



Spires October 2022

Church of the Ascension

13216 Detroit Avenue • Lakewood, OH 44107 • www.ascension-lakewood.org

FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK



We begin October with two memorial services on October 1st. One for a beloved longtime member of Ascension, Carol Culp, and the other a memorial for our departed pets and the spreading of their ashes in the sacred circle in the St. Francis Garden. Carol was the head of the Altar Guild when I arrived at this parish and took her responsibility very seriously and devoutly. This being my first experience as a parish priest, Carol helped me in countless ways as I tried to get my bearings and lead worship in a dignified and orderly manner. She did the same for me as clerk of vestry as I learned to navigate Robert's Rules of Order and other such responsibilities. Dignified, orderly, devout are three adjectives that describe Carol Culp, as do several others depending on her mood, the situation, and her relationship with you. She inspired people, she motivated people, she infuriated people, and she hurt people. She was a force to be reckoned with and was fiercely loyal, devoted, and painstakingly meticulous. She

was witty, humorous, sharp, and precise. She dedicated her time, talents, and treasure to God in and through this parish. She was deeply loved and we give thanks to God for the gift of her life and pray that she rests in God's loving care. In our prayer for the Church of the Ascension we pray to use all that we have and all that we are to follow and imitate Jesus Christ. That is what Carol did and how she lived even as a flawed and sinful human being. And that is what God asks of us, of you and me, who are just as flawed and sinful and just as gifted and beloved as Carol, each in our own way.

We have the pet memorial and spreading of their ashes, as part of the pet blessing service, in honor of St. Francis. We have them together as pets continue to be blessings to us even after they die because they loved us and taught us to love. They helped us to play, and laugh, and snuggle. They helped us become more fully human. St. Francis understood this and celebrated this, not only in pets and animals, but in all of creation. He preached to animals, praised sun and moon and stars as manifestations of God's own self. He believed and lived a deep and passionate love for other people and in living this way taught us, and continues to teach us, to be more fully human. Jesus himself became human to teach us how to be fully human which in turn teaches us to be one with the divine image in which we are made.

So as October begins, and we strive to be ever more faithfully human, we also do so with levity and song. On Monday October 2nd we gather for our first karaoke night as a parish at Corky's Place, the bar just down the street. We will share some pizza and libations as well as some singing, laughter, and fun. So often we do for others, and this is an opportunity to be. To be human together, as joyful followers of Jesus, to be who we are.

God loves you. No exceptions.®

FROM SUSAN O'DONNELL, SENIOR WARDEN



SEPTEMBER MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Parishioners,

Here we are in October. Choir is back and adding so much joy and meaning to Sunday Worship. Sunday School is back in session and soon Adult Formation will be back between the 8am and 10:30am services. Adult Formation is resuming after two years of Covid restrictions. Welcome back!

The Car Show was so much fun. And although we had a lean sharing of cars, we had so many visitors come through our doors and meet the very best of Ascension, our wonderful congregation. We made so many new friends within our community. Strom Hall was bustling with conversation, raffles, and delicious food. Thank you to all of you for your wonderful help and support. Next year we will double check to make sure Baker Mayfield isn't playing against the Browns the very same Car Show Day!! Financially we raised the same as last year, around \$2,000.00 for our precious church. Make sure you get the prayer card we have been distributing, designed by Bill Rice, with our Ascension outreach events listed until Christmas. Share it with a friend.

Now we look forward to the Pet Blessing on October 1st and Trunk or Treat.

For the first time ever, we are having Trunk or Treat on October 30th, following church. We will be treating in the East parking lot. Visitor parking will be available in the west parking lot. Bring your children, grandkids, friends, and neighbors all costumed up for a fun fifth Sunday Youth Church Service. Then out to the east parking lot for Trunk or Treat. We have burgers, hotdogs, and chips to serve. We will bring out some of our church games, have simple crafts and lots of Trunk and Treating with our parish family. You just cannot beat the fun of Halloween, no matter your age, when you are with friends, family, and "church" at Church of the Ascension.

Lastly, October kicks off our yearly Pledge Drive at Ascension. You have already received one heartfelt letter regarding pledging and on Sunday October 23rd we kick off five Sundays, discerning and reflecting on giving our gifts to God. Then another letter will reach out to you with your pledge card.

Pledging is a personal decision each of us makes at church. It is a decision filled with reflection and prayer by all of us. We pray about this together and the decision we make in pledging is an individual one that we act upon after careful prayer. God calls us to share what we have. We are so lucky to share our financial gifts at Church of the Ascension. Your pledge is the foundation of the church budget. It is the foundation of Ascension's Mission in Worship and in Community. Each one of our gifts, no matter the size, is important to Church of the Ascension's very survival. Together we are growing and thriving at church because of YOU and your financial gift to church. But of course, our work still is not complete.

We work now to begin closing the hole from the Diocesan Grants we have depended on over the past several years. As the Grant money disappears, we must work together as the Body of Christ. Prayerfully each of us makes this very personal pledge decision. And I pray you will actively reflect and pray upon your financial tithe to Church of the Ascension. Every single pledge at church counts and strengthens us as we emanate the life Jesus calls us to live at church of the Ascension.

Walking Together with YOU in Faith,
Susan O'Donnell

ADULT FORMATION BIBLE STUDY

The Gospel According to Luke will resume on Sunday October 2nd. 9:15-10am.

FROM CLARKE MORTENSEN



Hello, Ascension!

My name is Clarke Mortensen, and I'm in the discernment process for the priesthood in the Diocese of Ohio.

I have served at Bellwether Farm for the past year, taking care of the farm's animals.

Youth who attended camp may know me better as "Sheriff Rooster" or the "Trumpet Troll"—if that tells you anything about how much fun we had.

Some of my hobbies include running, reading, and hanging out with goats.

I'm excited to be at Ascension this year as I continue to discern God's call for my life.

Clarke Mortensen

OFFICE HOURS

The office is closed on Mondays. Office Hours are: 9am – 1:30pm, Tuesday - Thursday

BISHOP SELECTION NEWS

The Standing Committee is pleased to announce the final slate of nominees for the 12th Bishop of Ohio:

- [The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox](#), Rector of Christ Church in Bloomfield and Glen Ridge, NJ, Diocese of Newark
- [The Rev. Dr. Elaine Ellis Thomas](#), Rector of All Saints Episcopal Parish, Hoboken, NJ, Diocese of Newark
- [The Rev. Anne B. Jolly](#), Rector of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, Deerfield, IL, Diocese of Chicago

Get to know the slate through Meet and Greets. Meet and Greets are open to all.

Sunday, October 23 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Christ Church, Warren

Monday, October 24 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., St. Paul's Church, Akron (Livestreamed)

Tuesday, October 25 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Grace Church, Mansfield

Wednesday, October 26 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., St. Timothy's Church, Perrysburg

Thursday, October 27 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland & on Zoom (for People of Color)

Thursday, October 27 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland (Livestreamed)

The election of the Bishop will take place at our 206th Annual Convention, Downtown Cleveland on November 18th-19th. Ascension will send three delegates.

The Consecration of the new Bishop of Ohio will be April 29th, 2023 at 11:00am.

The Most Reverend Michael Curry will serve as the president.

Church of the Ascension Policies Concerning COVID-19 Updated on February 20, 2022

Masks and social distancing are encouraged but not required inside the building for those fully vaccinated. Anyone who wants to wear a mask for continued protection as well as anyone unvaccinated or who has respiratory issues or concerns is highly encouraged to wear a mask.

Everyone is expected to continue washing hands thoroughly as well as sanitizing all chairs, handles, switches, and surfaces.

We continue to sanitize the building by fumigation monthly.

Community meal organizers are to strictly follow safety policies and cleaning practices.

Groups may serve coffee and other refreshments. Cleaning practices are to be strictly followed.

All participants are encouraged to sing along with both pre-recorded and live singing.

We will continue to offer the peace without moving from our places through a bow or gesture rather than through a hug or handshake allowing people to maintain their personal space.

We will continue to stand for communion until further notice.

No one should receive from the chalice if they are uncomfortable and/or unsafe to do so. We believe in the doctrine of concomitance which means one receives the full benefit of the sacrament whether they receive one or both forms of bread and wine.

Noon day prayer Tuesdays At 12:12pm via conference call

On Tuesdays there will be a conference call enabling you to call in and join Father Vincent and other members of our Ascension community for:

- Noonday Prayer (10 minutes),
- A reflection from Forward Day by Day (5 minutes),
- Time for us to check-in with each other (20 minutes),
- Time to ask questions and exchange information (10 minutes),
- Prayer for the Church of the Ascension.

This will give everyone access to our priest and allow us to continue together in prayer and fellowship.

We will start noonday prayer promptly at 12:12 and end just before 1pm.

Please do not call in before 12:05pm.

You can call in for all or part of the time.

We will use the Book of Common Prayer pp. 103-107.

Dial-in number: (425) 436-6300

Access code: 593523#

Use *6 to mute and un-mute yourself when trying to talk.

SUNDAY 10:30AM SERVICE

The entire service is streamed live each Sunday at 10:30am on
The Church of the Ascension Facebook page
facebook.com/pg/ascensionlakewood/videos/,
and at www.ascension-lakewood.org.

PET BLESSING AND MEMORIAL

There will be a blessing of the animals and pet memorial service on Saturday, October 1st at 10:30am in the West Garden. If you intend to have the remains of your pets spread in the holy circle, please contact Father Vincent by Sunday September 25th. Memorial offerings may be made to support our garden fund. All live pets are to be caged or leashed. Stuffed animals welcome as well.

BOOK STUDY

Our bishop is encouraging every congregation to offer a book study of our colleague the Rev. Rosalind Hughes's excellent book, Whom Shall I Fear? Urgent Questions for Christians in an Age of Violence.

He will reimburse any congregation for the cost of the books.

Father Vincent will offer two free 10 week classes, one on Zoom and one in-person.

Anyone interested in participating in either the zoom class or the in-person class and/or committed to reading the book please call or sign up in the office by July 17th so that we can order the appropriate number of books.

Zoom class will be on Wednesdays 6-7:30pm: Wednesday August 3rd-October 5th.

In-person class will be on Thursdays 6-7:30pm: Thursday August 4th-October 6th.

AFTERNOON GUILD

Will meet on Wednesday October 12th

Set-up at 12pm – Lunch is served at 12:30pm

RSVP to Margie Hildebrandt or the
Church office if you are planning to attend.

Our speaker will be the owner from Little Spark Refill Shop on Old Detroit Road in Rocky River. She will talk to us about reducing plastics in our lives and how her store offers help with reducing waste and recycling. Her store has been featured on Channel three news. All are welcome to attend.

NEW REPLACEMENT STOVES



The new replacement stoves are in thanks to numerous people who dedicated time and energy to grant writing; deconstructing, removing, hauling and recycling the old stove; as well as carefully moving and installing these new beauties! We can continue feeding the hungry and building community for years to come! A wonderful way to prepare for 2025, when we will celebrate 150 years as a community of faith here at The Church of the Ascension.

SHAWL MINISTRY

Shawl ministry will meet on Wednesday October 5th & 19th in Ascension hall from 1 pm - 3 pm. We will continue to meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

CALLING ALL SINGERS

If anyone not already a member would like to sing, check in with either Margie or Jon to let us know! We practice at 7:00 on Thursdays and at 9:45 before the service on Sunday.

As Jon says: THOSE WHO SING PRAY TWICE!

Also, parents put the 2nd Sunday starting in September on your calendar as the children will come with me to learn a song to perform!!!

ASCENSION KARAOKE NIGHT

Ascension Karaoke Night @ Corky's Place 13302 Detroit Ave

Monday October 3rd 7-9pm Pizza available.

Those with mobility issues may park across Clarence at the Lakewood Garden Center

COLLECTING CLOTHES

Collecting Clothes for St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Box is outside the office. Please only clean and lightly worn clothing. Highly needed are seasonal men's and children's items.

GARDEN & YARD CLEANUP

Saturday, October 1st, 9am

Please join us for a garden & yard clean-up at 9am.

Note for your calendar: garden and yard clean-ups are the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 am. Many hands make light work!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 30th, following Sunday Service

Location: Outside, Church Parking Lot

2022 FUNDRAISING AND EVENT SCHEDULE

October Trunk or Treat: Location: Outside, Church Parking Lot

Sunday, October 30th, following Sunday Service

Cookie Walk: Location, Inside, Strom Hall

Saturday December 10th

Cookies and Cocoa: Location: Outside, Front Lawn

Sunday, December 11th, Dusk, Caroling and Cocoa

Left over Cookie Walk Cookies pre-boxed for sale.

ASCENSION NIGHT OUT IS COMING BACK!

I am happy to announce that after a 2 and a half year hiatus that Ascension Night Out is back! Please join us for an evening of fellowship, food and fun.

When: Wednesday, October 19th at 6:00 P.M.

Where: Longhorn Steak House, Rocky River - Westgate Mall 20999 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River.

What to do next: RSVP!

Please email Jim at Secretary@Ascension-Lakewood.org Or call the office at 216-521-8727 (leave a voicemail if calling outside of normal office hours).

Please RSVP no later than Sunday, October 16, space is limited. I look forward to seeing you on October 19th!

Faithfully,
Jim Weiss

October 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9 am - Yard & Garden Cleanup 10:30 am- Pet Blessing and Memorial
2 8 am- Service 9:15 am- Adult Formation 10:30 am- Service	3 7 pm- Ascension Karaoke Night Corky's Place	4 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	5 1 pm - Shawl Ministry 6-7:30 pm Book Study Zoom Class	6 6-7:30 pm Book Study In -person Class	7	8
9 8 am- Service 9:15 am- Adult Formation 10:30 am- Service	10	11 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference cal	12 12:30 pm - Afternoon Guild	8 5:30 pm - Community Meal	14	15
16 8 am- Service 9:15 am- Adult Formation 10:30 am- Service	17	18 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference cal	19 1 pm - Shawl Ministry 6 pm- Ascension Night Out Longhorn Steak House	20	21	22
23 8 am- Service 9:15 am- Adult Formation 10:30 am- Service	24 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	25 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference cal	26	27	28	29
30 8 am- Service 9:15 am- Adult Formation 10:30 am- Service Trunk or Treat	31 <i>Halloween</i>					

Linda Gardner Memorial Library

This spring the Gardner family donated Linda's voluminous music collection to Ascension. Included were selections for organ, brass, piano and voice.

This summer I spent Thursday evenings sorting through these selections in order to decide which could be included in the library. The brass music was donated to the leader of The Brass Quintet, Randy Border, and a large portion of the remaining organ, vocal and piano music will be part of Linda's Memorial Library housed in the choir room.

Once the music is sorted and filed, according to the church seasons, these collections will be available for the use of present and future parish organists at Ascension.

We are so fortunate that Linda's family were willing to share this extremely valuable collection. It will be a fitting memorial to Linda's many years of service as organist at Church of the Ascension.

Jon Peterson

A General Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things.



OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

October 2nd: Frances Isaacs
October 2nd: Charlie Spada
October 3rd: Linda Rerko
October 4th: Janis Carlson
October 4th: Martha (Boots) Johnston
October 5th: Mary Ann Deibel
October 7th: Kinzley Gillies
October 8th: Beth Bergstrom
October 10th: Rhemington Marcella

BIRTHDAYS

October 13th: Teddie Black
October 17th: Rhydian Marcella
October 25th: Jenny Christ
October 28th: Roger E. Barnhard
October 29th: John O'Donnell
October 31th: Joe Sgambellon

ANNIVERSARIES

October 26th: Jenny & Michael Christ

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You can pick **Church of the Ascension** to donate to on **amazonsmile** and amazon will donate a percentage of your total purchase to the church.

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

Please mail in your pledges/financial offerings so we can continue with the ministries of the church as well as meet our financial obligations.

USE YOUR SMART PHONE TO SCAN THE CODE BELOW



Or visit: ascension-lakewood.org where you can make a one time donation or set up continuing donations. Please join us in helping to keep The Church of the Ascension strong and able to meet the needs of an ever-changing world.

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SPIRES?

Do you have something you would like to see in an upcoming issue of the Spires?
Please submit your items by the 18th of the month to danielvanah16@gmail.com