

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



Congregation Name and Location

Name House of Prayer Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mailing address 904 North Mulberry Street

City Elizabethtown State/Province KY Zip/Postal Code 42701-2188

Telephone 270-765-4212 Fax _____

Email address hopenalc@windstream.net

Congregation website https://www.houseofprayerelizabethtown.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:

NALC _____ LCMC _____ Other _____

Current NALC Mission District: Heartland Mission District

Congregational President or Vice President

Name Cindy Lemons Title Congregational President

Mailing address 1032 Jessica Drive

City Bardstown State/Province KY Zip/Postal Code 40004

Home phone n/a Cell phone (502) 827-0823

Email address lemonsaide@bellsouth.net

Call Committee Chair

Name Steve Klotz

Mailing address 206 Martin Road

City Rineyville State/Province KY Zip/Postal Code 40162

Home phone n/a Cell phone (270) 307-6819

Email address sfklotz@windstream.net

Congregational Demographics

Number of paid staff (full- or part-time): Clergy _____ Lay professionals 1-Choir Director 1-Organist Secretarial 1 p/time

Average worship attendance 20 Average Sunday school attendance 5 (resuming soon)

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

Since 1966 House of Prayer Lutheran Church has been a place for Christians of the Elizabethtown area to come together and worship. Many who worship with us, make comments like “when we come to church here it feels like home, surrounded by Christ’s love” or “we feel welcome here” and “it feels like being part of a family.” Our congregation is in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Elizabethtown is a home-rule class city and the county seat of Hardin County, KY. Elizabethtown is in east-central Hardin County, about 15 miles south of Fort Knox. Interstate 65 passes through the southeast side of the city, leading north-northeast 30 miles to Louisville and southwest 80 miles to Bowling Green. Elizabethtown has a total area of 25.8 square miles and is a medium sized town with a population of approximately 32,000, making it the 9th largest city in the Commonwealth. We are near Fort Knox and many of our congregation are veterans or retired veterans.

Elizabethtown Independent Schools District operates Elizabethtown High School, T.K. Stone Middle School, Morningside Elementary School, Helmwood Heights Elementary School, and Valley View Educational Center within the city limits. The Hardin County Schools are another district that encompasses some of the city limits and includes Central Hardin High School, Bluegrass Middle School, G.C. Burkhead Elementary School, Heartland Elementary School, Lincoln Trail Elementary School, and New Highland Elementary School. There are two private schools, Saint James Catholic Regional School, and Gloria Dei Lutheran School in the city as well as the Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.

Elizabethtown is known as Etown for short by the locals and friends. Around here, the E stands for "E"verything is "E"asy. There are plenty of restaurants, lodging, indoor and outdoor shopping malls, and we are conveniently located to many of Kentucky's best-known attractions such as Mammoth Cave, Lincoln’s Birthplace National Park, Kentucky Down Under, Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby Museum among many other tourist spots. Several festivals and events take place in Elizabethtown for families to enjoy such as the Heartland Festival, Crusin’ the Heartland, the BBQ Blues and Bikes Festival, Christmas in the Park, and others.

As of the 2020 Census, average income for a family in the city of Elizabethtown was \$47,270. There were 15,711 households, out of which 30.5% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 43.2% were married couples living together, 15.1% had a female householder with no husband present, 4.4% had a male householder with no wife present, and 37.3% were non-families. 32.1% of all households were made up of individuals, and 10.9% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average family size was 2.94.

Describe the congregation’s ethnic composition and age distribution.

We are a primarily Caucasian congregation with a strong German ethnic background. The age distribution is mainly a middle aged to senior citizen demographic with few children currently attending. The most recent census numbers show the racial makeup of the city as 80.4% White (78.1% non-Hispanic), 19.6% African American, 0.34% Native American or Alaska Native, 2.6% Asian, 0.18% Pacific Islander, 1.3% from other races, and 3.4% from two or more races. Hispanics or Latinos of any race are 4.3% of the population.

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 shared mission as a congregation is to help bring others in our community and the world to experience the healing hope of Jesus Christ through our discipleship. At the recently held congregational workshop, we reviewed and discussed our mission and vision and concluded that we are called to act as one body in continuing God’s work even without a pastor to lead us at this time. All were in agreement to do their part.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

Goals of the congregation are to offer hope through hearing the word, opening opportunities to minister, to proclaim the Gospel and equip our congregation for ministry. These goals were reiterated at the congregational workshop and we brain-stormed some practical actions steps to accomplish our goals.

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

We use the Red and Blue Lutheran Books of Worship with worship settings varying by season. We use TV screens and bulletins for worship. The Choir sings during worship service once a month on average. We typically have Holy Communion weekly. We use vestments and paraments according to season. Services are broadcast live via Facebook.

Describe your congregation’s Christian education ministry.

Education ministry includes:

- Mid-week Bible Study
- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School (sometimes jointly with Anglican Church)
- Confirmation Classes

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

We are actively involved with the NALC Mission District Disaster Relief by hosting teams coming to KY to restore homes damaged from recent tornados and flooding. We help facilitate Feast on the Word Ministry in serving meals and ministry and support Helping Hands of Hope in the community. We are partners with Clarity Solutions, a local pregnancy help center. We offer our church facility to another church for bi-weekly services and have two separate AA groups using our church for meetings during the week.

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 congregation hopes for in its next Pastor

We hope that the next Pastor:

1. Can plan and conduct effective worship services
2. Will be active in visitation of members and non-members
3. Helps others develop their leadership abilities and skills for ministry
4. Is an effective leader
5. Is a good public speaker/preacher of sermons that proclaim 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.

1. Church was established in 1966 -The need for a Lutheran church in the community became a reality after starting as mission plant.
2. 50th Anniversary celebration Sep 2016-We re-affirmed our mission as a church.
3. Left the ELCA and joined the NALC 2009 so we can conduct worship practices consistent with scripture, to be a church centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to be mission driven and Christ centered. We are the only NALC church in Kentucky and the farthest south in the Heartland Mission District.

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 willing to step up and work together to continue ministry while awaiting a new pastor
2. Congregational surveys were completed
3. We gained an understanding of the call process and the need for prayer, and that it is the work of the Holy Spirit through and with us and that it will be done in God's time

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 past, current or recent conflict

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?

The relationship between the previous pastor and the congregation was positive and cooperative.

