

# 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](mailto:dwendel@thenalc.org).  
Keep a copy for your records.**

## Congregation Name and Location

Name Grace Lutheran Church, Enterprise Oregon  
Mailing address 409 West Main  
City Enterprise State/Province OR Zip/Postal Code 97828  
Telephone 541-426-4633 Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address grace.lutheran.enterprise@gmail.com  
Congregation website www.gracelutheranenterprise.com  
Seeking  Full-time pastor  Part-time pastor  Either full-time or part-time

## Congregational President or Vice President

Name Douglas Wickre Title President  
Mailing address POB 424  
City Joseph State/Province OR Zip/Postal Code 97846  
Home phone none Cell phone 541-398-8867  
Email address dkwm37@gmail.com

## Call Committee Chair

Name none  
Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

## Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 12 Average Sunday school attendance 0

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

Rural small town

**Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.**

White, mostly Middle age to Senior

**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.**

Nothing written down...

**What are the primary goals of your congregation?**

Continue to provide a Christ Centered, liturgical place of worship in our rural county, in the Lutheran tradition -based on Luther's catechisms, the Nicene, Apostle's and Athanasian creeds and minister to the community through outreach ministries like food bank, senior meals, relief for the sick, poor and suffering. Ecumenical worship with other denominations.

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

Liturgy-1978 Lutheran book of worship; hymns from LBW, With One Voice, the Other Song Book, vestments up to visiting Pastors; music accompanied by piano and occasionally stringed instruments; Holy Communion has been twice monthly when we have visiting Pastor.

**Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.**

**We have no youth, so no youth education. Adult education has been bible studies and studies of the Lutheran Catechisms when visiting Pastor could lead them. Studying/sharing with other local Christian Churches and their doctrines/practices during Lenten Services.**

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

Serve at Senior Meal site, deliver Meals on Wheels, Clothing for Foster Children, Heating Assistance through Community Center, Raising funds for cemetery upkeep, Food Bank donations, Christmas food and gift baskets, block parties for neighborhood, direct aid to community members in need (health, fire, etc.), Christian radio station in Nome, Alaska, Haiti mission support and others.

**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. Teacher
2. Leader
3. Administer Sacrements
4. Represent our church in the community, collaborate with other area Clergy
5. Councilor

**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.**

Founded as Missouri Synod church

Changed affiliation to ELCA about 1990

Decided in 2018 that ELCA and "Progressive Lutheranism" did not reflect our Christian values and mission, so choose to leave ELCA and affiliate with NALC

**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. [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?**

**Through attrition from death, members moving, children moving from the community or not choosing to worship with us, we are a very small congregation of about 20 members in about 10 families. We have not had any conflict among ourselves as long as I have been a member. We discuss issues like our view of ELCA politics with respect, civility and mutual respect for each other and each other viewpoints.**

**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]**

- X — 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?**

**For over 20 years, we have had no called Pastor. We paid a stipend to a Retired Pastor (#1) to lead worship and have Communion twice a month, when they could travel. As he got older and could not travel in the winter, we made an agreement with an ELCA church about 79 miles away to contribute to their budget if their Pastor (#2) would attend us twice per month during the winter. That worked into twice a month year around after the #1 Pastor fully retired. We have been fully lay led for all these years, with only advise from the Part time Pastors on our decisions.**

Relationship with the Part time Pastor (#1) for about 20 years until 2016 was very positive, no issues that I am aware of. #2 Part time Pastor for part of 2015 and 2016 all of 2017 and 2018 was not really positive, as far as I am concerned . No real issues or contention except that many of us did not want Bible studies and Sermons that she interpreted from a Liberal Political viewpoint (Progressive Lutheranism?). Disagreement over ELCA policies about LBGT issues, some ELCA Clergy and their actions, Gun control issues, Israeli/Palestinian conflict, etc. These issues were tense for many of us, but handled civilly.

**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
- X — 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: \$ \$30,000

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 0

Other benevolence: \$ 5,000

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 100,000

## Compensation of Last Pastor

Salary: \$ none Parsonage/housing allowance: \$

Social security offset: \$ Pension: \$

Health Insurance: \$ Vacation:

Continuing education (time/funding):

Travel reimbursement:

Other: Paid Supply Pastor's \$800/month (2 visits/mo) plus motel

**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.**

[enter text]

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

[enter text]

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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](mailto:dwendel@thenalc.org).**

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

North American Lutheran Church  
Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry  
3500 Mill Run Drive  
Hilliard, OH 43026-777

In addition, mail or email a copy of the completed profile to your mission district dean (can be found at <http://thenalc.org/mission-districts/>).

Should you have questions, call Pr. David Wendel, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry, at 614-777-5709 (Office), or 719-650-8171 (Cell).

**PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS.**

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ENTERPRISE, OR NALC

AN INTRODUCTION FOR CLERGY WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTING IN A CALL  
TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY



## Wallowa County, Oregon

Wallowa County has a population of just over 7,000 people. These folks reside in four incorporated cities, several smaller towns and many farms/ranches. It is a very rural area consisting of the Wallowa River Valley surrounded by the Blue Mountains on the north, the Eagle Cap and Wallowa Mountains to the south and west and Hell's Canyon of the Snake River on the east. The Valley floor varies from about 3600' to 4200' elevation. The highest Eagle Cap peaks are over 9500' and the lowest point in the county is at the Snake River and is about 900'. The largest city and county seat is Enterprise, it could be called the commercial center and has a population of about 1940. 6 miles south, near the beautiful Wallowa Lake is the city of Joseph, named after the famous Nez Perce Chief Joseph. Joseph has a population of just over 1000. Joseph is renowned as a Arts Community with many local sculptors, painters, writers, musicians and Galleries. Joseph is also the center of tourism with Wallowa Lake

State Park, and one of the jumping off points for camping, hiking, the Imnaha River and Snake River drainages, horseback riding, dog sled running, skiing, ATV and snow machine sports, river rafting, hunting, fishing and mushroom and berry picking. World class art bronze foundries are located in Joseph and in Enterprise.

The cities of Wallowa and Lostine are in the Lower Valley with a combined population of about 1000. They offer access to the Minam river basin Alpine lakes and trails and the Grande Ronde River.



### Our Congregation

Grace began meeting in the homes of congregants. They then acquired a building and operated as a Missouri Synod church. The church at this time had numerous families with children, most of whom have grown up and moved away. The congregation left the Missouri Synod about 25 years ago and joined the ELCA Synod. For the most of the last 25 years we have operated with a contracted Pastor coming to Enterprise to hold services about two times per month. The other Sundays we have held lay led services. In November of 2018 we took our final vote and left ELCA, joining the North American Lutheran Church. This departure was done with 100% vote of the membership and was done due to dissatisfaction with the ELCA policies on theology and “Progressive Christianity”. We are primarily a Senior Congregation with no young children. We average between 8 and 16 worshippers at our services. Our congregation contributes to local, national and international charities and missions. We are active participants in the local senior meal program, Food Bank and Meals on Wheels, we assist with the Christmas basket program and raise money for the Enterprise Cemetary maintenance. In the last few years we have participated with a float in the local Rodeo parade, a booth at the local car show and held a neighborhood block party.



Wallowa Lake from the east moraine

#### The Land

Much of the land in the county is Wilderness, Protected Federal land (like Hell's Canyon Recreation Area), Forest Service or other public lands. Private lands are primarily timber lands, grazing lands or farm ground. Farm ground is divided between dry land and irrigated land. Primary crops are wheat, barley, canola and grass or alfalfa hay. Cattle, sheep, pigs and horses utilize the grazing and pasture land. Some timber is harvested on private lands but most if not all cutting has been halted on Federal Lands. Forests are pine, fir and larch with some deciduous trees in the creek bottoms.

#### The Weather

Wallowa County is located in a high mountain valley with a Rocky Mountain type weather, as opposed to the Coastal rain forest type climate. Enterprise has average highs in August of 87F. and average August lows of 45F. The average highs in February are 42F. and lows in February of 22F. Average rainfall is about 18" and snowfall average is about 40" total. This data came from the usclimatedata.com website for Wallowa. These temps are averages. We can get into the 90's or even above 100 in July or August, though it cools off considerably at night. We can and do get below 0 at times during the winter. Some years we have almost no snow on the ground over the winter, other times we get a significant snow cover.



The Grace Lutheran “Float” at Rodeo Parade

### Employment

Although good source material has not been found, it would appear that health care (including the hospital, clinics, dentistry, elder care, EMS and the like) is one of the larger employers. County and City governments and Schools contribute many jobs. Agriculture and Ranching, both on the farm/ranch and at the businesses that support the machinery, seed, fertilizer and supplies for these businesses generate jobs. There are some jobs in Real estate, law, accounting and investment type businesses. We have no “big-box” stores, but have hardware, outdoors stores, groceries, building supply and other retail outlets. There are many service providers from Electricians, Plumbers, Building Contractors, Excavating contractors, etc. We have many restaurants, specialty shops, clothing boutiques, art galleries, bakeries and antique shops. Back country outfitters supply rafting, guided fishing, guided hunting, horse packing outfitters and you can rent kayaks at the lake or take a rail riding trip on the old rail line. All of these concerns provide jobs. As on-line job opportunities continue to grow, more people will find that they can live in our rural environment and “work from home”.

### The People

This valley was the home of the Joseph Band of the Nez Perce people. Some of the Nez Perce were considered Treaty Bands who signed treaties and agreed to move to reservations. The Joseph Band was a non-treaty Band because they refused to sign the treaties. White settlers came into the valley in about

1871 and lived beside the Joseph Band until 1877. Then the U.S. Government forced the Joseph Band out of the valley and eventually onto reservations in Idaho and Washington. Today, there is a small percentage of Native American and African American or other ethnicities in Wallowa County, but it is over 90% white. In the 1920's and 1930's the logging town of Maxville was one of the largest towns in the County and had a sizable percentage of African American loggers who worked side by side with the white loggers. There is now a Maxville Heritage Museum which celebrates this part of our Counties History.

The flavor of the community is definitely “Western”. You will see very few people in business suits and a whole lot of folks in cowboy hats, boots and snap button shirts. The streets will be lined with pickups, many with cow dogs in the back. The biggest event of the year is Chief Josph Days Rodeo (last weekend in July).

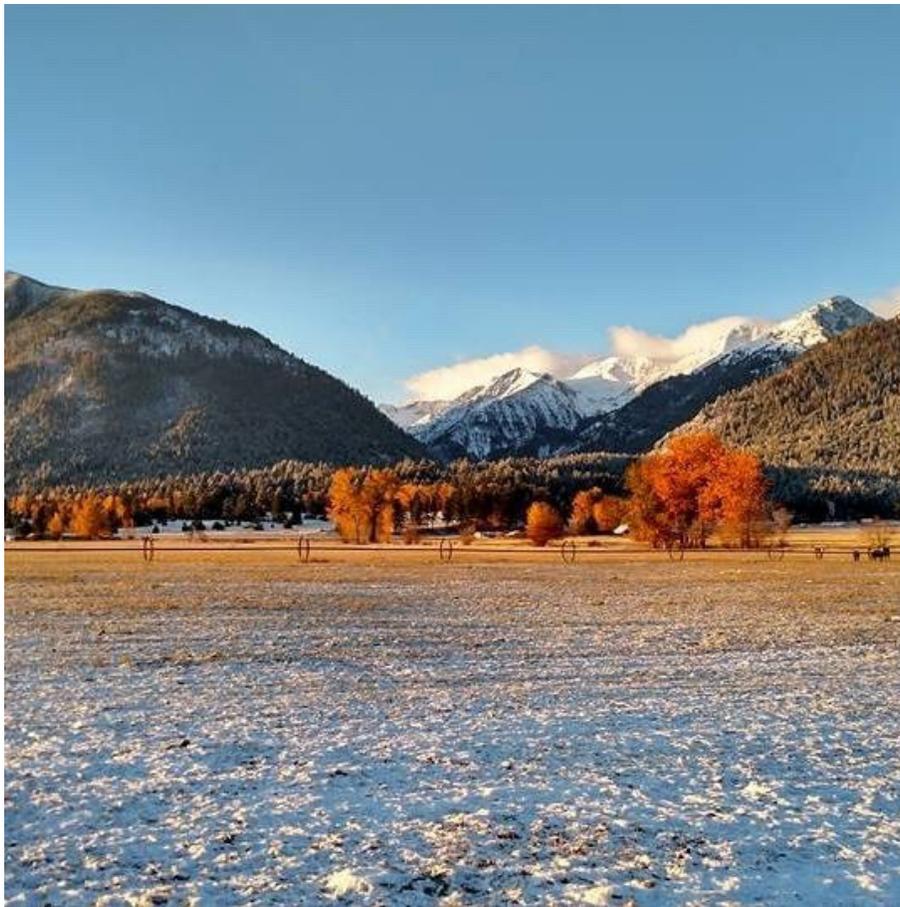
The 2010 Census says that 28% of the population is 65 and over. About 24% of the population is under 18 years. We feel that the majority of people moving into the valley are retired people. Some of these retired people spend periods during the winter, down south, but many are year round residents.



We have a modern hospital with Emergency Room and Diagnostics. We also have several Clinics with Primary Care Physicians Mental Health caregivers and other specialties like Physical and Occupational Therapy. There is a Veterans Hospital clinic in Walla Walla, WA and full VA Hospitals in Boise, Portland, Seattle and Spokane. We are served by Lifeflight air medical services, that costs about \$115/year for a couple and will get you quickly to Spokane, Boise or other large city hospital if you need a specialist like a Cardiologist on an emergency basis. There is an Elder Care Facility in Joseph and another one in Enterprise.

Our schools are very well rated with good graduation rates. Eastern Oregon University is located in LaGrande, about 70 miles away.

There are opportunities for world class outdoor recreation whether hiking, horseback, ATV, Jeep trails, snow machines, skiing, flying, fishing, hunting or boating.



#### Location and Transportation

This valley is very isolated. We have no Stop Lights anywhere in the County. We are not on the road to anywhere except the mountains and the dead-end at the Snake River. For people coming here, this is the destination. State highway 82 leaves Interstate 84 at LaGrande, OR and runs east to Wallowa, Lostine, Enterprise and Joseph. Highway 3 runs north from Enterprise, across the summit of the Blue Mountains, across the Grande Ronde River and into Washington State (Clarkston) and Idaho (Lewiston). Both of these highways are paved and well maintained 2 lane roads. Highway 3 has a 25 mile section going down to the Grande Ronde River and back up the other side, this part is slow and

twisty! Both routes are normally open all year and in all weather, except for exceptional storms. There is one Forest Service Road #39 (mostly paved) that is only open in summer months. It leads from Joseph southeast to the town of Halfway and the Snake River at Oxbow Dam. To summarize, a group of local musicians put together a CD and named it “Songs from the End of the Road”! Boise is about 4 hours, Walla Walla about 3.5 hours, Pendleton about 2 hours and Lewiston about 2 hours. The nearest WalMart is in LaGrande (about 70 miles) and Costco is located in Clarkston (about 100 miles).

Community Connections is a local non-profit. Aside from running the senior meals and the food bank, they run a limited bus service in the Valley and offer rides for Vets to VA facilities outside the county such as Walla Walla, Portland, and Boise. There is no other bus or cab service.

### Our Vision and Our Capabilities

The congregation is open to any proposals for a part-time ministry, though we feel it would be mandatory to have a clergy person who lives in the county for most of the year. It could be a certain number of hours per week for most months of the year or it could be that the Pastor would choose to work more hours per week and spend a couple of months on “vacation” in AZ during the winter. We can be flexible about the plan as long as it meets the goals of re-energizing our church and our community outreach.



As a congregation we are blessed to have a wonderful church building, which is paid for and has no deferred maintenance. We do have some reserves in the bank and funds set aside for call and/or moving expense. What we do not have is a large enough income to hire a full-time Pastor with benefits.

Housing here will cost in the range of \$800-\$1200 per month for an apartment and in the range of \$800-\$1500 per month for a house. The market for rentals is pretty thin during the summer months (June through Sept.) due to tourists. From Oct. through May many rentals (summer cabins) are available. The church feels that we can cover from \$1200 to \$1800/month, which would basically cover the cost of housing. Beyond that will not be possible with our current income.

What would be a good fit for Pastor and Congregation: There are many possibilities, but here a few ideas. If the congregation can cover moving and housing expenses for someone to live in this wonderful place, perhaps we can find a person who only needs that kind of stipend to assist with living expenses while they minister part-time to a small congregation. Who would that person be?

- 1) A person with an income like a pension, perhaps retired military?
- 2) A person who would be interested in working part time, be it retail, school bus driving, law enforcement, mechanic-welder-etc., EMT, hospitality or other?
- 3) A person with a partner who holds a local job?
- 4) A person who can work on-line, part-time?
- 5) An artist, writer or other creator who can work from home?

#### How to Apply

Please send any questions or indications of interest to Pastor David Wendel at the North American Lutheran Church. His email is [dwendel@thenalc.org](mailto:dwendel@thenalc.org). Pastor Wendel will assist the applicant and the congregation with all inquiries. Our understanding is that applicants need not be Rostered/Certified with NALC, but NALC will assist us with researching candidates and evaluating how those candidates might meet our needs.



### Links

<http://josephoregon.com>

<http://www.wallowacountychamber.com/>

<http://www.valleybronze.com/about.html>

<https://www.ccno.org/>

<https://www.opb.org/television/programs/ofg/segment/oregon-mule-pack-wallowa-mountain-eagle-cap/>

<http://www.wchcd.org/>