

**Director of Youth and Family Ministry  
New Jerusalem and St. Martin's Lutheran Churches  
Catawba Valley Mission District, NALC**

**St. Martin's Lutheran Church:**

Attn: Rev Dr Nathan Yoder  
214 W Main St, Maiden, NC 28650

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church:**

2120 Startown Rd, Hickory, NC 28602

**Job Description**

The Director of Youth and Family Ministry will plan, implement, and coordinate activities to provide creative leadership for children and youth in learning, loving, and living God's Word. He or she will cultivate discipleship activities both within and outside the church and serve as a liaison between the congregation, youth and their families, and the pastors. Primary areas of emphasis will be children's/youth/parents' ministry, educational programs, worship participation, service and fellowship.

**Essential Functions**

- Evaluate, develop, and implement a quality program for youth and family ministry in both congregations, commensurate with the needs of St. Martin's Youth and New Jerusalem's youth of all ages.
- Encourage congregational leadership and participation in youth and family ministry events.
- Build a comprehensive, robust Christian Education program for both congregations, assisting with materials, classes, curriculum flow, pacing, teacher coordination, and resources. In addition to Sunday School, this focus will also include working alongside the pastors in confirmation instruction and organizing events such as Vacation Bible School and Day Camp.
- Promote active youth participation and leadership in worship services and congregational life.
- Plan and implement outreach and service events for youth and families.
- Provide assistance to the pastor(s) when new families with children seek church membership.
- Support parents/caregivers of children in their faith formation at home.
- Assess effectiveness of youth and family programs and provide recommendations for improvement to the pastor(s).
- Partner with other congregations in the Catawba Valley Mission District in organizing and leading youth and family activities such as the Luther League, and encourage participation in Carolinas Mission Region-sponsored youth events.
- If pre-teen or teen issues arise where counseling may be appropriate, talk with the youth, parents, and the pastor to determine what the next course of action should be.

**Other Responsibilities**

- Actively contribute to the social media accounts and websites of our congregations by creating content in various forms, i.e. event postings and promotions, photo recaps, etc.
- Work as part of a staff and volunteer team to support the overall ministry of the congregation.
- Worship regularly at Sunday morning services (alternating between both locations).
- Perform administrative duties as required, which may include but are not limited to monthly council reports, articles for newsletters and/or bulletins, and Youth and Family budget management.
- Assist pastors in planning educational ministry events such as confirmation retreats and coordinating worship leadership training.

- Regularly participate in continuing education offered by the NALC in youth and family ministry (online seminars, convocation events, etc.).
- Take part in Carolinas Mission Region youth meetings/committee planning meetings.
- Confer with the pastor(s) to plan/promote new initiatives for the faith formation of all ages, such as spiritual retreats, fellowship events, or service projects.

### **Expectations**

- This is a full-time position. The applicant must be willing to work flexible shifts, varying and/or additional hours, weekends as necessary. He or she must also be capable of engaging in physical activity alongside children/youth for various forms of ministry (outdoor, etc.), and will be expected to travel occasionally as necessary.

### **Minimum Requirements**

- A deep and abiding love for God and God's children.
- A thorough understanding of the core values of the NALC: Christ-centered, mission-driven, traditionally-grounded, and congregationally-focused.
- An in-depth knowledge of the Bible and orthodox confessional Lutheran theology (see educational qualifications below).
- Excellent communication, planning, and organizational skills.
- Applicants will be asked for 3 references: one from a recent educator or employer, one from the applicant's pastor, and one other of the applicant's choice.

### **Preferred Qualifications**

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in education, theology, Christian formation, or a related field.
  - In the absence of a formal church education, the applicant must agree to complete additional coursework in Lutheran studies provided by the NALC.
- Ministry experience with children and families in a faith-based setting (i.e. congregation, camp, preschool, etc.).