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

**Keep a copy for your records.**

**Congregation Name and Location**

Name Trinity Lutheran Church

Mailing address P.O. Box 725

City Saint Charles State/Province MN Zip/Postal Code 55972

Telephone (507) 272-9768 Fax N/A

Email address trinitylutheranchurchsc@gmail.com

Congregation website www.trinitylutheranstcharles.org

Seeking  Full-time pastor  Part-time pastor  Either full-time or part-time\*  
\* The position is, officially, a part-time, 18-month interim position with the potential to become a full-time permanent position in the future.

Call will be for  Solo pastor  Senior pastor  Associate pastor

**Congregational President or Vice President**

Name Lyle Peterson Title President

Mailing address 14612 Border Line Drive

City Saint Charles State/Province MN Zip/Postal Code 55972

Home phone Cell phone (507) 272-6996

Email address LDPete4@yahoo.com

**Call Committee Chair**

Name Carole Jacobson

Mailing address 12124 Whitewater Drive

City Altura State/Province MN Zip/Postal Code 55910

Home phone Cell phone (507) 269-4809

Email address carolejacobson@gmail.com

**Congregational Demographics**

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

Average worship attendance 60 Average Sunday school attendance 12 Teen/Youth

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

St. Charles is an agricultural community of approximately 4,000 located in the picturesque Bluff Country region of Southeast Minnesota. Conveniently located within 25 miles of both Rochester and Winona, Minnesota - and just over 100 miles to Minneapolis/Saint Paul - many families choose to live here for the small town atmosphere and proximity to larger cities for commuting and cultural opportunities. St. Charles hosts a young, culturally-diverse population and a thriving, growing school district with major expansions currently underway at both the elementary and high schools. St. Charles is known as the “Gateway to Whitewater State Park”, which is just seven miles from town. The park, one of the most beautiful in Minnesota, offers miles of hiking trails, numerous camping options and some of the best trout fishing in the Upper Midwest. St. Charles is just 20 miles from the Mississippi River and its many recreational opportunities.

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

50% of the Trinity Lutheran Church congregation are actively-working adults. 30% of the congregation are retired, and the remaining 20% represents teens, youth and toddlers. 100% of the congregation is currently non-Hispanic white.

**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 Lord is leading Trinity Lutheran Church in a powerful, exciting way. The purpose of Trinity Lutheran Church is to worship and praise the Triune God while spreading the good news of His word throughout our community.

Here are some examples of how God is inspiring our congregation:

* Strong leaders have emerged – both men and women, older and younger – to take charge of things that need to happen. For example, someone arranged for the equipment necessary to allow services to be broadcast via FM radio. Another person volunteered to ask local landowners about selling land to the church. Yet another is using her time and talent to find music for the services so that we can sing along in our cars. Some are using their gifts of teaching to lead Bible studies that educate and refresh our members about the true meaning of worship, and there are many who volunteered to become council members just because they were needed.
* Church members are asking if they can become more involved! When does that *ever* happen?

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

The primary goal of Trinity Lutheran Church is to be an assembly of believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity, and where the Holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel (Augsburg Confession VII).

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

We have been following a basic traditional liturgy with hymn selections taken from the *Lutheran Book of Worship* and *With One Voice*. In the future, we hope to introduce an occasional blended service which would include some contemporary worship music. When we first began services early this year, we rented space in our local community center and used a small electronic keyboard for accompaniment. Services were held on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, and weekly communion was offered at both services. When the COVID-19 restrictions prohibited holding services at the community center, we started hosting “Drive-In Services” for the community on Sunday mornings. Wednesday evening services have been suspended until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Basic paraments reflecting the colors of the church season are used. We have been alternating two pastors serving as pulpit supply. The pastors prepare the basic order of worship, including hymns and scripture reading selections. Members of the Music and Worship Committee review the order of worship, prepare the musical accompaniment, and provide minister assistants as requested by the pastors.

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

Being a brand-new church, we currently have a dozen students who will be involved in Sunday School when we begin classes. Fall registrations are open now, and new families are joining us for Sunday services almost weekly. We expect that the number of youth who are enrolled in Sunday School will grow between now and September.

We have an adult co-ed Bible study that is currently meeting weekly.

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

Trinity Lutheran Church is a body of believers committed to serving each other and the community in a powerful and compassionate way. Like the early church described in Acts 2:42-47, our focus is on demonstrating God’s unfailing love to each other, to our community, and to the world.

* In light of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are currently holding “Drive-In Church” services each Sunday morning at a truck stop off Interstate 90 in St. Charles. Our pulpit supply pastors present their messages while standing in a shelter constructed on a flatbed trailer. The pastor’s messages are broadcast via FM radio signal. Our services have been well-attended, and we have even had some truckers express interest in our services. In the short time we have been holding drive-in services, we have seen attendance grow from 30 cars to over 50 cars weekly.
* We have a group of quilters who, over the course of the last year, have made 148 quilts that were donated to Lutheran World Relief and to local social service charities. Groups from our church have also assembled school kits and personal care kits which were donated to Lutheran World Relief.
* We have an active Women of Trinity group and are currently forming a Men of Trinity group. We are in the process of formalizing activities for both these groups.
* We have a “Shut-In Ministry” to conduct frequent communication and check-ups with church members who can’t leave home for health reasons.

**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

**X** Congregation understands, is on-board and involved

**List the *Top Five Things* your congregation hopes for in its next Pastor**

1. Delivers exciting scripture-based sermons and education
2. Gets along well with members and is fun
3. Enjoys welcoming new church members and working with our youth
4. Regularly visits members, especially home-bound people and those in need
5. Excited about our new church and supportive of our efforts in the community

**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.**

February 16, 2020 - 59% of the Faith Lutheran Church of St. Charles voting members who were present at a congregational meeting voted in favor of having Faith Lutheran Church disaffiliate with the ELCA. Since the vote would have required two-thirds majority to disaffiliate, the vote failed and Faith Lutheran Church remained an ELCA Lutheran Church.

February 19, 2020 – Those Faith Lutheran Church members who voted to disaffiliate with the ELCA met and decided to form a new, independent Lutheran church in St. Charles, Minnesota.

March 15, 2020 – A Constitution and Bylaws were adopted to formally establish Trinity Lutheran Church of St. Charles, Minnesota

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

**Yes X No**

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

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A

**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?**

Between the months of February and June of 2019, ten members of Faith Lutheran Church of St. Charles completed a study to review ELCA and Faith Lutheran Church positions on various scriptural issues. The group studied the scriptures and identified seven areas of concern where both the ELCA and Faith Lutheran Church positions varied significantly from what is taught in scripture. These areas of concern were universalism, marriage, interreligious commitment, abortion, divine name, diminishing sin and change in purpose.

In January and February of 2020, seven Bible studies involving 77 people were held leading up to the February 16, 2020 vote to leave the ELCA. These studies were held in an effort to educate parishioners in a loving way about God’s teaching on these seven issues.

Ultimately, the February 16 vote failed to garner the required two-thirds vote needed to require Faith Lutheran Church of St. Charles to disaffiliate from the ELCA and set in motion the series of events that led to the creation of Trinity Lutheran Church of St. Charles. Those who have left Faith Lutheran Church to join Trinity Lutheran Church, as well as the new families who have joined Trinity Lutheran Church from throughout the community, are of one mind and heart on the issues mentioned above, and there are no longer any conflicts about these, or any, issues.

**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?**

We are calling our first pastor for Trinity Lutheran Church. Since the creation of the church in March, we have employed pulpit supply ministers for our Sunday services.

**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

N/A. We are calling our first pastor.

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

**X** Voice Vote

**Congregational finances**

Total budget for last fiscal year: $ N/A

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: $

Other benevolence: $

Total debt of the congregation: $

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: $

**Compensation of Last Pastor**

Salary: $ N/A Parsonage/housing allowance: $ N/A

Social security offset: $ N/A Pension: $ N/A

Health Insurance: $ N/A Vacation: N/A

Continuing education (time/funding): N/A

Travel reimbursement: N/A

Other: N/A

Supplemental Financial Information

We have no prior year financial data or compensation figures relating to a prior pastor since we are a new congregation. Here is the financial information we can provide relating to our current year budget and year-to-date financial information and budgeted compensation for our first pastor:

2020 annual budgeted expenses - $72,400

2020 projected income based on current offerings - $93,600

Anticipated compensation package for new pastor

The total compensation package for this part-time, 18-month interim position is $48,000 per year. The exact composition of the compensation package (salary, housing allowance, vacation and/or other benefits) is negotiable. The annual budget for an office space including rent, furnishings and equipment is $6,000 per year.

**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.**

Trinity Lutheran Church, a brand-new Lutheran church in St. Charles, Minnesota, is seeking its first pastor. We are a young, motivated and generous group of believers trusting God to bring the right person to make history with us. St. Charles, located in the beautiful Bluff Country of Southeast Minnesota, is a small but growing agricultural community with a modern, expanding school system. St. Charles offers the benefits of small town living and the convenience of being just 25 miles from both Rochester and Winona, Minnesota.

**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.

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

Completed by: The Call Committee Date: 05/14/2020

**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.**