

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



Congregation Name and Location

Name St. John's Lutheran Western Douglas

Mailing address 1760 130th St.

City. Plainfield State/Province IA Zip/Postal Code. 50666

Telephone. (319) 610-0345 Allan Lindaman Fax _____

Email address stjohnwesterndouglas@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 Iowa

Congregational President or Vice President

Name Duane Rieckenberg Title President

Mailing address. 1079 Larrabee Ave.

City. Ionia State/Province. IA Zip/Postal Code. 50645

Home phone _____ Cell phone. (319) 231-5408

Email address drieckenberg@butlerrec.coop

Call Committee Chair

Name. Allan Lindaman

Mailing address. 1283 140th St.

City. Plainfield State/Province. IA Zip/Postal Code. 50666

Home phone _____ Cell phone. (319) 610-0345

Email address lind@butler-bremer.com

Congregational Demographics

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

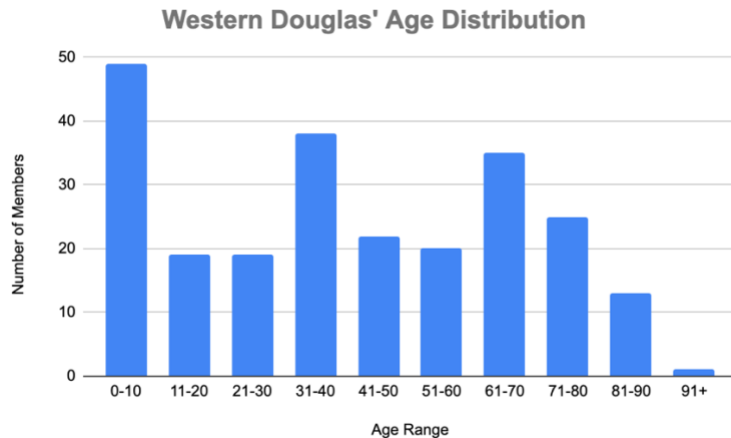
Average worship attendance. 86 Average Sunday school attendance. 50-55

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

Our church is located in a rural, farming community. However, we are a short 15 minute drive to Wartburg College in Waverly, which is known for [Christmas at Wartburg](#), the [Waldemar A. Schmidt Art Gallery](#), and [The W](#), a state of the art sports and wellness center. We are also only 30 minutes away from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa, home of the [Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center](#).

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Our congregation's ethnic composition consists mostly of European heritage. We have 241 members with the age distribution shown below.



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 people are called to be a community of faith, hope, and love through worship, proclaiming to others the Gospel, making disciples, and nurturing our members to grow in faith.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

We provide services of worship at which the word of God is preached and the Holy Sacraments are administered, pastoral care is provided, teaching and witnessing the word of God and responding to the needs of our congregation. We create a Christ-centered education for our youth to foster a lifelong relationship with Christ, as we have promised through the sacrament of baptism.

Looking forward, our congregation has several goals aimed at accomplishing our church mission stated above. A few of these goals include providing members of all ages opportunities to enhance their biblical knowledge and strengthen their biblical worldview, expanding mission work beyond that of just financial contributions, reviving our youth group, and growing our congregation through community outreach programs and events. We are very excited about each of these goals, and are prayerfully seeking a pastor who is able and willing to help us accomplish them.

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

Our congregation worships using the cranberry colored, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) book and With One Voice. We follow the liturgy as provided for the different seasons of the church year. We are blessed to have special music throughout the year, including weekly organ and piano accompanists for our service. The children sing at least once a month, and we have musical guests occasionally throughout the year. The children lead the service following their week of Vacation Bible School in the summer and also on Christmas Eve. Holy Communion is offered two times per month and also on special holidays. Acolyte gowns are provided for the youth helping with service.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

During the school year, we provide Sunday School for two year olds through eighth grade prior to service starting. We follow *Martin Luther's Small Catechism* and also implement lessons from the *ShareFaith* website. Our Sunday School students receive personalized Bibles upon entering third grade. We have excellent participation and staff who volunteer to teach our youth. Vacation Bible School is held one week in the summer. We have been able to take our Bible School students to ride on a church float in the Plainfield Days parade. Our church also provides a women's Bible study each month. Prior to Covid, we were also able to lead a devotional service at a local nursing home.

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

Our church supports local, national, and international missions. Our missions and outreach is voted on yearly by the congregation. This year we chose to financially support [Eight Days of Hope](#) (a national organization that responds to disasters across the country), [NALC Disaster Relief Fund](#), [Cedar Valley Friends of the Family](#) (an advocacy service for victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, and homelessness), [Self Help International](#) (an organization devoted to alleviating hunger in rural communities in Ghana and Nicaragua), and [Hope for Life Pregnancy Center](#) (a Christ-centered pregnancy support clinic), along with ongoing support for the NALC.

Our women's group makes quilts and assembles personal health kits and school kits for the NALC Disaster Relief Fund, and also provides school kits which are distributed nationally by the NALC. We also collect items each month for the Nashua Food Pantry, baby supplies for Hope for Life Pregnancy Center, and other items as requested by Cedar Valley Friends of the Family and [LZ Phoenix](#) (an organization that provides transitional and homeless veterans temporary housing and tools necessary to arise as self-sustainable members of the community).

Our Sunday School gives to [Operation Christmas Child](#), Nashua Food Bank, Royal Family Kids Camp (a Christian summer camp for foster kids), and Cedar Valley Friends of the Family.

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 congregations hopes for in its next Pastor

1. Our hope is our next Pastor will believe God's Word is true without error, will have Biblical knowledge, and will be able to share the Bible with engaging sermons.
2. Our hope is our next Pastor will be a good communicator with all ages: approachable, with good visiting skills, and tolerant of worship interruptions.
3. Our hope is our next Pastor will have a servant's or shepherd's heart and will follow the calling.
4. Become part of our communities and enjoy country/rural living.
5. We would embrace a pastor who would help us seek and welcome new members together with our congregational effort to reach out to the community around us.

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.

Western Douglas was founded in 1905. In 1941, the church burned and was rebuilt by its members. In 2010, our church left the ELCA. We felt the NALC more clearly aligned with our congregational beliefs.

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 have strong unity among the membership concerning our top priorities.
2. Many members actively participated in the workshop.
3. People spoke openly and shared their feelings.

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?

When we left the ELCA and joined the NALC, a few members made the decision to leave. However, we also gained members that shared our beliefs from neighboring churches.

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?

Our relationship was positive and cooperative. Our pastor retired after serving our congregation for 22 years. Prior to his retirement he shared that Western Douglas feels like home and he enjoyed the peaceful, rural setting of our church.

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: \$ 115,203 _____

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 8,700 _____

Other benevolence: \$5,600 _____

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0 _____

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 31,404 _____

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: \$ 37,000 _____ Parsonage/housing allowance: \$. 1,500 _____

Social security offset: \$ 2,830 _____ Pension: \$ 5,180 _____

Health Insurance: \$ 24,280 _____ Vacation: _____

Continuing education (time/funding): \$500 _____

Travel reimbursement: \$0.58/mile _____

Other: Utility allowance \$2,171; Professional Fees \$2,000 _____

When the Congregational Vacancy List is updated, a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) is included announcing each congregation's ministry. If you wish, your call committee may compose that summary, realizing it may be edited/formatted as needed.

St. John Lutheran, Plainfield, Iowa is seeking a full-time pastor to join our church family and shepherd our flock into the future. Located in a quiet country setting, unobscured views of sunsets are a frequent occurrence. We are blessed to have sixty-five plus, curious and energetic children in Sunday School that are being educated by dedicated and creative adults. Our loving, motivated, compassionate, and growing congregation needs a dynamic, visionary pastor.

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

<https://vimeo.com/773547350/1c1b01ae3d>

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

Completed by: Allan Lindaman

Date: November 20, 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 715-418-1761 (cell).

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS.