

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



Congregation Name and Location

Name First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mailing address 2740 Parker Avenue

City West Palm Beach State/Province FL Zip/Postal Code 33405

Telephone 561-833-9653 Fax _____

Email address secretary.firstchurch@outlook.com

Congregation website www.felcwpb.com

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 Sonshine

Congregational President or Vice President

Name Katherine Summers Title Council President

Mailing address 3800 South Olive Avenue

City West Palm Beach State/Province FL Zip/Postal Code 33405

Home phone _____ Cell phone 786-326-5504

Email address katherinesummers1004@gmail.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Patrick Gilland

Mailing address 47 Camden B

City West Palm Beach State/Province FL Zip/Postal Code 33417

Home phone _____ Cell phone 561-309-8427

Email address patrickgilland8427@gmail.com

Congregational Demographics

Number of paid staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals 0 Secretarial 1

Average worship attendance 45 Average Sunday school N/A

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

First Lutheran is located in an expanding, large city of more than 120,000. The church is located just one-half mile from the major thoroughfare of I-95, about one mile from Palm Beach International Airport and a half-mile from the Atlantic Ocean. Surrounding the church are a wide variety of mixed-use businesses and residential communities. In close proximity to the church are an elementary school, middle school and a wide variety of businesses including a Publix, McDonalds and numerous restaurants. The residential property values around the church are high. There is a lower income, primarily Hispanic community to the south; a beautiful older community of \$500,000+ homes to the north and multi-million dollar homes to the east bordering the intracoastal waterway.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

The majority of our members are Caucasian, with a few African-American and Hispanic members. The majority are over age 55, but we have two under age 6.

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.

To be a community of churches and a church to the community.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

1. Continue to renew, enhance and upgrade building and property
2. Commitment to growth in faith and numbers
3. Integrate other churches and deepen our relationships with Youth for Christ, Holy Cross Ministries and Palm Beach Atlantic University

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

Worship is traditional accompanied by organ or piano. Hymns are generally from the LBW, ELW or WOW. The entire service and hymns are reproduced in the bulletin and also shown on a large sanctuary screen. Hymnals are not used. A variety of liturgies are used during the year. Last year the congregation used LWB Setting One, ELW Setting Eight, St. James Christmas Mass and Now the Feast and Celebration. Pastor(s) generally vest except on casual Sundays. Holy Communion is celebrated alternately either every Sunday or on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

None at this time. A weekly Bible Study is desired and will begin in the near future.

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

In addition to worship, First is engaged in the following ministries:

1. YouTube broadcast of the Sunday service. We generally have about 7 to 10 sites watching the

service live. Views following the service average about 30 per week.

2. Youth for Christ. We allow YFC to utilize portions of our property for their ministry with middle school youth. They currently interact with about 60 youth per week. They have a 5-year goal of 60 families connecting with First through worship or other church activities. The Church Council has approved a plan for YFC to build two basketball courts on our SE parking area complete with fencing and lighting.
3. First leases space on Sunday morning to The Light WPB. This is a church plant startup.
4. Holy Cross Lutheran Church (whose building was sold) currently worships jointly with us. Holy Cross also had 5 other congregations of varying size which utilized space on their former campus. These congregations are now hosted at First Lutheran.
5. First has agreed to a feasibility study for Palm Beach Atlantic University to build workforce housing on the SE portion of our property incorporating the property along Lake Avenue and the SE parking area. If this study proves positive and is a good long-term income stream for the church we are committed (but not required) to proceed.
6. First Lutheran supports two Missionaries in Egypt.
7. First allows PNC Bank to utilize a portion of our parking area for a mobile banking location. This is an outreach of PNC bank to lower income, under-served people in our area.

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. Theologically knowledgeable and very committed to the Lutheran tradition.
2. Family oriented. Preferably a man/woman with spouse and children.
3. Good business acumen with strong organizational skills.
4. Skilled in worship planning considering our unique context.
5. Self-motivated, positive and pro-growth.

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. The move from the Lakeview Avenue location and completion of the current sanctuary and campus in 1960.
2. The PNC Bank property acquisition accompanied with a \$900,000 lease termination payment.
3. Pastor Arnold's retirement after 50 years with the congregation and the calling of an interim pastor.

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. Deepening of our relationship with and commitment to the NALC.
2. Establishment of our major goals or vision points
3. Focusing of our desires and needs in a new pastor.

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?

There is no significant conflict at First Lutheran at this time. The most recent situation that might be identified as "conflict" was those who were not accepting of change after a 50-year pastorate. This is no longer an issue in that most have found church homes elsewhere.

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).....
We do remember painful experience from the past, but as we progress it has less and less bearing on what is happening now. The Congregation and Council are fairly cohesive. We work through things and make decisions without generating divisiveness.

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

The last pastor was at First Lutheran for 50 years. Toward the end of his tenure some felt his relationship with the congregation was good and others felt it was strained.

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 significant pastoral input and influence.
- 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: \$ 291,000

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 6,000

Other benevolence: \$ 12,000

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 1.5 million

Compensation for the Pastor

Total compensation including salary, housing, Social Security offset, pension, insurance and travel to be approximately \$125,000 plus or minus 10% depending on experience level, circumstance, and/or need.

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.

First Lutheran Church is seeking a positive and energetic new pastor to lead our congregation in a unique setting situated in an exceptionally beautiful south Florida community. First Lutheran was established in 1925 and has served the West Palm Beach area for almost 100 years.

Like many older denominational churches, First has faced its share of challenges mostly due to a changing demographic and past leadership that was resistant to change. However, under new interim leadership, First Lutheran has opened its eyes to many new opportunities and possibilities that the Lord is showing us. Currently First Lutheran worships jointly with another Lutheran congregation which is in the process of selling their property. In addition, First hosts the Palm Beach County Youth for Christ organization which provides programs and activities for over 60 youth on our campus. We also feel that Christ is leading our congregation to be a “church for churches” and so currently we have six other Christian congregations of varying dominations utilizing and sharing our facility. We are a church with a lot of activity! Additionally, First Lutheran has no debt, significant financial reserves and income from rental property and giving that exceeds our current need.

We believe that the ministry at First Lutheran is a wonderful opportunity for a pastoral leader who sees the mission field as beyond an individual church and who values available resources that can foster and support new and innovative ministry. As we are reminded often at First Lutheran – the seven last words of a dying church are: “We have never done it like that before.” But the seven first words of a thriving church are: “Let’s try it and see what happens”

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

Completed by: The Call Committee

Date: October 26, 2022



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**

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/).

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