

# 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: Immanuel Lutheran Church

Mailing address: P.O. Box 168

City: La Vernia State/Province: Texas Zip/Postal Code: 78121

Telephone: 830-253-8121 Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email address immanuellavernia@gmail.com

Congregation website: www.lvilc.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: Mark Buccigrossi Title: Congregational President

Church address 310 Seguin Rd.

City: La Vernia State/Province: Texas Zip/Postal Code 78121

Office phone 830-253-8121 Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church Email address: immanuellavernia@gmail.com

## Call Committee Chair

Name David Haass

Mailing address 100 Alexandria

City La Vernia State/Province Texas Zip/Postal Code 78121

Home phone 830-779-2703 Cell phone 361-218-681

Email address dshaass@gmail.com

## Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 122 (2019) Average Sunday school attendance [L. Kosub / Scull]

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

La Vernia is located about 35 minutes from downtown San Antonio. While it is a small community, one might consider it a “bedroom community”. The majority of our families have at least one spouse commuting into the San Antonio metro area. Additionally, our town is growing rapidly with people from the city wanting to raise families in a small town.

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

The demographics of La Vernia can be found at the following link:  
[La Vernia Demographics](#)

**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.**

Mission Statement of Immanuel Lutheran: We are Christ-Centered, Faith-Based, Mission-Driven, Traditionally-Grounded, and Congregationally-Focused,

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

We would like to extend our reach to the young families in our congregation and community.  
We want to enhance our community outreach to the lost.  
We want to make available small groups that minister to the needs of all ages in our congregation.

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

Each Sunday at Immanuel Lutheran, we congregate at two services (8:00 & 10:30). The liturgy is standard with organ music and multimedia displays. Throughout the year, all vestments are utilized. We share Holy Communion each Sunday. Presently, we broadcast virtually the 10:30 service. And between the two services many participate in a Sunday School Hour (9:15-10:15).

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

During the above-mentioned Sunday School Hour, our youth participate in educational ministry programs from 3 years through 12th grade. Each Wednesday evening, we conduct bible study classes for adults, and the high school aged youth meet for fellowship activities. Throughout the year, Immanuel also conducts confirmation classes, pre-marital counseling, Vacation Bible School and Day Camp during the summer.

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

Our outreach programs are primarily based on community needs and individual callings, which include the following:

Men in Mission  
NALC Disaster Relief  
Nursing Home Services  
Prayer Shawls offered to members of the community  
Get-Well Cards  
Food Pantry  
Community Festival and Roast Beef Dinner  
Wearing ILC supported clothing to community events  
Christmas Market  
Christmas Cantata  
VBS and Day Camp

**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?**

- 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. We hope to learn from a pastor who is grounded in scripture and teaches in a relatable way to the everyday needs of the congregation.
2. We would like to find a pastor that will inspire our youth. The congregation wants to see our youth involvement grow and flourish.
3. Our congregation, like many, needs a servant leader in the next pastor. There is some amount of healing needed for our congregation to move forward from conflict and divisiveness.
4. As referenced, our congregation is evenly distributed across age groups. A focus on intergenerational ministries is a priority.
5. We hope our next pastor will be able to model, teach, and train the congregation in discipleship.

**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.**

Immanuel Lutheran Church opened its doors on August 11, 1901. It began with 25 members. Our church is a long standing and historical marker of our community that many look to as a main landmark of our small town.

The local Food Pantry was established in

The Flood of 1998 brought high waters and physical damage to our beloved church. Many members of the congregation and community came together in a huge display of discipleship to restore our church home.

**Has your congregation participated in the Congregational Workshop Preparatory to the Call Process?**

Yes                       No

**What were the three most significant results of the workshop?**

1. Many of the participants gained a realization of our individual responsibilities where discipleship is concerned.
2. We learned that, together, we have a common goal of growing the congregation's youth programs.
3. We gained an understanding that the relationship between the church and its pastor is more covenantal rather than a business relationship.

**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?**

During the past two years, the congregation embarked on the building of a new Parish Hall. The old hall was getting quite old, and the congregation voted to build a new, larger building. Presently, the outer structure is finished, and that is the only part of the building project that is complete. We very much need an organized plan to move forward toward the completion of this building. This has been a source of conflict for our congregation.

**How does your congregation handle conflict/tension? Which of the following do you think best describes your congregation?**

- 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 previous pastor guided this congregation for 18 years. While much of that time was spent creating what could be considered a positive environment, the last few years seemed to become somewhat contentious. With the stress that the construction of the new Parish Hall brought, that relationship began to fray, up until the pastor decided to go ahead and retire.

**How did your council/congregational leaders work together with your last pastor?**

- Leadership is shared, with shared decision-making
- Pastor makes important decisions
- Council makes decisions with pastoral input
- Council makes decisions without pastoral input



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.

### [Community Video](#)

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](http://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.

[video link]

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

[enter text]

Completed by: Cindy Corbin

Date: 11/08/2020

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## 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  
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/](http://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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