

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



Enter information directly into this document.
**SAVE the document on your computer with your congregation's name,
city and date completed as part of the file name.**

**EMAIL COMPLETED PROFILE TO dwendel@thenalc.org.
Keep a copy for your records.**

Congregation Name and Location

Name Groveport Zion Lutheran Church
Mailing address PO Box 305
City Groveport State/Province Ohio Zip/Postal Code 43125
Telephone 614-836-5611 Fax _____
Email address secretarygptzion@gmail.com
Congregation website groveportzion.org

Seeking Full-time pastor Part-time pastor Either full-time or part-time
Call will be for Solo pastor Senior pastor Associate pastor

Congregational President or Vice President

Name David Cuthbert Title President
Mailing address 2466 Birch Bark Trail
City Grove City State/Province Ohio Zip/Postal Code 43123
Home phone _____ Cell phone 614-296-4926
Email address davidlcuthbert@gmail.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Lori Herron Cuthbert
Mailing address 2466 Birch Bark Trail
City Grove City State/Province Ohio Zip/Postal Code 43123
Home phone _____ Cell phone 614-565-3516
Email address flgator333@gmail.com

Congregational Demographics

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals 3 Secretarial 1

Average worship attendance: Pre-pandemic (2019) = 87 _____

Average worship attendance 2020 during pandemic: 40-50=In-person; 40=online views _____

Average weekly In-person worship attendance in 2021 (April-May) = 65-70

Average weekly in-person worship attendance in 2022 = 70-80

Average Adult Sunday school attendance: 10-12 people

Children's Sunday week average attendance pre-pandemic: 2 =Pre-K-thru 5th; 2 = 6th-12th

Children's Sunday school was suspended during the pandemic and has not resumed yet

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

[Groveport is a small suburb, located 10-15 minutes SE of Columbus), with some newer and older neighborhoods. Groveport is located between Obetz and Canal Winchester, very close to Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, with lots of warehouses along State Route 317. Groveport has a nice Recreation Center and is active with small town events.]

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

[98% Caucasian.

Age 80 and over = 20

Age 60-79 = 41

Age 40-59 = 20

Age 0-39 = 29*

*A good portion of the 0-39 group are not regular attenders

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 participated in a Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit in late July 2022 with Pastor David Wendel. Since then, we have met with organizations in our community to help determine our area of focus and to help answer the question, 'What do we want to be known for'. We have established a Discipleship Task Force who is developing a discipleship process and are currently conducting a Time, Talent and Needs survey. The 3 words that will define our process are 'Belong, Believe, Become'. Once the process is defined, our goal is to share with the congregation in Q1 2023 and take next steps.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

1. Be a community of good disciples
2. Remain traditional and bible-based
3. Be loving and welcoming to the community.

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

Sunday worship follows a modified form of Setting 4 in the latest red hymnal with our entire service printed weekly in our bulletin. Pastor's stole matches the church color for the day, and Altar Guild makes changes as needed. Our service includes two hymns selected according to the recommended texts and frequently has a presentation from our Senior Choir, our Bell Choir, or a volunteer solo. Holy Communion is a regular part of each worship service with our Pastor distributing the wafers from the floor at the front of the sanctuary and two members of the congregation assisting with the wine or grape juice. In adapting to changes made in response to Covid, our Passing of the Peace is spoken first in unison by the pulpit side followed by the response given by the lectern side. Similarly, offering is currently made either in the back of the sanctuary prior to the service or online. We proclaim Jesus as our Risen Lord and Savior, and our worship is Christ centered, traditionally grounded and tailored to meet the needs of our congregants.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

Adult Sunday School and joint Bible study (during the week) with Obetz Zion - both have focused on a review of each book of the Bible and have completed a year-long study of Greg Koukl's book on Apologetics.

Youth - a small youth group (10-12 kids - 'Zion LYONs') has been run by 2 volunteers for the past 10 years. Activities have consisted of Friday night events or weekend activities, outreach activities, mission trips, and some joint activities with other churches. Activities have been suspended during the pandemic and have not resumed. It is currently unknown whether the youth group will continue due to lack of youth church attendance over the past 15 months. Similarly, an even lower number of children attended youth Sunday School pre-pandemic (2 classes - Pre-K thru 5th and 6-12th) and was suspended during the pandemic and not yet resumed. We are collecting feedback from parents to decide how to focus our efforts in the future.

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

- Mens' Group, Women's Group, Sarah Circle, Ruth Circle, Altar Guild
- Local Food Pantry - our church serves 2 weeks every 5 months (rotate with 10 other churches); with year-round collection and donation of food
- Groveport Human Needs - supported by Women's Group and the congregation as a whole.
- LOV Homeless outreach - collection of clothing and other supplies throughout the year
- Faith Mission - periodic collection of items for donation (Men's Hygiene bags, etc) for the shelter
- Annual Groveport Apple Butter Day festival in October - run a grilled bologna booth, 100% of proceeds are donated to local Groveport charities/outreach entities.
- Groveport Area Community Choir - several members of our congregation participate in the community choir. The choir uses the church fellowship hall rooms for storing equipment, stage props and other supplies as well as for performance practices. Our church secretary, Terri Christensen, is the Community Choir Director.
- Christmas Adopt a Family - our church sponsors a large family and also acts as the distribution center for all families (Adopt a Family is coordinated by Groveport Human Needs)
- Wycliffe Bible Translators - supported monetarily by Women's Group
- Annual Trash-n-Treasure (rummage) and bake sale - run by the Women's Group
- VBS - for the past several years we have partnered with 4-5 additional churches (Methodist, Catholic, Presbyterian) to conduct a 5-day ecumenical VBS.
- Annual Golden Age Dinner - run by the Women's Group
- Ladies Night Out - monthly dinner
- Zion LYONS Youth Group
- Local Ministry supported - Abundant Life
- NALC Disaster Relief - monetary donations and supply collection
- Noel Baskets - ongoing collection of infant items that are assembled and donated to various organizations to give a head start to moms and dads
- Fellowship Hall used for meeting space for Groveport Garden Club and other entities
- Back property used (offered for free) for youth soccer leagues.
- New in 2022 - Community Christmas concert and cookie reception
- Adding a council member on the board of the Groveport Madison Human Needs organization, to help stay connected to the needs of our community.

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. Passionate speaker and mentor of disciples
2. Compassionate

3. Friendly, sense of humor
4. Good communicator and leadership skills
5. Sensitive to cultural changes (application of Apologetics) and congregational needs

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. 2012 - Leaving the ELCA for the NALC
2. August 17, 2014 - Celebrating our 100th Anniversary
3. 2012-2014 - Setting up a goal/fund for a new Rodgers organ – having it in time for our 100th Anniversary. We achieved that goal in a couple of years in time, raising \$90,000.

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 more like-minded than we realized.
2. We want to remain traditional, yet we know that makes it hard competing with 'feel-good' churches.
3. All ministries are important (youth, seniors, various outreaches, etc), yet we need to re-visit and establish our identity. This will help us prioritize our mission and goals and align our efforts accordingly.

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?

[N/A]

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?

Positive

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
- X 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)]

 X Voice Vote

Congregational finances

Total budget for last fiscal year: \$ 169,000 (year 2022)

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 7,000

Other benevolence: \$ 6,000

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 265,000 (as of Nov 2022)

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: \$33,109* (50% of full time salary) Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ 5,500*

Social security offset: \$ none Pension: \$ 11,292*

Health Insurance: \$ 6,600* Vacation: 4 weeks

Continuing education (time/funding): 2 weeks and \$150* budgeted item

Travel reimbursement: car allowance \$3,000*

Other: * all compensation numbers above are 50% of total compensation since we shared a full-time pastor with Obetz Zion.

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.

Groveport Zion (avg attendance 87 pre-Covid) is located just a few minutes south-east of Columbus, Ohio and has been in Groveport for 108 years. Our worship services are traditional, bible-based and we commune weekly. We are a friendly and welcoming community of believers who passionately support each other and our local community. We are eager to welcome a spiritual leader to help us renew our direction for mission and ministry through our Fresh Eyes for Mission work and to help us grow in our relationship with Christ and discipleship. We are open to either independently calling a part-time pastor (50-75%), or open to sharing a pastor (2-point parish) with another local congregation to make up a full-time position. We currently have a part-time (50%) interim pastor, Pastor Brian McGee (since August 2022)

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/STGu4Ta-Y0M>

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

For approximately 10 years (2011-2021) we operated as a 2-point parish with Obetz Zion and equally shared a full-time pastor, each responsible for 50% of expenses. We had supply pastors for 1 year between July 2021 and July 2022, until we called a part-time Interim pastor (Pastor Brian S. McGree) in August 2022. We are continuing to discern God's will for us.

Completed by: Lori Herron Cuthbert

Date: December 23, 2022

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

SAVE A COPY OF THIS PROFILE TO YOUR COMPUTER. Use "Save As" and specify document file name as:
Congregation name, City, Date

****Email** a copy of the completed profile to the Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry, dwendel@thenalc.org.

Alternative submission method ONLY if you do not have email: Print and mail the complete profile to:

North American Lutheran Church
Attn: Pr. David Wendel
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 Pr. David Wendel, assistant to the bishop for ministry, at 719-650-8171 (cell).

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