

# 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](mailto:callprocess@thenalc.org)  
 Keep a copy for your records.**

## Congregation Name and Location

Name St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Sandy Hill

Mailing address 8819 FM 2621

City Brenham State/Province TX Zip/Postal Code 77833

Telephone (979) 836-8894 Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email address office@stmatthewbrenham.org

Congregation website www.stmatthewbrenham.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 Southeast Texas Mission District

## Congregational President or Vice President

Name Brian Scheffer Title President

Mailing address 5315 FM 1457

City Round Top State/Province TX Zip/Postal Code 78954

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (979) 337-1212

Email address brianscheffer@yahoo.com

## Call Committee Chair

Name Sheryl Schmid

Mailing address PO Box 454

City Washington State/Province TX Zip/Postal Code 77880

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (713) 203-0620

Email address sherylschmid747@gmail.com

## Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance   50   Average Sunday school attendance   5  

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

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is located in a rural community called Sandy Hill. It is located approximately 8 miles north of Brenham in Washington County, Texas. Being near the historical sites of Independence and Washington on the Brazos with its beautiful rolling hills and wildflowers makes the community an exceptional place to live. Brenham has a population 17,699 with a small-town atmosphere and a tremendous amount of community participation. Throughout the year, there are many local festivals and activities that attract residents and travelers alike. Brenham has excellent schools including Blinn Jr. College, medical facilities and numerous industries such as Blue Bell Creameries. Travel time to Texas A&M University is approximately 30 minutes. Travel time to Houston is about 1 hour and 30 minutes and Austin is under 2 hours.

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

98% Caucasian

- Seniors (65-92 years) 30%
- Middle aged (45-64 years) 30%
- Young Adults (20-44 years) 27.5%
- Teenagers (13-19 years) 7.5%
- Children (1-12 years) 5%

**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 people of St. Matthew Lutheran Church look to a loving God and a saving Christ to build a community for discipleship and fellowship to share the Word and Sacraments. Our mission is to be fully devoted to our Lord Jesus Christ by opening our arms to those in search of the Truth.

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

Our goals are for the Holy Spirit to help us bring the Word of God to all believers and nonbelievers and to:

- be more attentive to the needs of our youth and young adults.
- care for the needs of our elderly and each other.
- continue helping in the community with our outreach programs.
- grow in faithful membership.

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

Our congregation celebrates Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of each month and on certain Festivals of the Church Year. St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a traditional church that values our Lutheran liturgy and hymns. We use printed bulletins and mainly utilize the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal. Our congregation has been blessed with a fine organ and a piano to accompany music of the church. Vestments are worn by the pastor, assisting minister, crucifer and acolytes.

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

We have a small Sunday School with dedicated teachers. Ages 2-5 use beginner bible lessons. Grades 1-5 follow the *Answers in Genesis Sunday School* curriculum and teachers emphasize points found in the *Lutheran Study Bible*. Each student is given an edition of the *My Very First Holy Bible* published by Concordia. Confirmation has been led by our pastor.

Our Adult Bible Study is held once a week. We look forward to beginning Young Adult Studies (post confirmation) and Adult Catechesis. Our women participate in a Bible Study once a month with our local NALC sisters (5 churches in Brenham.) In our church, there are multiple ESV Bibles in each pew that congregants are encouraged to use, as well as Lutheran Worship pew cards providing details on the meaning of the liturgy.

Our congregation is filled with those wanting to learn more, and we seek a pastor willing to actively lead all ages in the study of God's Word.

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

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is active in:

- collecting school supplies for area students in need.
- providing baskets of food and gifts for Focusing Families.
- working with Faith Mission.
- contributing to Brenham Pregnancy Care Center and others in need.
- making quilts and gathering supplies for the NALC Disaster Relief warehouse in Rosenberg.
- working with our CNS (Community of NALC Sisters) on ways we can support and participate in our community and churches.
- hosting game nights and cooking classes for the boys at Miracle Farm.

**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**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is praying for a pastor that:

1. has truly been called to us by the Holy Spirit to teach and equip the saints for discipleship.
2. is a good leader (shepherd) with a clear and mature love for Jesus.
3. delivers inspiring sermons that are biblically based upon sound doctrine.
4. values and utilizes traditional Lutheran worship, liturgy, and hymns.
5. fits well with our congregation.

**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. St. Matthew Lutheran Church was established in 1892.
2. After a storm destroyed the church building in 1915, it was rebuilt the following year.
3. The church decided to relinquish its membership in the ELCA in 2010 leading us to join the NALC.

Each of these events displays different periods of our congregation's strength through unity. The Holy Spirit has guided us through all and we give God the glory for every part of our Church's life.

**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. We are a loving and united congregation focused on the mission ahead.
2. We need to communicate more with each other.
3. The Holy Spirit will equip our next pastor to be our leader.

**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?**

A conflict we experienced recently came about when rules for the church cemetery were being enforced. The Church Council worked with the family and the conflict has been resolved.

**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).....

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

It was mixed.

**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: \$ 107,990.00

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 1,350.00 (national) \$350.00 (mission district)

Other benevolence: \$ 3,800.00

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 485,000.00 (approximate)

**Compensation for the Pastor**

Total package of \$70,000.00 to be distributed as needed

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. Matthew Lutheran Church of Sandy Hill is located in the scenic rolling hills of Washington County, Texas. The Church was founded by German immigrants in 1892. They united to begin what we are a still a part of today – a traditional Lutheran church whose mission is to proclaim God's grace and make disciples who love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. We are seeking a pastor who is called by the Holy Spirit to be our shepherd, to love our people, and to equip the saints for discipleship.

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: [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/ly\\_s753GiHQ](https://youtu.be/ly_s753GiHQ)

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

Completed by: Sheryl Schmid

Date: November 15, 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/](https://thenalc.org/mission-districts/).

Should you have questions, call Pastor Shelly Schultz, NALC Call Process Coordinator, at 888-551-7254.

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