HOLY COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH SEEKS A PASTOR

Holy Communion Lutheran Church is located in the North Carolina Mountains between Boone and Banner Elk, North Carolina. It is the oldest congregation in Watauga County, tracing its roots back to 1762. It was originally located in Valle Crucis and received a number of Welsh members when the local Anglicans decided to restrict their membership to the English immigrants. In 1842 it was given a tract of land moved “up the mountain” to “escape” the Anglicans. That is another story in its own rite.

Holy Communion is a congregation of Townsends (Welsh), old Germans, and summer residents and vacationers coming from the deep South to escape the heat. In addition, the congregation stretches over 90 miles, from Roan Mountain Tennessee to Burke County, North Carolina. Hence, most all activity is confined to Sunday. Average attendance in worship on Sunday is 75 and its annual budget is $110,000. It is inevitable that when the older generation dies out the younger folk will not want to travel such distances to attend worship and will find a church in the area where they live. With this reality in mind, Holy Communion posits itself as an orthodox/confessional Lutheran congregation which differs significantly from the other four area ELCA congregations. It utilizes the Lutheran Book of Worship, celebrates weekly Eucharist, and the liturgy is very traditional, based on LBW and the Western Rite Orthodoxy. Several families of “summer members” are from the LCMS (including one pastor) as well as a pastor from the Anglican Communion. They seem to appreciate the liturgical and confessional stance of the congregation.

Holy Communion Lutheran Church has remained in the ELCA, though it was once a member of the LCMC. There is little denominational loyalty among its members and it seeks the right pastor for the congregation, no matter what his/her Lutheran affiliation. Holy Communion basically seeking a person who:

1. Is able to accept a call package of around $70,000.
2. Rejects same-sex marriage and other outlandish and heretical social proposals advanced by the ELCA.

With the budget limitations in mind we would probably be looking at a second-career person who would be bringing his/her health insurance with them from a previous job or someone with a working spouse who is able to provide health insurance. If someone is found who is willing to stay (or join) the ELCA, so be it. If someone is found who is not in the ELCA we will go to the NC Synod and ask that they accept this person. If the response is negative other options, such as joining the NALC, would have to be explored.

I will be either phasing out or fully retiring sometime during 2020, depending on the circumstances of the new call. If you know of someone who might be attracted to this call please have them get in touch with me and we can enter into discussion. Perhaps that person might like to come to Holy Communion and conduct a Sunday service.
We are flexible in terms of time restraints and open to any proposals. If we cannot fill this call with an ordained person Pastor Mielke will continue and have no option but to share worship leadership with a lay person approved or not approved by the ELCA, utilizing the reserved Sacrament.

The Rev. Dr. David N. Mielke, STS, Pastor
Holy Communion Lutheran Church
1525 Clarks Creek Road
Banner Elk, NC 28604
336-264-4069
pastordavidmielke@gmail.com
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  Holy Communion Lutheran Church
Mailing address  1525 Clarks Creek Road
City  Banner Elk  State/Province  NC  Zip/Postal Code  28605
Telephone  828-963-4673  Fax
Email address  none at this time
Congregation website
Seeking  □ Full-time pastor  □ Part-time pastor  ☒ Either full-time or part-time

Congregational President or Vice President

Name  Jim Braswell  Title  Cong. Council President
Mailing address  2761 Horseford Road
City  Lenoir  State/Province  NC  Zip/Postal Code  28645
Home phone  828-728-2523  Cell phone  828-234-5155
Email address  none at this time

Call Committee Chair

Name  Jim Braswell (as above)
Mailing address
City  State/Province  Zip/Postal Code
Home phone  Cell phone
Email address

Version 5: Published 24-MAY-2017
Owner: Office of Ministry
Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 75 Average Sunday school attendance 15

Indicate the type of community in which your congregation is located (is it small town, small city, suburban, large city, farming, industrial, etc.).
[enter text] Rural community predominated by second-home and vacation residents

Describe the congregation’s ethnic composition and age distribution.
[enter text] Older congregation, mostly white with a few mixed race extended families

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.
[enter text] Future viability, reaching out to the local community

What are the primary goals of your congregation?
[enter text] worship and building church community

Describe your congregation’s worship practice (liturgy, hymns, vestments, music, hymnals, and frequency of Holy Communion).
[enter text] Very liturgical with traditional vestments
LBW is the hymnal and Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday

Describe your congregation’s Christian education ministry.
[enter text] Limited with a single adult Sunday school class and a single children’s Sunday school class
Each July a very comprehensive Bible school is held for people of all ages, including adults

Describe the congregation’s current activities for mission and outreach.
[enter text] The life of HCLC is centered on worship because of the far-flung nature of our membership. The congregation reaches out to the second-home vacation community and has a significant number of attendees from this community. We posit ourselves as a conservative Confessional alternative to the four other ELCA congregations in the 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
— X 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. [enter text] Building community / Church family
2. [enter text] Connecting with younger generations – families with young children
3. [enter text] Worship leadership
4. [enter text] Visitation
5. [enter text] Evangelism

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.

[enter text] The congregation traces its roots back to around 1760

1880 – moved from Valle Crucis to current location
1939 – construction of current facility
2012 – pastor of 48 years dies and Pastor Mielke is called

Has your congregation participated in the Congregational Workshop Preparatory to the Call Process? [Type an X by the appropriate response]

___ Yes    ___ X No

What were the three most significant results of the workshop?

1. [enter text]
2. [enter text]
3. [enter text]

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?

[enter text]
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.

X 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?

[enter text] Positive, for the most part. There is always a difference of opinion among members.

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

X 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)]

X Voice  ___ Vote

Congregational finances

Total budget for last fiscal year: $111,800
Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: $ Not a member of the NALC
Other benevolence: $10,165
Total debt of the congregation: $0
Total savings, reserves, and endowments: approximately $500,000 in various designated accounts

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: $64,476 all inclusive  Parsonage/housing allowance: $
Social security offset: $  Pension: $
Health Insurance: $                     Vacation: four weeks

Continuing education (time/funding): one week

Travel reimbursement: $5000

Other:

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 editedformatted as needed.

[enter text] Relatively small Confessional ELCA congregation in northwestern North Carolina seeks a Confessional pastor.

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

[enter text] A congregational survey was conducted with 66 responses. If a non-ELCA pastor is found, 17 indicated they would not want to leave the ELCA, 30 are willing to leave the ELCA to call a pastor, and 19 want to leave the ELCA immediately. The congregation is “far flung” with the membership stretching from Roan Mountain, Tennessee to Morganton, North Carolina. Consequently, almost all activity in the Church takes place on Sunday. It is not unusual for people to spend their whole Sundays at the Church. One family by the name of Townsend predominates but that is changing with the involvement of second-home, vacation, and summer visitors. Pastor Mielke will be serving full-time until January, 2020 and part-time, if needed, following that. He was asked by Council on September 8 to submit this profile.

Completed by: Pastor David Mielke                     Date: September 10, 2019

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
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).

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS.