

# 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.**

**The format and content of this document is proscribed by the NALC.**

## Congregation Name and Location

Name First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Mailing address 455 W Sunnyside Road  
City Idaho Falls State/Province Idaho Zip/Postal Code 83402  
Telephone 208-522-9301 Fax None  
Email address office@firstlc.com  
Congregation website firstlc.com

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

Name Harlan F. Lerum II Title Council President  
Mailing address 1530 Fall River Road  
City Idaho Falls State/Province Idaho Zip/Postal Code 83401  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone 208-240-2055  
Email address Harlan@Aichell.com

## Congregational Vice President

Name Raff McDonald Title Council Vice President  
Mailing address 2075 Irene Lane  
City Idaho Falls State/Province Idaho Zip/Postal Code 83404  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone 208-701-8881  
Email address raff\_patti@hotmail.com

## Call Committee Chair

Name Martha Wentzel  
Mailing address 3831 Woodhaven Lane

First Evangelical Lutheran\_Ihaho Falls\_Ihaho\_September 22 2021\_Congregational Profile  
City Idaho Falls State/Province Idaho Zip/Postal Code 83404  
Home phone N/A Cell phone 208-520-3674  
Email address wentzelm.88@gmail.com

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### **Congregational Demographics**

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy: 1 Lay professionals: 3 Secretarial: 1

Average worship attendance: 70-90 In person; ~60 live stream. Pre-COVID: 142 In person.

Average Sunday school attendance: 2 Youth, 24-30 Adults. Pre-COVID: 8-10 children

Average VBS: Pre-COVID 75-100 (K-6<sup>th</sup> grade)

Average Summer Day Camp: Pre-COVID 15-30 (K-6<sup>th</sup> grade)

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

Small City, ~65,000. The outlying area is ~130,000 comprised of small towns and farms. Idaho Falls has experienced a 13% growth rate since 2010. According to the 2020 US Census, Idaho experienced the second largest growth rate (17.32%) in the nation since 2010.

### **Describe the congregation's ethnic composition and age distribution.**

Predominantly white, 40-90s. A few young families with children.

### **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.**

Yes. We have a vision of rebuilding after COVID and a period of pastoral transition, growing faith through discipleship, and expanding outreach.

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

Strengthening the faith of our church family, serving the community as a means of sharing our faith, and growing a vibrant youth ministry.

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

We offer one Sunday service, in which we practice a liturgical Lutheran worship format from the ELW (cranberry hymnal), but occasionally use contemporary settings and resources. We are discussing the concept of an additional alternative/contemporary worship service. Communion is offered every Sunday. Vestments are worn depending on the service style from formal robes to business casual. We have an electronic organ with full pipes capability and a grand piano in the sanctuary. Contemporary settings use electric keyboard, guitars and various percussion instruments. Choirs (mixed, men's, handbell) or other instruments are utilized to enhance worship services.

### **Describe your congregation's Christian education ministry.**

We have a small but faithful Confirmation class. We offer Sunday morning adult education class, children's Sunday School, weekly youth group gatherings, and a women's Wednesday Bible class.

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

Our congregation is a member of the local Regional Council for Christian Ministry which operates many community resources such as a food bank, soup kitchen and homeless shelters. We offer a preschool program and are a Stephen Ministry congregation. An ecumenical men's ministry is being renewed. A few of our global missions are Lutheran World Relief and the support of two China missionaries. We open our facility and campus to a wide variety of local groups for their use.

**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 congregation's hopes are for in its next Pastor**

- A strong Biblical, relevant preacher and teacher.
- A leader who can nurture all people across the generations.
- Has a passion for outreach and local missions.
- Is of moral integrity, trustworthy, fair, respectful and responsible.
- Enjoys visiting and spending time with people.

**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. 1997: Relocation from former building to existing facility on a 5-acre campus. Paid off \$2M mortgage within 10 years.
2. 2009-2010: A vote to leave the ELCA and to affiliate with the LCMC greatly divided the church which resulted in a one third loss of membership.
3. 2013-2020: Significant pastor and staff changes occurred due to health, personal reasons, and retirement.

**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?**

- There was transparency, open communication and a chance to talk freely between members and leadership.
- The concept of a spiritual call versus hiring an employee was enlightening.
- We now have momentum to move forward in the call process.

**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?**

The previous pastor frequently implemented changes without engaging Council or relevant committees. This created tension and conflict and his abrupt resignation caused dissention in the congregation. Since then, there has been some healing but some effects still linger.



**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.**

First Evangelical Lutheran Church is dual-affiliated with NALC and LCMC with a mission of "Praising our God-Loving His People". Sunday worship service attendance averages 75 in person and internet live streaming of 60. All are welcome and we are blessed to share Christ's love for us. We are also a Stephen Ministry congregation. Our preschool is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year. In addition to Bible studies, women's/men's ministries, youth activities and a variety of music opportunities, we support community charitable organizations and global missions. We look forward to a future that will be led and guided by the Word of the Lord as we meet the spiritual needs of current and future worshippers.

**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.

[video link] **to be sent at a later date.**

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

Completed by: First Evangelical. Lutheran Call Committee

Date: September 22, 2021

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## 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).**

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  
2655 Innsbruck Drive, Suite A  
New Brighton, MN 55112-9304

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.**



First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

