

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 West County Lutheran Church

Mailing address 425 Sundowner Ridge Ct.

City Wildwood State/Province MO Zip/Postal Code 63011

Telephone 314-805-0206 Fax _____

Email address jkbrooks2006@gmail.com

Congregation website NALCWC.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 James Brooks Title President

Mailing address 425 Sundowner Ridge Ct.

City Wildwood State/Province MO Zip/Postal Code 63011

Home phone _____ Cell phone 314-805-0206

Email address jkbrooks2006@gmail.com

Call Committee Chair

Name Mark Halsey

Mailing address 429 Glenmeadow Dr.

City Ballwin State/Province MO Zip/Postal Code 63011

Home phone _____ Cell phone 314-616-7787

Email address mark.halsey8@gmail.com

Congregational Demographics

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

Average worship attendance 30 Average Sunday school attendance 25 (Adult Education)

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

We are located in suburban St. Louis, MO, about 25 miles west of downtown. This is an area of attractive established suburbs with good schools, parks and greenspace. The St Louis area is a mixture of industry (small and large), corporate headquarters, top rated hospitals, colleges, sports and many cultural activities.

Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.

Caucasian – ages 45-80

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 Members of the West County Lutheran Church are dedicated to living Jesus' Great Commandment to make disciples. We have a clear understanding that Jesus is Lord, and that God loves everyone. The Gospel is the center of our faith and we look forward to hearing the Word each week through sermons and educational sessions.

The congregation is involved with the everyday life of our community, working to help all those in need with outreach programs, benevolence gifts and the growth of the church.

God has led us to the point in our faith journey where we need his blessing and guidance as we look for a Pastor that shares our commitment to Christ and can work with us to increase our mission here in West County, the country and the world.

What are the primary goals of your congregation?

We are a newly established mission congregation of the NALC, begun in January 2020. As such, we have had to focus initially on numerous start-up issues. In the short time we've been together, we have engaged an outstanding temporary pastor retired from the NALC, found a temporary space for worship at a local park, and initiated regular worship and education sessions. We recently established a constitution and by-laws and formally installed a Church Council as a basis for the future.

With our current financial situation, and with a sure belief in future growth, we now feel confident to begin searching for a permanent pastor to guide us going forward.

We are looking forward to sharing the message of Jesus, to growing our attendance especially with younger parishioners, finding a physical meeting place, and identifying a full time pastor.

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

Our congregation began our worship practices with weekly worship service including music, hymnals, liturgy and weekly communion. Since the COVID19 shutdown, we have continued to have our weekly service (minus music) using Zoom online. We also have weekly education sessions with Zoom. Attendance at both worship and education has been very good – most of the congregation participates in both events.

We are looking forward to resuming in-person worship in July, 2020.

Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.

Weekly education sessions are led by our temporary pastor, the Reverend Dr. Beverly DeBord, who was ordained in the NALC and recently retired, before moving to the St. Louis, MO area. Weekly educational topics are usually based on request from church members, but our current pastor has done a remarkable job of discerning what our members need. A general review of the topics covered in our past education sessions include:

Growing while Grieving -- which focused on loving ourselves and each other as God loves us; having the mind of Christ in a time of crisis; and living with the mind of Christ through stories and strategies.

Earning, Using, & Wasting Relationship Capital -- focused on what would Jesus do; stewardship or silence; and spending wisely.

Exploring Scripture for Meaning – focused on the fact that all communication is interpretation; reading scripture "Literally" for "Plain Sense"; Luther's lens on scripture; and interpretation reigns.

A two-part spiritual gifts education ministry.

NALC and ELCA—Theology and Doctrine
NALC, ELCA, and the Bible

Upcoming sessions will focus on Bible basics and the cycle of discipleship.

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

Home Sweet Home - The mission of Home Sweet Home is to give families a sense of pride and to improve the quality of their lives by providing basic household furnishings in the St. Louis area. They particularly help the homeless.

Feed the Need St. Louis (formerly Feed My Starving Children) –The mission of Feed the Need St. Louis is feeding God's starving children in body and spirit. Donations are used to fund the meal ingredients and volunteers hand-pack the meals. Then the meals are donated to food partners around the world for the distribution to starving children.

Mission and Outreach is very important to our congregation and we look forward to developing more mission and outreach.

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. Be knowledgeable of the bible and deliver engaging scripture-based sermons to fill the congregation with the Holy Spirit through weekly sermons and educational sessions.
2. Understand the needs of the congregation, be outgoing and loving to everyone.
3. Work with the congregation to grow the church through evangelism, outreach programs and prayer. Be an active member of our community in order to create an inviting atmosphere for everyone.
4. Be a Pastor that is scripturally grounded and leads a Godly life.
5. Possess prior congregational leadership experience.

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. Our congregation left an ELCA association in 2019 looking for a more scripturally and traditionally based ministry.
2. West County Lutheran Church was established in late December, 2019 with our first full service in January, 2020.
3. Hiring our current temporary pastor in 2020 has been a blessing.

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

[Type an X by the appropriate response]

Yes **No**

We have not had a Congregational Workshop as such, but we believe we have accomplished much of the work and discernment that would come from a formal workshop through our worship and education sessions lead by our Pastor.

In these sessions, we have become familiar with the four Core Values of the NALC, the differences in scriptural interpretation between the NALC and the ELCA, and the critical importance of spreading God's word in the world.

What were the three most significant results of the workshop?

Above all, we hope to remain a Christ-centered congregation dedicated to spreading Jesus' message in the world. We are searching for a Pastor who will support these goals through scripture-based preaching and teaching.

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 not experienced any recent conflict. Our congregation is made up of a group that left an ELCA church. Most were long-time members who had become dissatisfied with the direction of the theology and doctrine of the ELCA. Since forming this new congregation, we have been working diligently to receive God's healing and discern God's mission for our future.

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).....

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

The congregation has a very positive relationship with our current temporary Pastor, Reverend Dr. Beverly DeBord, a retired NALC pastor residing locally. Her energy, enthusiasm, scriptural knowledge, and preaching and teaching skills have been indispensable in forming our congregational spirit and vision. We are very fortunate to have Pastor Beverly lead our church since its inception. However, she would like to return to retirement eventually. We are looking for a long-term pastor that will help us continue on the path of discipleship and community involvement that Pastor Beverly helped us start.

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 and Pastor Compensation

We are a newly established congregation just beginning our faith journey and dedicated to living the command from Jesus to make disciples. We have strong financial commitment from our church members and we look forward to negotiating a fair compensation package to meet the needs of an enthusiastic pastor that will lead our congregation forward.

Since our congregation was formed we have been providing compensation for a temporary pastor and renting worship space. Our budget is currently being developed and will meet all the needs of our new church, including a new pastor, a permanent church building and strong benevolence both locally, nationally and to the NALC.

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.

Wildwood, MO, West County Lutheran Church: We are a new NALC congregation located in suburban St. Louis, about 25 miles west of downtown. This is an area of attractive established suburbs with good schools, parks and greenspace. The St Louis area is a mixture of industry (small and large), corporate headquarters, top rated hospitals, schools, colleges, sports and many cultural activities. Our average worship attendance is 30; we use the LBW and offer communion weekly. We also have a weekly education program held on Thursday evening. The Members of the West County Lutheran Church are dedicated to living the command from Jesus to make disciples. We are currently served on a temporary basis by a retired NALC pastor, and are seeking a permanent pastor who is dedicated to and skilled in scripturally based preaching and teaching. We would like a pastor who will work with the congregation to grow the church through evangelism, outreach programs and prayer, so we can increase our mission locally, in the country, and in the world.

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.

Coming Soon

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

Completed by: _____

Date: _____