



**St. James Santiago Episcopal Church**  
Lincoln City, Oregon  
[episcopalchurchlincolncity.com](http://episcopalchurchlincolncity.com)

**Parish Profile 2024**

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**Introduction**

St. James Santiago Episcopal is a small parish with a history of deep connection to its community in Lincoln City, Oregon. Our mission and values statement, published under “About Us” on the church website <https://www.episcopalchurchlincolncity.com/>, proclaims that we welcome the stranger into relationship with us and with God in Christ through the Eucharist. We protect the vulnerable. We use our resources to lift up the needy. We educate. We faithfully celebrate God’s goodness in worship and through our relationships with each other.

**Prospectus**

A parish survey was conducted in June 2024. A detailed survey was sent to all active parishioners. Of the 40 surveys sent, 35 were returned. From survey results, the profile committee has created a prospectus for the next three-to-five years.



1. We desire a rector who puts time and preparation into worship, drawing people to the Eucharist through joyful celebration. Effective preaching was near the top of the list for many survey respondents. They want to be fed through scripture and advised of its application to their lives.
2. We want to maintain and expand our engagement with the Lincoln City community through existing programs such as the Community Meal Program, our outreach committee, Alcoholics Anonymous and the St. James Santiago School. Working alongside a new rector, we would like to increase our visibility in the community in order to welcome new worshippers to the openness of the Episcopal Church. We ourselves are open to new liturgical styles that bring the Gospel home to 21st-century people.
3. We wish to acknowledge that practical considerations will be part of a new rector’s world here: administrating use and maintenance of facilities; assisting with the administration of the school; leading pastoral care for an aging congregation by delegating some of those responsibilities to trained lay leaders; assisting in the development of the music program; ministering to a small but committed group of Spanish-speaking members; assisting with activities that bind parishioners in community; finding ways to work together with current members to bring younger people into the church.

4. A significant portion of our parish is eager for educational opportunities. We desire a rector with knowledge of historical Christianity and of present-day issues of faith—and a willingness to share that knowledge. We seek a pastor who can give us tools for living our lives and for opening space for new faces at the Eucharist.
5. We are a hospitable, socially conscious group of Christians. We look for ways to meet people where they live, to get people through our doors, and to be equipped to walk alongside newcomers as they step into an Episcopal style of worship. We also wish to remain open to change and renewal. We seek a rector committed to conflict resolution, as we know that in any vital institution conflict will occur—and that reconciliation can follow.

### **Work Already in Progress**

In order to make the nave more kid-friendly, we will remove a back pew and create a carpeted space for parents who want to be with their young children and in the service at the same time.

The city has arranged to deed back our driveway (currently a short section of 25th St NE) so that our sign will be on church property once more—and less beholden to city signage rules.

A subsidized apartment house for 300+ residents opened next door in September. The builders worked cooperatively with the parish during construction. We now have an opportunity to welcome new residents and invite them to join us.

Lincoln City has a growing Hispanic population. We have been responsive in the past to the need for ESL and GED classes, and we hold Misa services twice a month. The small group of Hispanic parishioners is woven into our church community. Celebrations such as baptisms and quinceaneras draw a much bigger extended family of Spanish-speaking worshippers.

The church's support for 12-step programs (AA and NA) has resulted in meetings here every day of the week and multiple times a day.

The on-site non-parochial school represents another mission field. Building bridges between the student population and parishioners is another way the church can remain relevant into the future.



The meal program, 25 years old, was saved and reconfigured last year. It provides an important social occasion for diners and volunteers, and it's a lifeline to hungry people. The program's director plans to expand the current program in 2025.

Our social time at coffee after services is lively, welcoming and delicious.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry visited the parish and the school in 2022. The diocese's Hope and Fire youth program has used our space for weekend retreats at the beach. The nave is a lovely, acoustically vibrant hall for musical and dramatic performances.



### **Location**

St. James Santiago Episcopal Church is in Lincoln City, Oregon. Called a city, Lincoln City is more town-sized, with a resident population of around 10,000. Beach-related tourism is one of the town's top three employers, along with the Samaritan hospital and health-care network and the Lincoln County School District. A satellite campus of Oregon Coast Community College is located near Taft High School; the main campus is in Newport.

Lincoln City is a popular retirement community. However, the church has a brand new next-door neighbor, a “work-force” housing development with 110 units. Other subsidized housing units are being built as the city, county and state prioritize affordable housing.

The nearest sister Episcopal churches are in Newport, 25 miles south; Tillamook, 40 miles north; and McMinnville, 50 miles to the east. Oregon’s second-largest city, Salem, is 60 miles away.

The population here is predominantly white, with a significant Hispanic and Latino population and smaller Asian and Black populations. The Native American presence expands the ethnic range of the community. Tourism brings a diverse mix of people to our streets.

## History

St. James held its first service in 1938 in a building owned by Presbyterians. Rev. Charles Nelville was the circuit-riding priest also officiating in Toledo, Waldport and Newport.



In 1949 the congregation moved into the Bateman Funeral Home and a year later became a mission church affiliated with St. Stephens in Newport. The 1951 census of communicants numbered 30, not so different from the active church population now. The relationship with St. Stephens continued until 1963.

The first very small designated church building occupied property donated in memory of E.W. Chandler at a location on Hwy 101, now the site of St. Peter the Fisherman Lutheran Church. The first service there took place July 13, 1952. Rev. Lee H. Young IV was the first resident vicar of St. James DeLake from 1950 to 1953.

Property for the present location was acquired in 1960, with later construction leading to the dedication of the present building in June 1966. The nave, with its soaring concave ceiling, is well known for its acoustics. An educational wing was added in 1985. The church did not achieve parish status until 1991 under its longest-serving rector, Rev. Robert Morrison, who is still active elsewhere in the diocese.

According to long-time members, St. James is a church that recognizes calling, talent and need. In 2000 the Community Meal Program began to serve meals from a small kitchen on the west end of the building. In 2009, a large commercial kitchen was completed on the opposite end and the church’s East Room became a dining room as well as a parish meeting place. The program expanded to serve more meals each week.

Other recognized needs prompted new programs. Fifteen years ago, “Saturday at St. James” offered orchestra classes for youth, Mexican drumming instruction, ESL tutoring and creative writing. At the same time, Saturday breakfasts were added to the meal program. Saturdays at St. James led to the founding of twice-monthly Misa services under the guidance of Rev. Laura Truby, an interim pastor who is now in retirement in the Portland area. The Spanish services are ongoing.

In addition, a variety of service guilds and other groups responded to desires for connection and service: a men’s group, a prison ministry, arts committee and a poker club—all since discontinued. 12-step programs now meet daily in the church building.

St. James Santiago is a diverse group with wide interests and experience. Members have been active in local theater. Book groups are ongoing. Some members are politically active, and a few have held political office in the city.



Need, talent and calling came together again in 2013 with the beginning of St. James Santiago School under Rev. Melinda Archer. When the new school was announced in church, the congregation rose in applause. It initially served children kindergarten through fourth grade, but as children began to age out and parent interest continued, other grades were added. The

school now educates 60 students, K-8, with a waiting list. A new building generously assisted by parish and diocesan grants opened in 2019; however, the school still uses space in the education wing where it began. The school is independently funded by tuition.

A common denominator among long-time parishioners is their certainty that St. James Santiago is an open and welcoming place. Fast friendships with roots in the shared Eucharist are formed here.

**Financial Information:**

The church's total annual budget is approximately \$160,000. We have run an average deficit of 15-20K in recent years. However, our endowment hovers around 1 million dollars, so investment returns have cushioned this deficit spending.

The rector position we are offering is full-time for a qualified candidate. The compensation package will accord with guidelines set by the Diocese of Oregon for a church of our size: <https://ecwo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2025-SHU-Chart-Congregational-Rankings.pdf>

