



## Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 26 Average Sunday school attendance 11

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

Small city

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

The congregations age distribution for members attending in the last 12 months is as follows:

Age 0-12 – 3

Age 13-20 – 0

Age 21-30 – 1

Age 31-40 – 4

Age 41-50 - 3

Age 51-60 – 2

Age 61-70 – 16

Age 70+ - 11

Of the 59 members listed in the church registry, ninety-three (93) percent are Caucasian, five (5) percent are African American, and two (2) percent are Middle Eastern.

**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.**

Yes - Immanuel Lutheran Church is committed to Scripture as God's Word without error or contradiction. We proclaim the Glory of God by growing in love for one another and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all people.

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

Grow in relationship with the Lord and each other through traditional worship, Christian education, and opportunities for fellowship

Make disciples in our congregation, the community, and around the world through face-to-face ministries as well as financial support

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

Liturgy-Use of Lutheran Book of Worship and With One Voice

Hymns – Hymns found in Lutheran Book of Worship, With One Voice, and hymns found in other orthodox sources

Vestments – Traditional

Music – Organ and/or piano

Hymnals – Lutheran Book of Worship and With One Voice

Frequency of Holy Communion - weekly

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

Sunday School and Wednesday evening Bible studies using curriculum materials by Sola Publishing, Concordia Publishing, and other orthodox sources

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

**Mission in the Local Community:** Immanuel is involved in a number of activities for mission and outreach. Members of the congregation are personally involved in two ministries: Stand by Me: A Ministry to the Detention Center and Beyond and Remember Me Senior Adult Ministry.

Immanuel's Stand By Me ministry makes the greatest impact on the community through face to face ministry in four (4) correctional facilities:

- Broad River Correctional Institution – 40-50 men are involved in weekly Bible study
- Graham Correctional Institution – 5-12 women attend Bible study
- Lee Correctional Institution – 40-50 men attend morning and afternoon Bible studies and approximately 18 bedside visits occur weekly in Hospice/Palliative Care
- Sumter Lee Regional Detention Center – Men: Sunday worship in 2 pods housing 15 to 45 men each  
– Women: Bible study/faith-based pre-release studies to approximately 5-18 women weekly

In addition to face-to-face ministry, approximately 150 incarcerated men and women housed in the SC Department of Corrections facilities receive cards on a monthly basis. Stand By Me ministry is supported weekly through the Prayer Ministry, as prayers are offered both for members of the ministry team as well as petitions requested weekly by incarcerated men and women. In months with five Sundays, physical needs are addressed through donations of hygiene products to support ministry by SCDC chaplains in Restrictive Housing Units. In addition, members of the congregation are prepared to serve as mentors for returning citizens in the community.

Remember Me Senior Adult Ministry impacts senior adults residing in two (2) senior care facilities:

- Brookdale Senior Living Sumter – 12 to 20 residents weekly attend Bible study during the week and worship on Sunday afternoons.
- Oak Hollow Healthcare of Sumter – 12 to 20 residents weekly attend Bible study consisting of a wonderful time of worship, singing, prayer, and study of God's Word. In addition, some 45-50 residents are served via monthly cards of encouragement.

A joy experienced through this ministry are those occasions when visiting family members as well as staff join the group for Bible study and/or worship. In addition to their participation in singing, prayer, and hearing the messages, staff also request prayer for themselves and the residents. Ministry through birthday cards impacts all residents of these facilities. The ministry is supported weekly through the Prayer Ministry as prayers are offered both for members of the ministry team as well as those requested weekly by the residents. Immanuel also supports physical needs through provision of hygiene products, nightwear, etc. In addition, visits are made to hospitals and rehab facilities as the need arises.

It is important to note that during covid, Stand By Me and Remember Me continued to minister to those with whom the Lord gifted us although face-to-face ministry was not permitted. Stand By Me provided correspondence Bible studies, devotional calendars, devotional books, cards with messages of encouragement, and contact with chaplains. Remember Me provided individual copies of a simple order of worship with a message, printed and delivered to both residential homes. Although the mode of proclamation of God's Word had to be changed during that time of covid-induced isolation, spiritual nourishment continued. There has never been a break in time when Immanuel did not carry God's Word

to these so precious to Him and the church.

Other caring ministries include a free Christian library, pillows for hospital patients, Christian Charities, Sumter United Ministries, and the Sumter Pregnancy Center.

**Mission in North America:** Immanuel offers financial support annual to a mission congregation in the Carolinas Mission Region.

NALC Disaster Relief – Immanuel has provided financial support, as well as needed supplies to assist with relief efforts. Supplies donated have included flood buckets, Bibles, school packs, quilts, supplies for health kits, and gift cards. Three members of the congregation are trained by the NALC to give support following a disaster.

**Global Mission:** Pastor Jordan Long - The ministry of Pastor Jordan Long, President of the Lutheran Church of South Sudan, has been supported financially through an annual donation as well as appeals for special projects. The ministry of Pastor Long is supported through prayer by the Prayer Ministry Team as well as through the prayers of the church.

**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**

1. Preaching
2. Teaching
3. Orthodoxy-doctrine and worship
4. Worship leader
5. Visitation

**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. 2011 - Stepping out in faith to form the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church – The decision to form Immanuel Lutheran Church has proven to be a gift to the congregation as the Lord has revealed his presence with us by providing for his church and in growing our relationship with Him and with one another.
2. 2013 - Issuing a call to our first pastor – Immanuel’s first pastor, Pastor Gary Blobaum, proved to be a spiritual leader who led us to develop worship practices which glorify our Lord, provide instruction which led to growth in understanding, and encouraged outreach which results in making disciples.

3. 2013 - Following the lead of the Holy Spirit to begin face to face ministries with the incarcerated and returning citizens through Stand By Me: A Ministry to the Detention Center and Beyond and Remember Me Senior Adult Ministry – It has been amazing to witness the Holy Spirit move the congregation from the walls of the church building to those who are in need of the gospel and to witness the Holy Spirit at work transforming lives.

**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. Congregational involvement in the call process
2. Confirmation of unity of the congregation
3. Confidence to follow call process in a knowledgeable manner

**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 real conflict. There has been a minor disagreement concerning which liturgy to use. This disagreement was resolved as the congregation agreed to compromise and use a variety of liturgies on a rotational basis.

**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

**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



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.

"The Church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning." Those words describe Immanuel Lutheran Church of Sumter, South Carolina. Kindled by the Holy Spirit, we are a small gathering at the base of a big flame. Our diverse congregation gathers for worship, Sunday School and Bible studies, and then disperses across our community and state, bearing the name and love of Jesus.

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: [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/azVHLHFbgSc>

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

Immanuel, God with us, was chosen as the name for our congregation because it has been evident since the onset that God is indeed with us. As we continue to feel His presence among us, we look forward in anticipation for this next chapter the Lord has in store.

Completed by: Susan Keefe

Date: November 27, 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.

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