

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



Enter information directly into this document.
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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 525 East Kern
City Tulare State/Province CA Zip/Postal Code 93274
Telephone 559-686-0619 Fax 559-686-0619
Email address info@firstlutherantulare.org or lrgdk@comcast.net
Congregation website www.FirstLutheranTulareCA.org

Congregational President or Vice President

Name Laura Gadke Title President
Mailing address 1100 N Manor Dr
City Tulare State/Province CA Zip/Postal Code 93274
Home phone 559-686-9320 Cell phone 559-799-0105
Email address lrgdk@comcast.net

Call Committee Chair

Name Richard Ortega
Mailing address 1113 N Manor Dr
City Tulare State/Province CA Zip/Postal Code 93274
Home phone _____ Cell phone 559-901-8061
Email address zorosma@att.net

Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 36 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.).

Tulare is a rural farming community of approximately sixty thousand people. We are in the middle of the state. It is a little over 2 hours to Los Angeles and four hours to San Francisco. The mountains are also within a two hour drive. The Pacific Ocean is three hours away. We have the Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream factory, J.D.Heiskell feed and grain company, and we are the leading dairy milk producing county in the world.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

15% of the members are Hispanic, we have no Asians, but we do have six Norwegians, one Swede, four Germans and one Finn! The rest...we have no idea. Our median age of adult members is 58. We have some young members, but the majority of members who attend regularly are 60 plus years old.

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.

We use to have a monthly feeding program for the hungry which fed over 10,000 people during a six year period. Now we limit that service to holidays.

Presently we are focused on providing activities that will attract Community members. We offered Tai Chi lessons, knitting classes, and are currently having a pot luck and movie night where we look for the Christ figure in the movie and give examples of behavior that led us to draw that conclusion.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

Our Mission Statement is: Putting Christ First through Word, Sacraments and Service.

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

We have an abbreviated traditional liturgical worship service using the Lutheran Book of Worship and With One Voice as well as some contemporary and old hymns we have placed in a binder. We focus on the word and Sacraments with weekly communion. We have weekly Advent and Lenten services.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

We have Sunday morning Christian Education after service, a Wednesday night Bible Study, and Men's Bible study every Thursday morning at a local restaurant. We have Sunday School packets with a Bible lesson and craft ready for four women who are assigned a Sunday each month. If we have children, she will take them out of worship before the sermon and bring them back during the post sermon hymn. We have one child who comes with her grandparents at least once a month and three other children that attend periodically.

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

We have a limited feeding program for the hungry during holidays and are offering activities that we hope will bring people to First Lutheran. We are also getting ready to offer a teenage mother program for young women who are attending the high school a block down the street from our church.

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. Someone who is good preacher who believes in the virgin birth, the divinity of our Lord, and the resurrection.
2. Someone who can relate to all ages. We have some elderly who like visits from the Pastor and we need someone who can relate to the youth and get them excited about church programs.
3. Someone who is creative. A visionary who is inspired to seek potential for growth.
4. Someone with lots of energy and patience.
5. Someone who is a good teacher.

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.

During the 1970's under the leadership of Rev. Shoemaker we started a Crop Walk to fund various community projects. The first was to fund The Tulare Association of Churches. Other helped the Association on various outreach projects. We also sponsored two Southeast Asian Families (the Boat People).

During the 1980's we hosted a Clothes Closet and a food box to provide clothes to the poor. Eventually we change to support Tulare Emergency Aid's food program and Love Inc.'s clothes, appliance and furniture programs.

We helped start a Spanish Church and Day Care and had our F.I.S.H feeding program. Two of our members have served on the Bethel Lutheran Home Board of Directors for the past twelve years.

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?

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 have no conflicts.

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.
- 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)..... Over the years there has been conflict and some members have left as in any church, but it has been many, many years since that was the case. We did lose a few members when we left the ELCA, but there was no rancor. At present we are a close family of believers who work together in harmony.

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

At present we are blessed with a retired ELCA pastor who serves us on an interim part-time basis. His contract was approved by the Dean since there were no NALC pastors available. Reverend Paul Werfelmann has over thirty years' experience as a Pastor. We benefit from his ministry and we all think the world of him. However, we need a pastor who shares our beliefs on all matters. He has bent over backwards to accommodate our needs and we are very grateful. He encourages us to find an NALC pastor.

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

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: \$ 66,020 current year is 72,500

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: \$ 500

Other benevolence: \$ 500 Local Concerns

Total debt of the congregation: \$ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: \$ 85,000

Compensation of Last Pastor **Paul Werfelmann works part-time and he decides how he wants to allocate the funds.**

Salary: \$ 48,000 on contract 1099 Parsonage/housing allowance: \$ all of the \$48,000

Social security offset: \$ none Pension: \$ none

Health Insurance: \$ none Vacation: none

Continuing education (time/funding): none

Travel reimbursement: none

Other: One of the days he works is accomplished by telecommuting since he lives in Fresno 50 miles away.

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.

This call is for a full-time pastor who is outgoing and dedicated to discipleship and the great commission. We need someone who preaches with clarity, consoles us, cheers us, and bolsters our faith when we are weak, suffering, sick or dying.

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

Completed by: Richard Ortega

Date: July 10, 2018

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
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).

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