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| **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 First Lutheran Church

Mailing address 801 S. Market St. P.O.Box 25

City Rock Port State/Province MO Zip/Postal Code 64482

Telephone 660-744-2530 Fax 660-744-2537

Email address firstlutheran@rpt.coop

Congregation website rpfirstlutheran.org

Seeking ☐ Full-time pastor ☐ Part-time pastor **X** Either full-time or part-time

**Congregational President or Vice President**

Name Jim Lewis Title FLC Council President

Mailing address 801 S. Market St., P.O. Box 25

City Rock Port State/Province MO Zip/Postal Code 64482

Home phone (Church phone) (660)744-2530

Email address (Church e-mail) firstlutheranchurch@rpt.coop

**Call Committee Chair**

Name W.C. Farmer

Mailing address (Church address) 801 S. Market St., P.O. Box 25

City Rock Port State/Province MO Zip/Postal Code 64482

Home phone (Church phone) (660)744-2530 Cell phone

Email address (Church e-mail) firstlutheranchurch@rpt.coop

**Congregational Demographics**

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

Average worship attendance 30 Average Sunday school attendance 13

* While our average worship attendance has declined drastically, we have members waiting in the wings hoping to return when a new shepherd is in place. We hope and pray for our members to return as we hope and pray for a new pastor to lead us.

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

Farming area, Small town or Rural

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

Our membership consists of all ages. Our current attendance is rather low, mainly consisting of our older members. We hope to gather our flock of all ages, especially our younger 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.**

 First Lutheran does not have a clear vision for mission at this time. We are seeking guidance from one who can help us fully develop a clear vision for mission once we discover whom we are and where we are going as a congregation.

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

Our primary goal at this time is to revitalize our once-vibrant congregation.

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

Our liturgy is from the Lutheran Book of Worship. Our hymns are from Lutheran hymnals. Holy Communion is at least the first Sunday in every month.

Our service at Rock Port First Lutheran is traditional at this time; however, we are open to a more contemporary worship. We understand change may be difficult for some but also may be necessary to grow. A blend of old and new could be helpful to our diverse congregation. We welcome discussion regarding any changes in our order of service, music, and otherwise.

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

We have Sunday school for our youth and adult members as well as Bible studies that meet regularly.

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

-We are involved with a community "No Hunger Summer" program

-We run an after school elementary Christian education program called Bible Explorers open to all community youth

-We participate in making gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child

-Community VBS

-C.A.R.E. House (Local help for abused and displaced families)

-We support our congregation by taking the worship service to our local rest home four times a year and a Birthday party three times a year

-"Helping Hands Family"

**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]**

 x 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. A shepherd to guide us while offering inspirational and thought provoking sermons
2. Relates to all ages - interest in working with and educating the youth while tending to the needs of an aging congregation
3. Be involved in and represent our church within our community
4. Social skills to establish and develop relationships with all ages
5. Team leader who is able to work with our congregation to find common ground to lead us but not controlling

**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.**

Our last three pastors have been removed by the Bishop of the ELCA for financial or inappropriate misconduct. These situations had a significant impact on us leaving us divided without direction and leadership.

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

 **Yes x No**

*\*\* After conversation with Mission District Dean, we decided to have a congregational survey and the significant results of the survey are below.*

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

*\*\*The following are our three most significant results according to our congregational survey results.*

1. The sermon is the most important concern to our congregation.
2. A Lutheran pastor is preferred by the congregation, but not necessary.
3. The majority of the congregation is willing to be flexible in our traditions.

**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?**

We do not have any current or ongoing conflicts at this time.

**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.

 X 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)…...

*\*\*The conflicts we have had in the past through the removal of previous pastors were very painful, but through all of that pain we have been able to continue on. Those conflicts seemed to have been more between the pastor vs congregation rather than within our congregation itself. These have been difficult times and we were able to handle it as needed.*

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

As time passed, it became evident that our last pastor was not a good fit. Our church attendance dropped which had a significant impact on the church. We’re hopeful with a new pastor and the right fit, we will have our attendance begin to increase and be restored. We look forward to a new pastor leading us to a new mission for vision.

**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

 Council makes decisions without pastoral input

 *\*\*We believe we have always had cooperative, working relationships with our pastors over the years. Our last pastor did not necessarily have conflict with the congregation, but seemed to lack the leadership we needed at the time. We believe we tend to function well as a team.*

**Is your pastor a member of council with: [Type an X by the appropriate response(s)]**

 x Voice Vote

**Congregational finances**

We are more than happy to discuss our congregational finances with any prospective candidates interested in coming to First Lutheran.

Total budget for last fiscal year: $

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: $

Other benevolence: $

Total debt of the congregation: $

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: $

**Compensation of Last Pastor**

Compensation will be discussed and negotiated with prospective candidates. We have always been fair and generous with the pastor’s salary and will take into consideration the NALC recommended compensation range. We are seeking prayerfully and ask that prospective candidates do the same.

Base Salary & Benefits: $ Parsonage/housing allowance: $

Social security offset: $ Pension: $

Health Insurance: $ Vacation:

Continuing education (time/funding): $

Travel reimbursement: $

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.**

We are looking for a pastor who:

Is spiritually, mentally and morally rooted in the Bible.

Can give inspirational and thought provoking sermons

Shares our interest in working with and educating our youth

Promotes Bible study for all ages

Is a team leader and can delegate

Can tend to the needs of an aging congregation, including visitations

Will help represent our church within the community

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

We are seeking a pastor with excellent leadership skills, one who is able to inspire and effectively communicate with all ages of our church family, be actively involved in our community, passionate, personable, and compassionate - a shepherd to gather our flock.

Our congregation at First Lutheran is composed of all ages. Rock Port is a small community located off of I-29 in the northwest corner of Missouri, population 1310. We have an outstanding school district. Rock Port R-II School District has a long decorated history and ongoing tradition in academics and athletics earning various honors and awards over the years. Our community is very family and school oriented. Below are several websites to help you research the area.

[www.rpfirstlutheran.org](http://www.rpfirstlutheran.org) – Rock Port First Lutheran Church Website

[www.atchisoncounty.org](http://www.atchisoncounty.org) – Atchison County Website

[www.rockport.k12.mo.us](http://www.rockport.k12.mo.us) – Rock Port R-II School District Website

[www.rpt.coop](http://www.rpt.coop) – Rock Port Telephone Website

[www.mwdatanet](http://www.mwdatanet) – Rock Port Midwest Data Website

[www.farmerpublishing.com](http://www.farmerpublishing.com) – Atchison County Newspaper Website

Rock Port First Lutheran is affiliated with North American Lutheran Church (NALC).

Completed by: W.C. Farmer, Chairman Call Committee Date: 11-16-19

**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/](http://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.**