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| CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE |  |

**Congregation Name and Location**

Name St. Albert Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mailing address 11 Glenview Crescent

City St. Albert State/Province Alberta Zip/Postal Code T8N1B7

Telephone 780-458-6012 Fax

Email address saelc@telusplanet.net

Congregation website www.saelc.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 Byron Grundberg Title Council Chair

Mailing address 11 Glenview Crescent

City St. Albert State/Province Alberta Zip/Postal Code T8N1B7

Home phone 780-460-5486 Cell phone 780-242-7948

Email address Byron\_agfor@shaw.ca

**Call Committee Chair**

Name Claude Rekken and Heather Grundberg (co-chairs)

Mailing address 11 Glenview Crescent

City St. Albert State/Province Alberta Zip/Postal Code T8N1B7

Phone Claude 780-224-0668 Phone Heather 780-913-4302

Email address [crekken@gmail.com](mailto:crekken@gmail.com) [heather.grundberg@gmail.com](mailto:heather.grundberg@gmail.com" \t "_blank)

**Congregational Demographics**

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 (Interim) Lay professionals 0 Secretarial 1

Average worship attendance 120 Average Sunday school attendance 5

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

St. Albert is a suburban city of 65,500 adjacent to and north west of Edmonton. St. Albert is a relatively affluent community with an extensive park system along the Sturgeon River valley. Edmonton is the capital city of Alberta with a metropolitan area population of over one million. It includes many universities and trade schools as well as a NALC affiliated seminary.

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

Our congregation is predominantly Canadian of European descent with a few families from all over the world. Our age distribution is as follows;

Age      %  
0-10      7.6  
11-18    9.4  
19-29    9.4  
30-39    4.4  
40-49   10.6  
50-59   11.5      
60-69   20.6  
70 +    26.5

**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.**

Our congregation has been very missions-oriented, however our zeal for international missions is waning. Based on surveys the congregation has indicated a desire to focus more locally. In the last few years we have seemed to lose our direction and are looking for someone who can guide us to seek God’s direction. We desire to move forward in ministry.

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

To worship God together as a Christian family and to reach out to former members. We would like to see our congregation grow, focusing on more young families and individuals.

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

We typically have one traditional service with liturgy, hymns and vestments and a 2nd service with contemporary music instead of hymns. Communion is usually served at all Sunday services.

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

In addition to the weekly sermon: For adults, we offer both a women’s and a men’s lay led bible study in the evenings as well as another bible study between services. For youth there is confirmation classes and for children from kindergarten to grade 6 there is Sunday school as well as VBS for one week in the summer. There is a children’s message at the second service. This is an area we would like to improve upon. There is also a seminary and missions fund available to our members.

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

We are involved in many mission and outreach activities. Locally we are part of Hosea Ministry, started in 2003, which is an outreach to homeless people in the inner city of Edmonton. We participate in Habitat for Humanity builds. We provide financial support to the St Albert Food bank, Lutheran Institutional Ministries of Edmonton, Meals on Wheels, the Rock and Inner City Pastoral Ministries. Our national missions include Gleaners, which is a group that uses leftover harvest to create meals for those in need. We provide financial support nationally to Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, Hastings Lake Bible camp and On Eagle’s Wings. Internationally we are a part of Mission to Mexico and Gabriel House, and Bethel Bible College. Our international benevolence endeavors include My People International, World Missions Prayer League, Lutheran World Relief and Canadian Food Grains Bank.

**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. Strong biblical teaching.
2. Strong desire to work with youth and young families.
3. Able to relate to all people.
4. Has a servant’s heart.
5. Not afraid to challenge us to grow or change.

**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.**

1. 2016, the 50 year anniversary celebration of our church’s integral role in service to the community.

2. 2012 Leaving the ELCIC and joining NALC and the struggle surrounding that decision. This brought out a division between those who thought we follow scripture alone even when it is not politically popular and those who thought it is compassionate and loving to embrace the LGBQT life styles.

3. The first Mission to Mexico trip in 2003 that lead into the subsequent trips, this was a great way for families and young people to physically share their faith, learn about Christian service and participate in the great commission. As all but the first two trips were lead by congregational members, it has been a strong training ground for leaders in our church.

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

**Yes X No,**  Due to the covid -19 pandemic we have done surveys to gauge the congregation’s position and offered zoom sessions for input.

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

From our congregational surveys we will answer these question.

1. Sunday morning worship with strong biblical teaching is our greatest desire.
2. As a congregation we need to concentrate on healing our own spiritual health before we can serve away from home.
3. Our Congregation has a strong desire to reach out to the youth and children of our community and bring them into our church family.

**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?**

A lapse in review and clarification of our vision and goals for the church led to conflicting expectations that led to a breakdown of the relationship with our prior pastor. Council sought out assistance form the Dean, the PCAT and Bishop’s assistant to resolve and restore the relationship. However, in the end, both parties accepted a mutually agreed separation.

**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.

1st 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.

2nd 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?**

Struggling.

**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

x 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)]**

Voice X Vote

**Congregational finances**

Total budget for last fiscal year: $ 349,000.00

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: $12,000.00

Other benevolence: $ 18,000.00

Total debt of the congregation: $ 0.00

Total savings for Hosea and Mission to Mexico: $ 46,000.00

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: $ 97,800.00

**Compensation of Last Pastor**

SAELC is prepared to compensate our new pastor in line with the NALC, LCC and ELCIC guidelines, taking into account the increased cost of living in the community of St. Albert.

**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 trusting that God will call someone who has a passionate and compelling relationship with Christ Jesus that will inspire and unify us to work in His Kingdom.

**Consider filming a video to be included with your Congregational Profile on the** [**NALC website Vacancy List**](http://thenalc.org/call-process)**. 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**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcXBhDNftvg&feature=youtu.be)**,** [**Example Two**](https://vimeo.com/242282875)**. 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](https://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.

The following links provide an insight in to our congregational activities but were not specifically made for the congregational profile.

M2M  [https://www.facebook.com/groups/85782423413](https://www.facebook.com/groups/85782423413" \t "_blank)

SAELC [https://www.facebook.com/groups/390383304379507](https://www.facebook.com/groups/390383304379507" \t "_blank)

YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOYOM505u7bjCe4SagR-v\_A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOYOM505u7bjCe4SagR-v_A" \t "_blank)

Completed by: Claude Rekken and Heather Grundberg Date: 2020.07.16

**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?subject=Congregational%20profile)**.**

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.**