *love the Lord their God* by Worshipping Him Weekly and Walking Daily with Him in personal devotions. Disciples *love their neighbors as themselves* by Connecting Consistently with them and Serving Monthly in our church and community.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

Our primary goal is to:

- "Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known."
- The ministries and programs of our church *make disciples* by equipping people to:
 - "Worship Weekly, Walk Daily, Connect Consistently, and Serve Monthly."
- We *go* into the community with the Good News of Jesus Christ, with the aim of breaking the 450 barrier this year and growing to an average weekly attendance of 700 within the next 5 years.

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

- Two Traditional Services, 8:00 & 11:00, LBW Setting II, Vestments
- Praise Service, 9:30, With Band and Contemporary Music, No Vestments
- All Services are Projected on Screen; 11:00am is broadcast online via livestream

- Occasional special services include bluegrass, polka, bell choir, adult choir, and guest instrumentalists and vocalists.
- Holy Communion is every Sunday.
- Contact Cards are in the bulletin.
- Prayer Cards are available for prayer requests.

Describe your congregation’s Christian education ministry. St. John's intergenerational education ministry provides the means and opportunities for all of God's children and families to grow, learn, and become involved in the church's life. This is accomplished by First Communion, Confirmation, adult education classes, New Members classes, mid-week Bible studies, and a pastors’ podcast, all to assist our members in becoming disciples of Jesus Christ.

Describe the congregation’s current activities for mission and outreach. SJLC Mission and Outreach Committees actively support numerous international, national, and local organizations. Each committee is funded with 5% of the total member general offerings.

The Mission Committee focuses on supporting the spiritual needs of many organizations by making it possible for them to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ such as, but not limited to, helping congregations grow their missional focus, supporting church plants in unserved regions, seminary student scholarships, NALC pastor support internationally, providing Bibles in native languages and Military Bible Sticks for current and retired military.

The Outreach Committee focuses on caring for and providing financial support for those with physical needs such as, but not limited to, disaster relief supplies and physical labor for clean-up, poverty relief through prayerful support and food provision, water well drilling, shelter for women and children, council and medical care for pregnancy and providing children’s Christmas gifts through Operation Christmas Child.

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]

- A. ___ Totally unaware
- B. ___ Have heard about it
- C. ___ Have been involved personally
- D. ___ Some in the congregation are involved, and some aren’t
- E. X Congregation understands, is on board and involved

List the *Top Five Things* your congregation hopes for in its next Associate Pastor

1. Complement the Senior Pastor’s ministry as leader and primary preacher.
2. Demonstrate a strong work ethic to share the load of leading the church, staff, and ministries.

3. Articulate the Gospel, as a dynamic and biblically grounded preacher, in a way consistent with our tradition, church, and historic creeds.
4. As a warm “people person” lead, coordinate, and build up the care ministries of the church.
5. Equip and call people to become disciples who follow Jesus, and go into the community with the Gospel.

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.

The first significant event occurred in 2009 when the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) shifted policy away from Scripture and toward homosexual marriage and clergy. Though there was some division regarding this topic (and a few members later left the church), an overwhelming majority of members decided in the required two votes in 2010 to terminate affiliation with the ELCA. The St. John Lutheran congregation immediately joined the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) and, later, in 2011, also voted to join the newly formed North American Lutheran Church (NALC).

The second significant event occurred when Senior Pastor Henry Schulte retired. Pastor Schulte served as Senior Pastor of St. John Lutheran from September of 1994 until June 2015. He was a beloved pastor and friend to many and a strong church leader. His retirement brought uneasiness to the congregation and some division regarding the selection of a senior pastor. Some members of the congregation left when it was determined that the then-associate pastor would not become the senior pastor. When Pastor Eric Waters became Senior Pastor in 2016, stability returned to the congregation.

The final significant event occurred as the worship style changed over time. For 90 years, St. John Lutheran Church offered traditional, in-person worship services. However, in 2017, as the community began experiencing tremendous growth and there was a concern about reaching new members as well as members of the younger generation, the church began to offer a Praise Worship service in addition to both early and late traditional services. The Praise Service, led by a praise band, includes contemporary music and worship style. Also in 2017, a live-streaming worship service option was initiated. Consequently, live streaming became the only worship option during COVID. COVID hit every church in a different manner, but our services resumed after a short period of 6 weeks. Even though St. John Lutheran was one of the first churches to resume in-person worship after COVID, online attendance remains strong.

Has your congregation participated in the Congregational Workshop Preparatory to the Call Process? Yes X No

What were the three most significant results of the workshop?

1. Status of the current ministry was discussed and applauded
2. Congregation was regarded as thriving and healthy
3. Comments and information provided by Call Committee were affirmed

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?

No significant conflict

How does your congregation handle conflict/tension? Which of the following do you think best describes your congregation?

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 occasionally differences of opinion can 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 associate pastor and the congregation? Positive? Struggling? Cooperative? Tense?

Extremely Positive

How did your council/congregational leaders work together with your last associate pastor

Leadership is shared, with shared decision-making

Pastor makes important decisions

Council makes decisions with pastoral input

Council makes decisions without pastoral input

Pastors, Council, and Staff work together well

Is your associate pastor(s) a member of the council with: Voice Vote

Congregational finances:

Total budget for the current fiscal year: \$1,557,550

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$75,910

Other benevolence: \$166,543

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$1,673,843

Compensation of Last Associate Pastor / Compensation for the Pastor

Salary: \$55,480

Parsonage/housing allowance: \$24,000.00

Social security offset: \$6080.00

Pension: \$8,600

Health Insurance: \$27,900

Vacation: 4 weeks

Continuing education (time/funding): 800.00

Travel reimbursement: Mileage as paid \$3000

Other: \$400

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.

St. John Lutheran Church is located in the town of Boerne, nestled in the beautiful Hill Country of South Texas. The city of Boerne offers quaint shops with antique and eclectic shopping in the historic downtown. It is situated 25 miles northwest of San Antonio, the seventh-largest city in the nation. The small-town charm with easy access to big-city amenities and conveniences makes Boerne a wonderful place to live, work and play.

St. John was founded in 1929 and has a proud, traditional, and conservative background. We are a congregation of generous givers, affording us a strong financial position. St. John currently has a staff of 22 people. Our current congregation base is mature, and we are steadily growing and welcoming many younger families into our church family. Our goal for this year is to grow our worship attendance to 450 people in-person each Sunday, with a goal of 700 people in the next 5 years.

As a church that is Christ-centered and grounded in traditional Lutheran values and beliefs, we offer two traditional worship services each Sunday, along with a Praise worship service that features a live band. Communion is offered every week at each service. Sunday school is available every Sunday for all ages, nursery through adult. Many Bible Studies and other fellowship activities take place throughout the week. Each Wednesday evening, we have activities for all ages. Our church is also very involved in mission and outreach activities, offering many opportunities for people to serve in the community and the world. We equip our congregation to be servant-leaders of the church's ministries and have many eager volunteers.

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 associate 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. [video link]

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

We are an active church with a variety of activities and ministries that allow opportunities to both connect and serve. Many family-oriented activities are offered, which include food and fellowship on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, and the Connections group where families with young children meet monthly for a fun family activity. There are also activities geared more toward adults like Happy Hearts, Friends of Faith Dinner Group, or the GriefShare support group. Service is important to our church and there are many opportunities to serve both in the community as well as internationally. Locally, our church is involved with different organizations like the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center, Hill Country Daily Bread, even providing mentorship through the Growing Hope Ministry. We are also a collection site for the Hill Country Area for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox drop off. Internationally, we serve through multiple mission trips and water well projects in Honduras and Uganda. It is important to learn and grow our faith and this is accomplished through our adult and youth Sunday school classes as well as mid-week Bible studies. We also like to have fun, whether it is meeting for Theology on Tap, dominoes, and canasta, or participating in the polka service led by the Boerne Village Band.

Completed by: Call Committee, Kurt Wandrey, Chair

Date: 11/15/2022

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.