

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



Emmons Lutheran Church

Congregation Name and Location

Name Emmons Lutheran Church

Mailing address 490 Pearl Street, P.O. Box 23

City Emmons State/Province MN Zip/Postal Code 56029

Telephone 507-297-5471 Fax _____

Email address emluth@wctatel.net

Congregation website emmonslutheran.org

Seeking Full-time pastor Part-time pastor Either full-time or part-time

Congregational President or Vice President

Name Neal Honsey Title President

Mailing address 725 Knoll Rd

City Emmons State/Province MN Zip/Postal Code 56029

Home phone 507-297-5983 Cell phone _____

Email address ghonsey@nat.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Nate Sletten and Craig Braget (Co-Chairs)

Mailing address 610 N. 3rd Ave E. / 42510 Eagle Ln

City Lake Mills State/Province IA Zip/Postal Code 50450

Home phone Nate: 641-592-0610 Craig: 641-592-5399 Cell phone Nate: 515-423-3345

Email address Nate: nsletten@lake-mills.org Craig: cbraget@mbtbank.com

Congregational Demographics

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Secretarial 1 (part time—22hrs)

Average worship attendance 122 Average Sunday school attendance 35

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

Emmons (population 380) is a charming, small, rural, farming community in south-central Minnesota. Our congregation is blessed to serve members from several surrounding communities. Emmons is 7 miles north of Lake Mills, IA (population 2,019) and approximately 14 miles south of Albert Lea, MN (population 17,700). Emmons is 8 miles west of Interstate 35, midway between Minneapolis and Des Moines, and about 78 miles west of Rochester, MN.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

The Emmons Lutheran Church congregation is made up of all ages, and members are primarily Caucasian.

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.

The Congregation does not currently have an established vision or mission statement. A monthly mission partner is selected by a mission committee. Congregation members can designate a contribution to this mission.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

1. Working together to be a beacon to our community, and encouraging and engaging young families to be an active part of the church
2. Maintaining and increasing active membership
3. Developing a 5-year plan for building and property (parsonage and church) and maintaining financial stability
4. Maintaining and increasing a level of vitality in members by taking part in projects that demonstrate our faith

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

Liturgical—We currently use the Lutheran Book of Worship and With One Voice

Hymns—Selected by Church musicians and Pastor in collaboration to fit the seasons and readings

Hymnals—Lutheran Book of Worship, With One Voice, Other Song Book

Frequency of Holy Communion—Twice a month and also at special services within liturgical calendar

Contemporary Service on 5th Sundays

Describe your congregation’s Christian education ministry.

Sunday School—Ages 3-8th Grade

These young people will attend Sunday school immediately following the 9:00 AM church service. There are daily lessons that Sunday school teachers will cover, and then all students Aged 3 – 6th Grade attend a Sunday School music session.

Confirmation—7/8th Grade Students

Student members have recently met immediately after the church service on Sunday with the pastor and Sunday school teacher. Confirmation has also previously been held on Wednesday evenings. They discuss their faith through the lens of Bible study and other faith-based lessons.

Adult Bible Studies

Adult members will meet on Thursday evenings for a time of discussion and Bible Study.

Luther League

Middle School and High School aged students come together for a great time of fellowship, personal development, and faith development. They participate in service activities, have fun and play games together, sing songs together, and participate in discussions about their faith.

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

There are many events and activities that are mission/outreach focused at Emmons Lutheran Church:

- Luther League
- Parks and Rec Program
- Loaves and Fishes
- Quilting
- WNALC
- Circles
- Advent by Candlelight
- Lutefisk Supper
- Dartball Team
- Community Outreach
- Music Opportunities—Special Music, Choir, Visiting Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facilities
- Missions Giving from weekly offering

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

We are looking for...

1. A good preacher who shows joy of preaching the gospel with Scripture-based sermons

2. Someone with strength in intergenerational leadership and engagement with an emphasis on Youth and Young Families. Someone with ideas to get younger families to attend more often.
3. Someone gifted in the areas of Confirmation Instruction as well as Adult Education.
4. Someone able to engage in visitation.
5. Someone with strong listening, communication, and collaboration skills that encourages everyone to share their gifts and talents.

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.

2011—Switch from ELCA to NALC—99% approval

1959—Building of the ‘New’ Church; this also sheds light on the numerous projects and renovations we’ve done on the building and property since that time (New Stained-Glass windows, built on narthex and bathrooms, renovations, new organ, new baby grand piano, built parsonage, new signage, etc.)

1960—Began Lutefisk Supper; Again, this sheds light on the way we all work together in whatever task we have in front of us. This began as a way to help pay off the renovation bills, and it has continued to this day by bringing in many people from the surrounding area. Any time our congregation is presented with a challenge, many step forward and work together to accomplish the task. When it comes to fundraising efforts, if there is a need, money is usually not an issue.

A full history of Emmons Lutheran Church can be found at: <https://emmonslutheran.org/history/>

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. Members of all age groups attended and worked well together.
2. It was evident that all members are looking for a person who shows the joy of preaching the gospel.
3. We were able to discuss and develop goals for what we are looking for in our next pastor. Everyone left knowing they contributed to the discussion and planning.

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 are many topics or issues that will come up in any congregation. We have recently been provided the opportunity to really have members step-up and help to take on these various projects. One strength of our congregation is that someone, or a group of people, always steps up. We have a lot of support, gifts, and talents in our congregation; and we work well together through open conversation, collaboration, and service to solve problems as they present themselves.

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).....

Value of our interim Pastor Schafer—It is evident that if you have a talent you can bring, he allows you to do that. Our congregation has grown immensely due to the appreciation for the gifts and talents within the congregation. We are looking for a leader to help encourage, facilitate, and foster those that type of service and collaboration.

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

Different members had different relationships with the former pastor. The relationship was certainly tense to some people in the area of decision making and following through with what was decided. Through those experiences we have learned the need for communication, collaboration, and appreciation between our congregation and future pastor.

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
 - Sometimes didn't follow through
 - Lack of communication/collaboration could cause some tense relationships
- Council makes decisions with pastoral input
 - Intended Goal
- 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: \$ 160,000

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 500

Other benevolence: \$ 500 to Iowa Mission District

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 50,000

Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary (2018): \$ 41,174 Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ 100% Provided, includes
some utilities

Social security offset: \$ 3,150 Pension/Major Medical: \$ 25,100

Vacation: 3 weeks

Continuing education (time/funding): \$500 budget, paid for Conferences

Travel reimbursement: mileage

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 edited/formatted as needed.

Emmons Lutheran Church is seeking a full-time pastor with a passion to serve a wonderful, intergenerational congregation. Our congregation is excited to learn and worship with a pastor able to engage members in Scriptural/Biblical Teaching; a desire to visit and engage our youth, families, and those unable to attend worship; and who places importance on communication, collaboration, and cooperation with all members of the congregation. We are excited for leadership and fellowship that allows for our congregation to be a beacon to our community and world through missions and outreach.

Completed by: _____ Date: _____



Photos of Emmons Lutheran Church and Congregation



Emmons Lutheran Church



Sunday School Bowling Event



Children's Message on Easter Sunday—Look at all of those kids!



Emmons Lutheran Church Choir on Easter Sunday singing the *Hallelujah Chorus*



Beautiful table arrangements for our Annual Advent by Candlelight



Our beautiful Sanctuary decorated for Christmas—The Sunday School Christmas Program



Emmons Lutheran Church Choir



Sunday School students provide special music at a Sunday Worship Service

Emmons Lutheran Church Parsonage



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
2299 Palmer Dr., Suite 220
New Brighton, MN 55112-2202

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.