

Pioneer Lutheran Church

Then & Always, Pioneers for Christ

November 12, 2021

Re: Pastoral position opening

Greetings! As we are approaching the retirement of our current pastor, we are searching for a part-time, half-time, or shared pastor for our rural South Dakota church.

Please find attached a brief job description and congregational profile. You are encouraged to share these documents and information with any contacts that may have prospective candidates for the position.

Thank you so much for your time!

Respectfully in Christ,

Valerie Hicks
President
Pioneer Lutheran Church
vruste@hotmail.com
605-695-3805

Pioneer Lutheran Church
20180 474th Ave.
Mailing address PO Box 6
White, South Dakota 57276

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In Search of Part-time, Half-time or shared Pastor

Responsible for preaching and teaching the Word of God, administering Sacraments, adhering to Lutheran Confessions, providing pastoral care, pastoral counseling and private absolution. Provide leadership in the congregation's mission, participate in continuing education. The pastor shall also serve as a non-voting member of Church Council. Installment date and time commitment are negotiable. Salary dependent on experience and time commitment.

For more information, contact:

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605-695-3805

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White, South Dakota 57276



CALL PACKET ATTACHMENT D: CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

Part 1: Congregational Information

Name of Congregation: Pioneer Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argo Township

Congregation Council Chair: Valerie Hicks

Phone: (605) 695-3805 Email: vruste@hotmail.com

Call Committee Chair: Valerie Hicks

Phone: (605)695-3805 Email: vruste@hotmail.com

List three events or developments that are important from the history of your congregation. Please indicate dates. If you have a short, concise congregational history, please attach it.

1. Pioneer was established in 1884 by Danish farm families.
2. A fire destroyed the original church building in April 2009. The church was rebuilt on the location in 2010.
3. We have been members of LCMC since 2000. For a time, we were dual rostered ELCA and LCMC, however ELCA removed us from their roster in 2009.

Construction Date of Church Building: __/__/2010

Date of Last Renovation: __/__/2010

Comment on Significant Trends in Congregational Demographics:

Our congregation is a relaxed, close knit and self-sufficient group of generally older members. While welcome to change and growth, they also support traditions. Coffee and fellowship are both strong at Pioneer.

Congregation Constitution Was Last Updated: 03/11/2012 (Send A Copy To The Candidate)

Part 2: Ministry Practices, Structure, and Future

Describe the congregation's present program/practices.

- » Worship (time, type, style, frequency of communion): We have 10AM worship with traditional, praise and contemporary services. Ash Wednesday, Lenten, Easter Sunrise and Christmas services are typically held. Communion is offered the 1st Sunday as well as some special services.
- » Education (adult, youth, confirmation): At present we have small Adult Bible Study Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Confirmation and youth Sunday School offered as needs arise. We currently have 1 student in Confirmation class.
- » Evangelism: Our members are generally community-involved and active. Through this, individuals tend to reach out as they are able. We have been active in local church group events and are in the process of introducing monthly community events to increase our visibility and reach in the area.
- » Special Ministries: We collect food items for the local Food Pantry, as well as financial support to many local and regional groups. We support St. Dymas prison ministry in Sioux Falls both financially and with annual visits to worship with inmates.



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Part 2 Continued...

Describe the service ministries of the congregation and its community involvement and partnerships.

We have an annual Fall Festival which is a fundraising event. In the past, we have had a May Fellowship event with area churches (this has been on hold since the start of covid). We have offered Sunday School and a community Bible School in years past.

Describe the congregation's present staffing, including both paid and volunteers.

At this time our only paid staffing is our Pastor, a half-time or part-time position. We do have volunteers for music, flower bed maintenance, church cleaning, Sunday School teaching, and food for fellowship or events. We do hire mowing and snow removal, which is a shared expense with the adjoining cemetery.

In the past five years, has the congregation conducted a process to review its ministry/ goals? Yes No

Please attach a current mission and/or vision statement with corresponding goals and timeline. We have recently established a committee for community outreach and are in process of reviewing constitution and bylaws. Our mission is

“Then & Always Pioneers for Christ”
Is any building program projected? No Yes: _____

If so, when? _____

Please describe existing building issues that may need to be addressed and the current extent of handicapped accessibility.

As the existing building was built in 2010, we do not have any major building issues. We are active at maintenance both on the interior and exterior of the building. Our building is handicap accessible. Our rural location was considered prior to rebuilding in 2010 and it was decided to stay at the present location rather than moving to a more urban location.

Describe the congregation's stewardship practices. Recent benevolence distributions have gone to LCMC, St Dysmas, Institute of Lutheran Theology, Feeding Brookings, South Sudan Church, Food Pantry, Harvest Table, University Student Center, Augustana District, Habitat for Humanity. We also have other projects we support throughout the year such as Diaper Derby, Alpha Center & Option 1. We have an “On A Mission” offering every 4th Sunday. The church property is well cared for.

Please attach a current spending plan for the congregation. Additionally, describe savings, endowments or investments and how these funds are to be used.

The church council prepares an annual budget that is approved by congregational vote at our Annual Meeting in January. Our budget is responsible, yet gives generously.

What are the congregation's needs and strengths? What pastoral skills will best serve the Lord in this particular setting?

Our small membership is diverse and willing to step in to help where needed. We appreciate solid biblical preaching with practical application. We would like to seek our inactive members and new members, discuss Pastoral visitations and contacts, and welcome families with children that we currently miss. Our council is active and willing to introduce or welcome new ideas.

Outline the call process as unique to this specific congregation.

We have formed a Call Committee who reports to the Church Council. Needs are currently defined and the committee is currently seeking avenues for pastoral candidates. Our installment time is flexible, as is the half-time/part-time/shared pastor options.