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| CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE |  |

Enter information directly into this document.

**SAVE the document on your computer with your congregation’s name,   
city, state and date completed as part of the file name.**

**EMAIL COMPLETED PROFILE to callprocess@thenalc.org**

**Keep a copy for your records.**

**Congregation Name and Location**

Name St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mailing address 1425 Pleasant Court

City Sheldon State/Province IA Zip/Postal Code 51201

Telephone 712-324-3049 Fax

Email address pleasant@nethtc.net

Congregation website www.stpaulsheldon.org

Congregation’s Social Media Links Facebook/YouTube: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheldon Iowa

Seeking  Full-time pastor  Part-time pastor  Either full-time or part-time  
Call will be for  Solo pastor  Senior pastor  Associate pastor

Current denominational affiliation: X\_\_\_\_NALC\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_LCMC\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current NALC Mission District: Iowa Mission District\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Congregational President or Vice President**

Name Mark Brown Title President

Mailing address 702 7th Street

City Sheldon State/Province IA Zip/Postal Code 51201

Home phone N/A Cell phone 712-301-5874

Email address markbrown15412@gmail.com

**Call Committee Chair**

Name Same As Above

Mailing address

City State/Province Zip/Postal Code

Home phone Cell phone

Email address

**Congregational Demographics**

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals 2 Secretarial 3

Average worship attendance 130 Average Sunday school attendance 30 (Wed Eve Programs)

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

St. Paul is located in Sheldon Iowa, population of 5500 people and growing.

* Elementary school was recently designated as a “Blue Ribbon School”…the highest honor available in the State of Iowa
* High School is undergoing a $35 million dollar renovation and expansion as voted by taxpayers
* High School summer theater program is the only such program in the nation
* Northwest Iowa Community College is located in Sheldon and has been chosen as a finalist for the Aspen Award multiple times
* Extensive bike trail, public wellness center and community swimming pool
* Vibrant manufacturing industries
* Hospital-Sanford Sheldon, Regional Medical Clinic
* Village Northwest Unlimited: assists adults with disabilities to find purpose, dignity, and the chance to use their unique gifts.
* Movie theater-multiple screens
* Childrens World-public daycare, physically attached to East Elementary School.

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

Primarily Caucasian with a broad range, 0-90 years old.

**Does the congregation have a clear vision for mission — a clear and shared understanding of where God is leading you? If so, be as descriptive as possible.**

The Mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is to Share the Good News of Jesus Christ with All People.

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

Jesus is central to everything we do. We sing, pray, preach, and teach in His powerful name. Our past, present, and future are centered on Jesus Christ. Our purpose on this earth is to make much of Jesus Christ. (From the St. Paul website)

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

Holy Communion is served on the first and fourth Sundays. Worship music styles rotate between traditional and contemporary. Our paid Church/Music Coordinator has assembled a talented ensemble of individuals to assist with Sunday morning service. Services are supported by updated audio-visual equipment and is livestreamed on Facebook and You Tube. Our services are also broadcasted live on KIWA Radio.

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

* Sunday School
* VBS-(60 kids of which 30 are from the local community)
* JAM (Jesus and Me)-Wednesday Night programing for First thru Fifth Grade. Includes crafts, music, bible study and a full meal. 24 kids attended with 14 adult volunteers on a weekly basis.
* Middle School and Senior High Youth Group. Led by a paid Youth Director and her dedicated husband.
* Adult education periodically is held at 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings. The men’s “Early Riser” bible study meets weekly at 8:00 am on Wednesday morning for breakfast and scripture discussion.

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

**St. Paul is engaged with the following outreach initiatives:**

* Noah’s Ark Preschool-located in our church, full attendance every year.
* Love INC-financial support and bedding ministry.
* Lutheran World Relief
* NALC Mission District
* Stephens Ministers
* Senior Care services
* Radio (KIWA) ministry
* Sheldon Area Unity Meal
* Coats for Kids
* Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp
* Sheldon Ministerial Association

**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

X Some in the congregation are involved, some aren’t

Congregation understands, is on-board and involved

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

1. Relatable to all ages including elderly in senior care facilities.
2. Appreciation of midsize, vibrant community well sustained with agriculture, manufacturing and service industries.
3. Friendly with a sense of humor.
4. Comfortable working with youth and supporting our Youth programming.
5. Relates message to scripture.

**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.**

* Death of pastor in 2006
* Coming out of covid and reconnecting with adults and youth in a more cohesive manner with the assistance of Pastor Dan Baker. (2020)
* Greater facilitation with members through various social media platforms. (2021)

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

**X Yes No**

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

1. Look to the future while maintaining some long standing traditions.
2. Leverage the talents and dedication of current memberships.
3. Celebrate our time with Pastor Dan Baker and wish him well on his move to Florida while recognizing that we are a church with a lot of positive momentum.

**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?**

Recent history has had virtually no significant 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]**

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)…...

**Describe the nature of the relationship between your last pastor and the congregation? (positive? struggling? cooperative? tense?)**

The relationship with Pastor Dan Baker was very positive. We appreciated his talents and supported him well. While we will miss him, we wish him well in his move to be closer to family and thank him for all the wonderful things he has done for our church.

**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: $ 308,000

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: $ 18,500

Other benevolence: $ 8800

Total debt of the congregation: $ 5000 (balance of roof replacement loan)

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: $ see below

* As of December 31, 2023:
  + Operating cash - $151,000
  + Dedicated Funds - $123,000
  + Endowment Fund - $323,000
  + Student Loan Fund - $352,000 (balance available for low interest loans to college students)

Compensation of Last Pastor-Annual

* Salary/Social Security/Utilities: $63,000
* Parsonage Available: Y (see specifics below and also view the video for actual images)
* Housing Equity: $2027
* Pension: $6754
* Health Insurance: 80% of premium paid by Church
* FSA: $500 match per year
* Vacation: 5 weeks (includes 4 Sundays)
* Continuing Education: 2 weeks and $1200 budget
* Travel Reimbursement: $2000 at IRS reimbursement rate
* Other: Sick Leave of 1 day per month, maximum of 45 days.
* Other: Professional Expense Allowance $250

**Video Link:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39E8U5zdxKU&pp=ygUfc3QgcGF1bCBsdXRoZXJhbiBjaHVyY2ggc2hlbGRvbg%3D%3D**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39E8U5zdxKU&pp=ygUfc3QgcGF1bCBsdXRoZXJhbiBjaHVyY2ggc2hlbGRvbg%3D%3D)

**When the Congregational Vacancy List is updated, a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) is included announcing each congregation’s ministry. This paragraph is the first contact with pastors being introduced to your congregation and community. Since you are most familiar with your congregation and your community, you will want to showcase or highlight the attractions of your congregation and community.**

St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church Sheldon, IA, is located in the heart of northwest Iowa with strong public and private educational systems including an award-winning community college. We are seeking a full time energetic pastor who is a strong leader, who will help guide the congregation and has strong biblical knowledge to preach sermons that relate to life today. He or she will be fully engaged in the life and ministry of the church and community.  We are a strong church transitioning from a popular pastor and are looking to leverage this positive momentum.

**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.**

\*Our church has executed significant capital projects in the last 24 months. Those include:

* Full replacement of our boiler system throughout the entire church.
* New church organ.
* Replacement of church roof.
* Replaced exterior front entrance windows with energy efficient windows.

\*St. Paul offers a spacious parsonage which underwent significant renovations in 2018. Details include:

* 2 story brick
* 1883 square feet main floor
* 1036 square feet second story
* 1883 square feet basement-finished recreation room
* 4 bedrooms
* 2 full baths and 1 half bath
* All new appliances
* Garage: 3 full stalls

\*The St. Paul administrative staff has remained intact during this transition. Our talented staff have a combined experience of over 35 years and are capably handling all day-to-day operational matters and while also maintaining excellent financial records.

Completed by: St. Paul Call Committee Date: May 9, 2024

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:**

**save a copy of this profile to your computer. Use “Save As” and specify document file name as:**

**State, City, Congregation name, Date**

**\*\*Email a copy of the completed profile to the NALC Call Process Coordinator,** [**callprocess@thenalc.org**](mailto:callprocess@thenalc.org)

Alternative submission method ONLY if you do not have email: Print and mail the complete profile to:

North American Lutheran Church

Attn: Pastor Shelly Schultz

PO Box 130455

Saint Paul, MN 55113

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 Pastor Shelly Schultz, NALC Call Process Coordinator, at 888-551-7254.

**Please keep a copy of this document for your records.**