



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Apr 9, 2025)

Ascension Episcopal Church, Colorado

420 W 18th St, Pueblo, CO 81003, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 06/05/25.

lucy@episcopalcolorado.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
69	1	2	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$78542	4	We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4		2 (standard)	2
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$1001-\$2000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

\$78,542 - \$79,500, based on experience. Rectory is located next door to the church.

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Ascension is blessed with two retired clergy who are members. The Fords gracefully helped bridge the need for supply clergy, leadership, guidance and direction during a time prior to the arrival of the interim rector. What a sense of humor. Dennis preached he was singing "Back in the Saddle Again" as he prepared for their first Sunday in this role. At the conclusion of their ministry, they gave Ascension a beautiful Communion chalice and cruet for the altar in the guild room. The congregation celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Ralph and Donna Karnes. Another notable moment was the dedication of a processional cross in honor of Barbara Cravens. This cross reminds us of those members who have gone on before us. The most precious moment was three young sisters, singing "Once in David's Royal City" for a service before Christmas. Their musical family is a true blessing to the church.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

Ascension is a loving, caring church community that is aging. We have a thriving Pre-School that connects us to the community. We need to bridge the energy of the Pre-School into the worshipping church. We provide outreach to the Cooperative Care Center of Pueblo as one of its founding members. We are doing the best we can with aging resources. We need a vibrant pastor to lead us on the pathway to the church of the future. Our Interim Rector held several discernment sessions with membership. The members want and need a priest with a clear vision for the future; addressing challenges like aging membership and financial stability. Members also expressed the desire to have a priest who is willing to embrace innovation while representing tradition and ensuring the church remains relevant to a younger generation. Although the church has a passion for community engagement with Laundry Love and helping the homeless, we need a priest to help us find and build a program for local youth. We need to grow. We need a strong, visionary leader to help us.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Good preacher - apply the Word to how we live. Biblical. Accurate. Sense of humor with warmth and approachability. Innovative to grow the ministry. Sincere. Good listener. A motivator who can empower leaders. Skilled in understanding and managing differences.

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Ascension currently practices a very traditional liturgical style. Previously, there were two services each Sunday. There is currently only one service where we practice Rite II. From time to time, we have a service with gospel music. We are intentional in having diversity in the musical offerings with flute, violin guitar, organ and piano when these talents are available. Occasionally, we worship with limited music with more silence and meditation. Recently, we began a monthly Taizé service one evening a month. In the past, Ascension had a very active music program which has been in decline since COVID.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Lay ministry supporting the liturgy currently includes the altar guild, lectors, acolytes, chalice bearers, ushers and videographers. A member is currently finishing up preparation as a lay pastoral leader to lead non-eucharistic worship and prayer services and to serve communion from the reserved sacrament. Once a month, there is a Taizé service in the St. James Chapel led by parishioners. The Pastoral Care Committee includes a Welcoming Committee for new members, provides support to homebound and ill parishioners, Care Through Prayer, eucharistic visitors, pastoral callers, holiday remembrance gifts, transportation, cards and meal ministry. We recently acquired a grant from the diocese to form a nine-week children's choir.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

As an aging community of believers, we are acutely aware of the need to take care of each other. Our Pastoral Care committee visits shut-ins regularly to share communion and deliver the weekly email updates as some members don't have computers. The men and women of the church each have a monthly Saturday meeting. There is a Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper with a silent auction. There is usually an annual garage sale. There is a midweek service in the Guild room which can be attended by Zoom. There is a Book Club, Centering Prayer and a women's spiritual development group known as Fierce Love Soul Journeys. We also have a fantastic coffee hour after the Sunday service.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Ascension has a thriving pre-school. We care for these wonderful children. We invite the children to participate in worship. Most recently they participated in the spontaneous, unrehearsed Christmas Eve nativity service. We were also one of the founding churches of the Pueblo Cooperative Care Center. Ascension supports a prison ministry. We have an Angel Tree gift drive at Christmas in support of children in the community.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Ascension has long been involved and is represented on the Board of the Pueblo Cooperative Care Center. In 2024, PCCC served @ 7,169 households in need and provided assistance to @ 1,882 homeless clients in Pueblo County and Southern Colorado. This community organization provides food, clothing, showers, and Kidz Sacks during the summer months, among some of the services to the Pueblo community. Ascension donates \$500 annually to the origination. Parishioners donate clothes, toiletries, and volunteer hours. In the past Ascension members would travel to a Navajo congregation for a mission week. COVID and the loss of members has limited our ability to provide resources required for broader involvement in the region.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Rector Christy Shain-Hendricks brought technology to Ascension. We began to broadcast Sunday services and posted them on YouTube for viewing by a larger group of parishioners and those members who could no longer physically attend services. We have a lot of work to do in this area. The church website and Facebook page are in need of revision and updating. The spiritual development group, Fierce Love and Soul Journeys was founded by Ann Ladd to guide members on how to maintain our spiritual center during challenging times. Ascension members, led by Gary Weaver, recently revived a Taizé service once a month in the Saint James Chapel of the church as an outreach to the Pueblo community. Years ago, there was a Taizé service organized by Pueblo downtown churches.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

We conduct an annual stewardship campaign. This past year we utilized a packaged communication campaign, "Walk in Love." Parishioners gave sincere testimonials of the church's real focus and the impact on their lives. Pledges met 80% of the goal. The congregation is aging and many live on a fixed income. There is an endowment for the building/structure which is a blessing when maintaining a historical building.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

Unfortunately, Ascension has a history of conflict among parish members and with past rectors. The Office of the Bishop provided a consultant, then recommended an interim rector who is skilled in congregational systems to look at patterns that have contributed to conflict. We are on the path to healing and look forward to continuing on the path of creating healthy congregational systems with our next rector.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Addressing change in the church has been difficult. There are always differences and personnel preferences and these set the tone for what is the standard. Some judge on the sermon, some on Christian educational teachings, pastoral relationships, community involvement and recruiting to name a few. When clergy have problems, personal or clerically, the parish reacts to the priest. With the guidance of the diocese the Vestry has made great strides in trying to heal, redirect and move the church forward to meeting our goals. We want to grow the church, become more flexible, less judgmental, and more united. Uniting the church with one Sunday service has helped us to know each other, appreciate our strengths and needs and take steps toward our goals. Clergy and Vestry have facilitated an introspective study through "vision" sessions to give direction to our mission. We have a long way to go, but our goal is to have the willingness to be unified under scripture, tradition, and reason.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Steve Karcher	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2022-06	2023-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Christy Shain-Hendricks	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2016-06	2021-03

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Revs. Rachel and John Gardner		2012-10	2016-05

Ascension Preschool is located next door to Ascension Episcopal Church.

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
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Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
Other	50	7	7



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Worshipping Community Web site: <https://www.ascensionpueblo.org/>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.youtube.com/@ascensionepiscopalchurchpu8018/streams>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas,

Diocesan Transition Minister

**The Rev. Canon Lucy
Amerman**

Current Warden/Board Chair

**Jan Eppinette, Senior
Warden**

Previous Warden/Board Chair

lucy@episcopalcolorado.org; 720-677-9007.

Phone: 214-240-8826 Email: mamaj.retired@gmail.com

Search Chair

**Rachelle Werme, Search
Chair**

Parish/Institution

Phone: 719-671-4955 Email: rockyraccoonco@yahoo.com

Local Community Leader