

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



Congregation Name and Location

Name St. John Lutheran Church

Mailing address 3941 280th St.

City Boyden State/Province IA Zip/Postal Code 51234

Telephone 712-725-2152 Fax

Email address stjohnlutheran@premieronline.net

Congregation website No Website- Facebook Page- St. John Lutheran Church

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: Iowa Mission District

Congregational President or Vice President

Name Kyle Koster

Title Congregational President

Mailing address 3911 290th St.

City Boyden State/Province IA Zip/Postal Code 51234

Home phone NA Cell phone 712-348-5575

Email address kjukoster@gmail.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Sandy Fick

Mailing address 2817 Jackson Ave.

City Boyden State/Province IA Zip/Postal Code 51234

Home phone 712-439-1359 Cell phone 712-441-3139

Email address ficksandy@gmail.com

Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 70 Average Sunday school attendance 28

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

St. John Lutheran church and its parsonage rest upon a spacious, well-kept acreage, along a hard surfaced road, surrounded by corn and bean fields. The beauty of the countryside is evident in each sunrise and sunset. The nearest small town, population 700, is Boyden, approximately four miles away, followed by George, seven miles away. Some larger towns, Sheldon and Sioux Center, along with a few others, are within a 15 to 30 minute driving time. Bigger cities, such as Sioux City, Sioux Falls, or Spencer are about an hour to an hour and a half away.

The community is agriculturally based, with farming and some local manufacturing, Demco in Boyden, and Sudengas in George, as the main sources of occupation. The church and parsonage are in the Sheldon Community School District, but because of open enrollment, the Boyden-Hull Community School District is a convenient option, along with a few others.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Caucasian with German/Dutch descent- Median age 45-50 years old- Age range of 1-92 years old

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.

We are followers of Christ, growing in faith, equipping disciples, called to serve in His name.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

At St. John, our primary goal is to be Christ's hands and feet both locally, and in the greater community.

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

We practice traditional services and liturgy with contemporary services on the third (and fifth) Sundays. We use the green LBW and blue With One Voice hymnals. Communion is held on the first and third Sundays. We follow lectionary and seasonal vestments. Now the Feast and Celebration is used on the third Sunday. Holden Evening Prayer is used during midweek Lenten services. We have a Senior Choir, Children's Bell Choir, and Cherub Choir. We pride ourselves in involving our youth in our Sunday morning services. Two television screens are located in the front of the church are used during the service for contemporary music, liturgies, and announcements.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

Our strong Sunday School attendance gives us great promise for the opportunity to grow. Sunday School is held before the church service on Sunday morning. Classes are held for ages three years old through adult. Confirmation classes are held every Wednesday evening for students in 7th and 8th grade. We celebrate the end of the school year by hosting a community week-long Vacation Bible School. We have a youth group, offer marriage classes, first communion class for fifth graders, Bibles are given to third graders, and we celebrate the birth of Christ with the children's Christmas Eve program and candlelight service.

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

We have an awareness and support numerous local and global missions.

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. Bible-based preaching and teaching grounded in Lutheran Confessions
2. Meaningful worship experiences
3. Welcoming to people of all ages
4. Spiritual education and active engagement with the youth
5. Visitation to the sick and shut-ins

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 2003, St. John celebrated our 125th year with a weekend of events and services.

In 2011, we left the ELCA and joined the NALC.

In 2012-2013, we started incorporating more contemporary worship and music into our worship services.

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 want to continue to engage our youth in worship and congregational activities
2. We need to become more aware and involved in local mission opportunities.
3. We have a need to reach out to inactive members.

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 current conflicts

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 our most recent pastor and the congregation was beyond great. He built relationships with all ages of our congregation. Unfortunately, health problems made his time with us shorter than he had hoped and planned.

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: \$ 106, 774.00 + \$11,000 Benevolence

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 1,500.00

(NALC-Iowa District- \$500.00 NALC Seminary- \$500.00)

Other benevolence: \$ 7,250

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 318,805.00

Compensation of Last Pastor / Compensation for the Pastor

Salary: \$ 57,000.00	Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ Parsonage Provided
Social security offset: \$ Did not need	Pension: \$ 5,000
Health Insurance: \$ Medicare	Vacation: . 4 weeks
Continuing education (time/funding): . 2 weeks and \$900.00	
Travel reimbursement: . \$4,800.00	
Other: Professional expense-\$500.00, QSEHRA for uninsured medical reimbursement- \$3,000.00	

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.

St. John Lutheran Church is a rural church in northwest Iowa with conservative Christian values. Our church strives to grow in faith, be followers of Christ, and be disciples to spread His news. What sets us apart from other congregations, are our strong relationships between worshippers, outstanding youth engagement, and our commitment to serving the Lord in whatever capacity He needs us. We are a congregation that holds high regard to the teachings of the gospel and we work to instill that in all ages.

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.) Include a link to the video below. Make sure the link allows for public access to the video.

<https://youtu.be/-8GMRFrGDZc>

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

Completed by: Sandy Fick

Date: 1-15-23

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.