

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



Congregation Name and Location

Name PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Mailing address 303 Meadow Dr (PO Box 308)
City Rockdale State/Province Texas Zip/Postal Code 76567
Telephone 512.446.2384 Fax _____
Email address peacerockdale@sbcglobal.net
Congregation website reregistering (not current): peacerockdale.com (& changing to .org), also on FaceBook
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:
XXXXXXXX NALC _____ LCMC _____ Other _____
Current NALC Mission District: Southeastern Texas (Hallettsville, TX)

Congregational President or Vice President

Name Kathleen Brockenbush Title President
Mailing address 2369 N FM 487
City Rockdale State/Province TX Zip/Postal Code 76567
Home phone 512.446.6284 Cell phone 254.541.0316
Email address kbrockenbush@yahoo.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Mike Pruett
Mailing address 706 Middleton
City Rockdale State/Province TX Zip/Postal Code 76567
Home phone _____ Cell phone 512.760.6902
Email address mpruett@pruettins.com

Congregational Demographics

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals _____ Secretarial 1
(Have contract building cleaning service and lawn service)
Average worship attendance 32 (w/Pastor 40) 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.).

Small town (~6000); originally farming, then 1952 – 2009 Aluminum Co of America; now retirees/farming/ranching/bitcoin mining – Bitdeer & Whinstone; bedroom community for Austin/Temple/Bryan-College Station. 30 miles from Taylor (new Samsung chip manufacturing plant starting)

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Anglo-Saxon 95%, Hispanic 4%, other. 50+ with some exceptions

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 mission of Peace Lutheran is to worship the Triune God and respond to the grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ by:

~Baptism, Worship, and Weekly Communion;

~Hearing and Studying God's Word;

~Loving one another as Christ loves,

forgiving and supporting one another in good times and bad;

~Witnessing Christ's great love through service and unity.

This mission statement has not been updated in many years.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

We have an older congregation and not many younger families. During and after Covid, our attendance went down. It is important that we grow the church and feel that is the most important goal of the congregation. With a larger congregation, other things will fall into place.

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

Traditional (yes to all of the above). Have communion with pastor present and without if wine and bread have been properly blessed. No visual technology (for now). Open for change.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

Youth – none

Adults – Sunday school (just completed Revelations and started Psalms) and evening women's Bible study

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

- “Place of Hope” – pregnancy care center in Rockdale, providing financial support when possible
- Canned goods gathered/distributed for Thanksgiving/Christmas
- Quilts made for nursing home residents
- PackPals – backpacks and supplies for needing students
- “Trunk or Treat” Halloween night candy giveaway at church
- Donate \$200 monthly to Rockdale Christian Services – Food Pantry

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 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. Mission driven/discipleship
2. Grow the church – young families, youth, Sunday School
3. Equal partnership
4. Congregationally focused
5. Lives in Rockdale

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. Celebrated 50 years of the construction of PLC (founded 1870) on Meadow Drive in 2017
2. Built fellowship hall and remodel church – 1997
3. Moved from ELCA to NALC around 2014

Has your congregation participated in the Congregational Workshop Preparatory to the Call Process? [Type an X by the appropriate response]

Yes 29Oct2022 No

What were the three most significant results of the workshop?

1. As a group, sharing ideas;
2. Common agreement on what we want in a pastor
3. Became aware of changes in NALC that we were not previously aware of (discipleship, et al)

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?

In recent years, there have been minimal conflicts within our church. The church did go through some conflict regarding leaving the ELCA and other issues that resulted in some congregants at that time leaving.

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?

Positive, cooperative, lived 30 miles away but was here half days (or longer if necessary) during week as well, participated in council meetings. The pastor was well liked and respected. There was some frustration, however, in that the pastor was not as involved in the local community as many hoped and no emphasis was placed on retaining or growing the membership.

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: \$137,359 _____

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$2,400 yearly _____

Other benevolence: _____

- 2021 \$8,870 various local, national, and international organizations (including \$2,400 to RCS Food Pantry).
- 2022 will be similar including \$200 to NALC Vision2020.
- 2023 will also include \$1200 for NALC Vision2020 as well.

Total debt of the congregation: \$0 _____

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$56,362 in special accounts (youth, memorial, special).

Working account floats around \$80k - \$85k

Compensation of Last Pastor / Compensation for the Pastor

Salary: \$24,800 _____ Parsonage/housing allowance: \$19,200 _____

Social security offset: \$2,900 _____ Pension: \$10,000 _____

Health Insurance: included in pension amt _____ Vacation: _____

Continuing education (time/funding): \$700

Travel reimbursement: \$3,500

Other: Medicare allowance: \$400

Supplies: \$500

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.

Well, we are currently a small aging church in a small town, but....

- We have hope! There is a lot going around in the area. Alcoa, a 60 year employer left and its land has been bought by Sandow Lakes Ranch (SLR) who have great plans for the 34,000 acres. Taylor 30 miles away is growing because of a large Samsung chip manufacturing facility building there. New housing additions are planned here in anticipation of that.
- Other items: Rockdale Fair/Rodeo in October and the restored Kay Theater and train depot
- Besides Taylor, we are the center of two triangles: Bedroom community for Austin/Waco/Bryan College Station (easy commuting) and San Antonio/Houston/Dallas Ft Worth.
- We want and believe our new pastor (with us) will bring new members and youth to the church.
- We are open to change such as moving to visual technology in church services.

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.

We have made videos of Rockdale and exterior/interior of church/fellowship hall.

- Video links: in YouTube go to: Kent Givens (@kentgivens) “videos” or
- PeaceLutheranC 1: Rockdale, driving east 1
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbUxSQ3tGtg>
- PeaceLutheranC 2: Rockdale, driving east 2
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYIERemms9E>
- PeaceLutheranC 3: Rockdale, driving west 1
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKk16mEiYi4>
- PeaceLutheranC 4: Rockdale, driving west 2
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYIERemms9E&t=12s>
- PeaceLutheranC 5: Rockdale, approaching church
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=la4xbXqb-Ws>
- PeaceLutheranC 6: PLC - view from Meadow Drive
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgOloLZJKjk>
- PeaceLutheranC 7: PLC outside walkaround
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZysX59_fPI
- PeaceLutheranC 8: “PLC main building interior”
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfTI-cY6a1o>
- PeaceLutheranC 9: PLC fellowship hall interior
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLcl-ETKL9s>
- Made a video of members leaving Nov20 church service to give a one-word thought of what Peace Lutheran means to them. So I thought. “Record” was off! The majority said “family,” and one “forgiveness.”

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

- PLC began in 1870 and began as a rural church in a German community. We have been in three locations since moving into Rockdale. We moved into the current church building in 1967. Remodeling and a new fellowship hall were done in 1997. We spend the money necessary to keep it well maintained.
- We have a good audio system, piano, and organ (and players as well!).
- From Rockdale Chamber of Commerce: http://rockdalechamber.com/about-us_1, Executive Director Denise Brock at 512-446-2030 or email info@rockdalechamber.com
- Rockdale area brochure covers from CofC attached

Completed by: Kent Givens

Date: 22Nov2022
