

St. Cornelius' Episcopal Church Dodge City, Kansas

Parish Profile



Welcome

On behalf of the Vestry and members of St. Cornelius' Episcopal Church, we welcome you to view our Parish Profile as you prayerfully consider submitting your application to become our next rector.

St. Cornelius' Episcopal Church is the oldest still-operating church in Dodge City, and as such we are firmly rooted in our Episcopal heritage while we look forward to a bright future with open hearts and minds.

From its earliest days, our church has maintained a high standard of worship, including a new world-class pipe organ, a dedicated rota of lay worship leaders, eucharistic ministers, choristers, acolytes, and altar guild. We have responded to Covid through live-streaming of services and special events, and are incorporating more and more bilingual elements to our services.

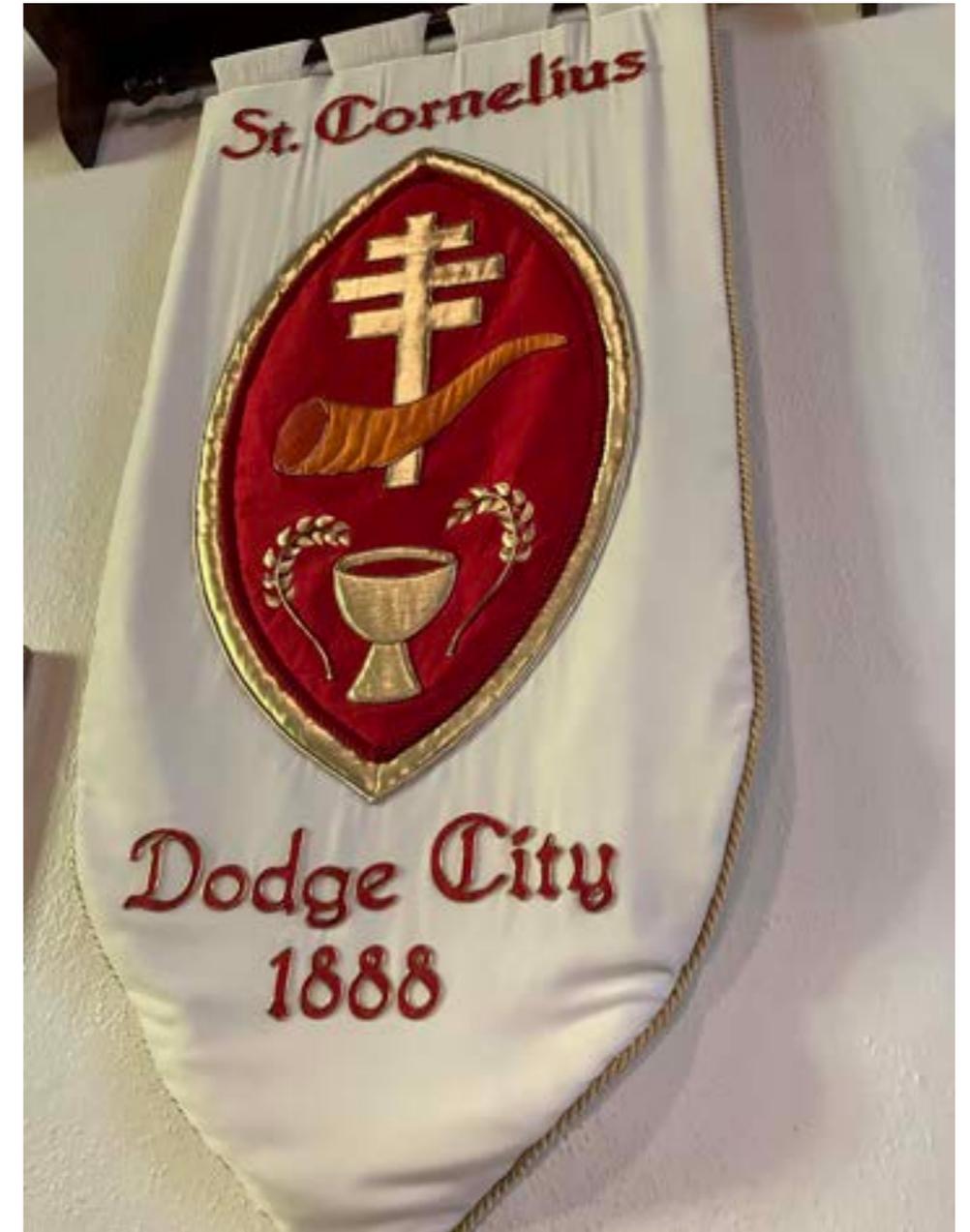
We seek a rector who will:

- attend to parishioners' spiritual and pastoral needs
- engage with parishioners of all ages
- respond to our desire for Christian Education for all ages
- build upon our strengths and challenge us to live our faith daily
- be adept at implanting a strategic plan for growth and best utilization of our resources
- bring renewed visibility in the community and region
- celebrate the growing ethnic and cultural diversity of the parish and region

Parish survey results indicate our parishioners place a great importance upon public worship and keeping St. Cornelius a vital, vibrant place. We are small in number, but generous in spirit through several lay-lead ministries. We are ready for a rector who will reinvigorate us and shepherd us through our third century of faith and service.

Over the course of our history, St. Cornelius has offered broad opportunities both for intentional personal Christian formation and discipleship, through book and Bible studies, workshops, lectures and discussions, special speakers, etc. and a collective commitment to community outreach on behalf of the marginalized and underserved members of our city. We seek a rector who will help us take next steps toward realizing those priorities again in the near future.

We invite you to peruse this document as you prayerfully consider the possibility of making Dodge City your new home.



"I feel grounded in the beautiful faith of the Church and equipped for the week to come."

A Brief History

Situated atop Gospel Hill in historic Dodge City, Kansas, St. Cornelius' Episcopal Church has welcomed worshippers and visitors since the late 19th Century. Though small, this Norman style building with its brown stone walls, stained glass windows and square tower, is suggestive of the chapels of rural England. As several of the first parishioners were from England, they wanted a bit of their heritage to be visible here.

On February 23, 1888, thirteen people met to discuss the formation of an Episcopal Church in Dodge City Kansas. The Rev. H.C. Dyer of Garden City held a Lenten service and a mission was organized. A Vestry was elected, a women's guild organized and the mission named in honor of St. Cornelius. The name seems to have chosen due to city's early associations of the city with nearby Fort Dodge. The Episcopal Church in Dodge City is the only one so named in the United States.

The land on which the church was built on was purchased for fifty dollars and the stone for the church was donated. After breaking ground on February 7, 1898, the building was paid for and consecrated on September 11, 1898.

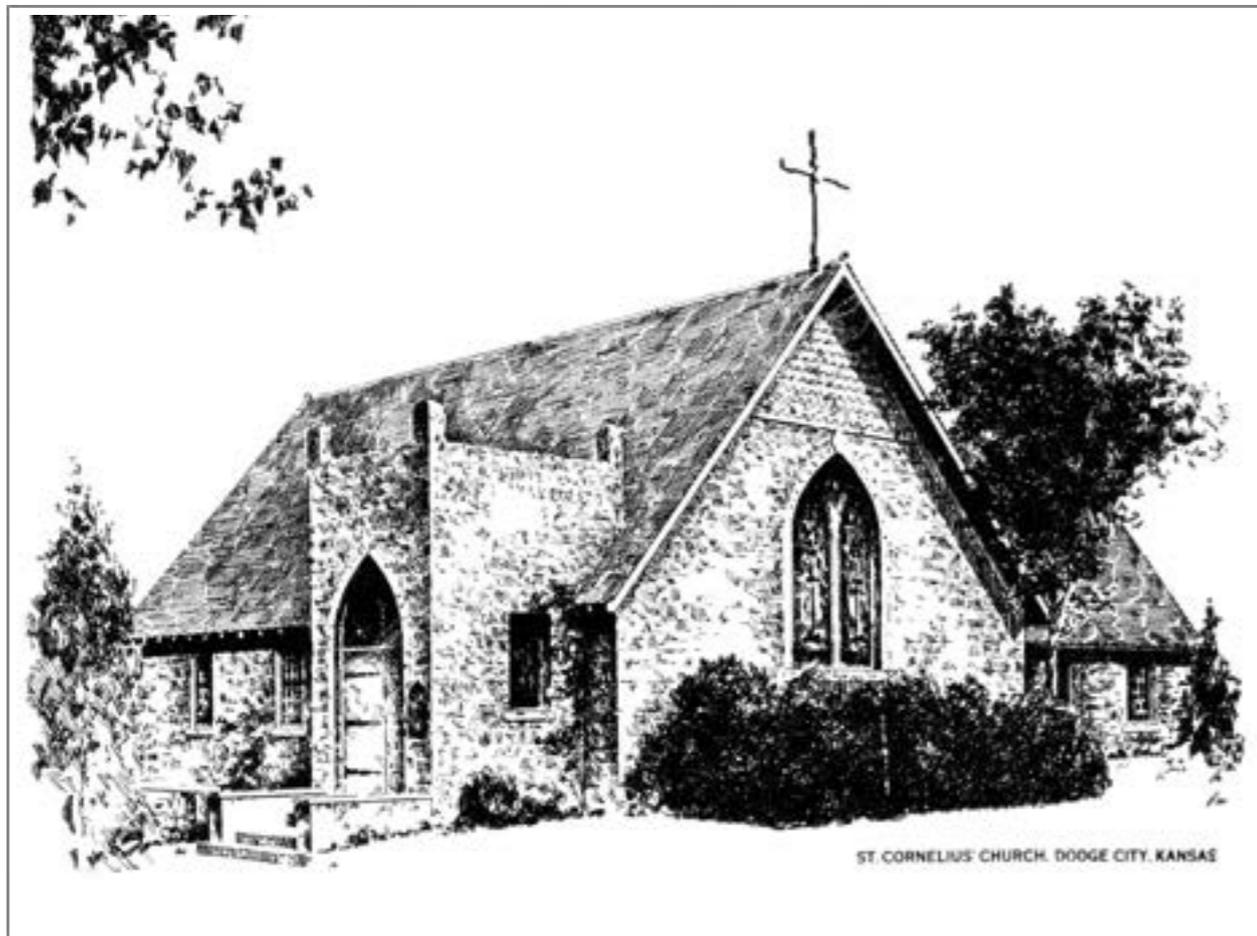
A large wing was added to the building in 1915, providing space for a meeting room, Sunday School, and kitchen. After a much-needed parish hall was completed in 1962, the wing became north transept of the church. The new parish hall features a large, vibrant stained glass Te Deum window in memory of Geneva Crawford Treder, wife of the first rector. The remainder of the seventeen windows installed since 1962 depict events in Jesus' life, parables, and liturgical symbols.

In 1998, the area on the east side of the church was remodeled and an architectural landscaper designed a courtyard featuring plantings and walkways. This work was completed for the celebration of the Centennial of the church.

In 2018, the church commissioned Casavant Frères of Quebec, Canada, to design and build a pipe organ custom-made for the unique acoustics and layout of the church. Since its installation in 2019, the organ has become a favored instrument for recitalists and is used weekly to lead congregational singing, accompany chanting of the Psalms and canticles, organ voluntaries, and educational demonstrations.

St. Cornelius' Episcopal Church was a mission until December 3, 1946, when it gained Parish status. Since then, we have been served by seven rectors.

St. Cornelius' Episcopal Church is the oldest church building in continuous use in Dodge City and is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Kansas.



“I come for the beautiful and dignified liturgy.”



Our Ministries

Service to God and to each other is at the heart of St. Cornelius' Episcopal Church. Our parishioners take this sacred responsibility seriously through a variety of lay-led ministries.

Altar Guild: A dedicated rota of volunteers ensures proper preparation of all sacred and liturgical vessels.

Scholarship: St. Cornelius proudly supports its college-bound members through the awarding of scholarships.

Music: Music at St. Cornelius' Episcopal Church is drawn from the Anglican musical tradition, a rich heritage reaching back through history from ancient chants to modern compositions. Our services are enhanced by dedicated choir members, choral scholars, and cantors. Whether through singing hymns, chanting Psalms, or enjoying a world-class organ concert, music is central to the life of our parish.

Outreach: Reaching beyond the church doors and into the greater community, the Outreach Committee strives to assist in meeting needs in the city through donation of food and physical goods, financial grants and assistance when necessary, and direct action as needed. St. Cornelius is part of the Care Portal, an online nexus that connects social service organizations requesting aid for individuals with institutions and groups that are able to assist in fulfilling those requests for help.

Sunday School: We offer Sunday school on a weekly basis to serve the spiritual needs of our children, presently encompassing ages 3-14. Throughout the year there are multiple special events hosted by the church for kids in the congregation and from the community. VBS, Blessing of Backpacks, parades, fall festival and an annual Christmas Pageant are all thoughtfully designed with our children in mind.

Coffee Hour: Coffee hour is a weekly time of fellowship after Sunday service. It's a time for people to visit over refreshments provided by members of the congregation.

"We all play a part in the sacred, historic liturgy of the Church."





Compensation

This is a full time position. We offer a competitive salary with pension contributions, healthcare coverage, and housing provided. At the same time, we remain open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit if a particular candidate's situation is better suited toward a part-time or bi-vocational arrangement.

Regardless of full-time or part-time, we look forward to engaging a rector who will represent St. Cornelius in the community and region, and build up the Kingdom of God through innovative partnerships and initiatives. We believe there is tremendous potential for renewed outreach to the community at large, with special emphasis on serving our Hispanic neighbors.

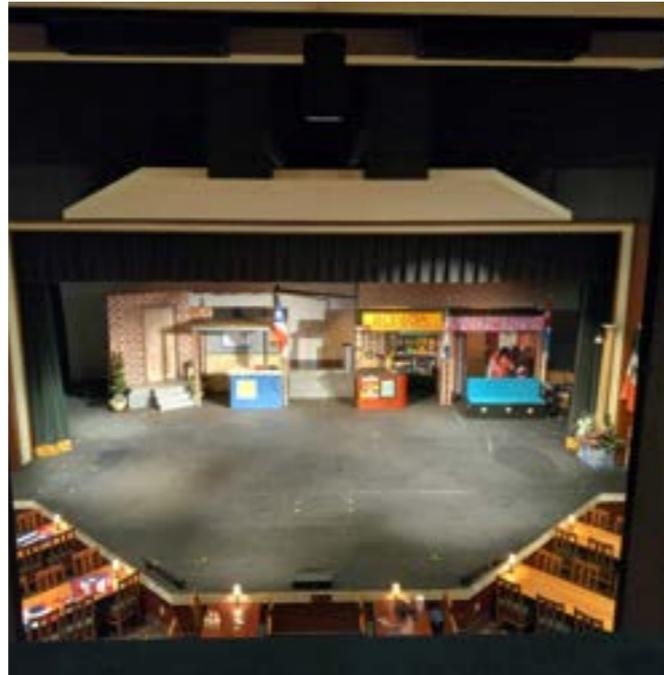
The Diocese of Western Kansas

St. Cornelius in Dodge City is a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Kansas, which covers two-thirds of the state of Kansas. The geography encompasses everything from our historic, but vibrant, Christ Cathedral in downtown Salina to tiny, rural faith communities near the borders of Nebraska, Colorado, and Oklahoma.

Led by our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Mark Cowell, the Diocese of Western Kansas is an innovator in rural and small town ministry, as well as equipping regionally-formed clergy and lay leaders to effectively meet the needs of a rapidly changing church.

“Church is my rock. It’s my strength and connection to God - I’d be lost without it. The church community means so much. It’s a source of friendship and connection with others.”





Dodge City, Kansas

Dodge City, once known as the *wickedest city in the West*, has a rich and storied history. Walk the same streets as the legendary Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, and Bat Masterson; learn the real history of the Wild West, and help shape its future.

At-a-glance

Census Data

Approximately 30,000 residents

Over 20 parks

4 athletic field complexes

Championship golf courses

Dodge City Brewery

Boot Hill Distillery

Fishing and boating lakes in the area

Some of the Area Attractions

Boot Hill Casino & Resort www.boothillcasino.com

Boot Hill Museum www.boothill.org

Carnegie Center for the Arts www.facebook.com/DodgeCityArts

Depot Theater www.depottheater.com

Dodge City Days www.dodgecitydays.org

Dodge City Roundup Rodeo www.dodgecityroundup.org

Long Branch Lagoon Water Park www.lblagoon.com

Second Avenue Art Guild 2ndaveartguild.com

Southwest Kansas Storm www.swkstormfootball.com

For more information, please visit www.visitdodgecity.org



To submit your application, please submit your cover letter, résumé, and current OTM Profile to:

The Rt. Rev. Mark Cowell, Bishop Diocesan and
The Rev. Canon Cameron Randle, Canon to the
Ordinary at tec.wks2011@gmail.com.

For questions or additional information, contact
Canon Randle at 626-390-1700.

Applications will be accepted through December 1,
2024.



www.stcorneliuschurch.org

www.facebook.com/StCorneliusDodgeCity

Detail of the original church cross, now on display in the Parish Hall