

# 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 Paul Lutheran Church

Mailing address 114 S 5th St

City Oregon

State/Province IL

Zip/Postal Code 61061

Telephone 815-732-2367

Fax

Email address splc61061@gmail.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  LCMC  Other

=  
Current NALC Mission District Great Rivers Mission  
District

## Congregational President or Vice President

Name Jeff Janke

Title President

Mailing address 114 S 5th St (Use church address)

City Oregon

State/Province IL

Zip/Postal Code 61061

Home phone

Cell phone 815-440-8722

Email address jankewil@comcast.net

## Call Committee Chair

Name Margaret Cowan

Mailing address 1225 Arnold Ave  
City Rockford State/Province IL Zip/Postal Code 61108  
Home phone Cell phone 309-525-3077  
Email address margaret41265@yahoo.com

### Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 42 Average Sunday school attendance 4

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

Oregon IL is a small town of 3500 with a vibrant downtown, K-12 public schools are all located within the city limits; 35 miles from a mall and shopping district as well as 3 major hospitals in Rockford, IL. Oregon has medical offices and a pharmacy along with a grocery store, several family restaurants as well as fast-food venues. Three state parks provide camping and hiking. The Rock River runs through the town providing fishing, canoeing and kayaking.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

under 10 - 6; 51-60 - 10  
10-20 - 14; 61-70 - 8  
21-30 - 5; 71-80 - 11  
31-40 - 6; 81-90 - 18  
41-50 - 9; 91-100 - 3

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.

Our mission statement is: Loving Christ, Sharing Christ, Trusting Christ

Our vision statement is: To be a supportive family of believers striving to be Christ-like to our neighbors.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

We would like to increase our community involvement; hoping that will increase our youth involvement and maybe our membership. We look forward to developing a cohesive yoking relationship with St John's Lutheran in Creston.

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

We primarily use Setting 1 in LBW and occasionally Service 5 in WOV (and have used others). We have one service which meets on Sunday morning. We do not have a choir at present; but do have a Howell pipe organ as well as a piano and clavichord. We sing 3 hymns/services and enjoy hymn sings on occasional Sundays when we do not have a pastor. We offer communion every Sunday. We have midweek Lenten services, using the Holden Evening Prayer service and preceded by soup suppers. We are presently yoking with St John's, Creston and are changing our service times quarterly (either 8:30 or 11:30 a.m.) In 2023 we will change

service times every four months.

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

Our Sunday School is very small at present - 4 children. In the past we have offered Sunday School Christmas programs as well as having the children sing during services occasionally. We co-host VBS with several community churches. We offer adult Sunday School and weekly Bible Study. We do not have a confirmation class at present (no age appropriate youth).

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

A small, but dedicated, group meets to sew quilts for Disaster Response and lap robes for two of the local nursing homes. We also donate 20-30 health and school kits each year to NALC Disaster Response. We participate in Operation Christmas Child and donate to several local charities at Christmas time. We give 25% of our benevolence to a different local organization each month. We participate in Honey Sales for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. We have an endowment fund that annually disburses money to our high school graduates/college students as well as global and local charities. Our church also supplies a meeting space for AA organizations.

**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
- X 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. Christ Centered/Spiritual Leader - leads worship well and makes the Bible come alive
2. Strong Communication Skills - extrovert, self-starter
3. Leadership/Character - approachable, good listener
4. Personal Outreach - equip laity for ministry, delegator, recruiting skills
5. Administrative Skills - visits w/everyone, not just shut-ins, involved with community, good with children

**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.**

In 1998 we had a special hymn commissioned for our church's 150th anniversary.

2010 when the congregation voted to leave the ELCA and in 2012 voted to join the NALC

2023 we will celebrate our 175th anniversary

**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. Good congregational involvement
2. Everyone was involved in the conversation and discussions
3. Good/honest discussion about past and future pastors

**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?**

Several years ago we looked at purchasing a neighboring church's building due to our location. We had several meetings and tours of the building. We voted and resolved to stay where we are. Recently the discussion to hire a full or part-time pastor. We again had several informational Q & A meetings, followed by a vote.

**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?**

Struggling, tense, unapproachable, introvert, who used "boxed" or "canned" sermons. He was not a people person.

**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  X Vote

### Congregational finances

Total budget for last fiscal year: \$ 121,620

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 2410 (and \$904 to NALS)

Other benevolence: \$ 2711

Total debt of the congregation: \$

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 220,000

### Compensation of Last Pastor / Compensation for the Pastor

Salary: \$

Parsonage/housing allowance: \$

Social security offset: \$

Pension: \$

Health Insurance: \$

Vacation: .

Continuing education (time/funding): .

Travel reimbursement: .

Other;

**We are currently in the process of establishing a yoking agreement with St John's Creston. As this is a new relationship and our needs are undetermined, a financial package will be determined at a later date.**

**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.**

We will be yoking with St John's Lutheran in Creston, IL (25 miles from Oregon), so please also read and consider their profile.

St Paul is a small church in a beautiful small town surrounded by three state parks, a river and an abundance of nature's natural beauty. In 2023 we will celebrate our 175th anniversary. We hope to call a full-time pastor but are open to considering part-time to allow us to interview all who hear God's call. We currently have one service on Sunday morning, commune every Sunday and use Setting 1 in the LBW. We also have soup suppers and Wednesday evening services during Lent, using the Holden Evening Prayer Service. St Paul's benevolence is split between the NALC, Rock Rescue Mission, and a different local recipient each month. We also donate 30 plus quilts/year and 60 health/school kits to Disaster Response as well as participate in the Shoe Box Ministry and make lap robes for local nursing homes. Since being without a pastor we have been yoking with other NALC churches nearby. Yoking with St John's has proven to be a good working relationship. We are anxious to fill our pulpit with a pastor who will fill our hearts with God's love so we will want to share that love with others.

**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.

[video link]

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

Completed by: St Paul Lutheran Church Call Committee

Date: 5/23/21; Updated 11/23/22

Margaret Cowan, Chairperson, Sandy Strohecker, Secretary

## **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.

**PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS.**