



# Spires



## December 2018

# Church of the Ascension

13216 Detroit Avenue • Lakewood, OH 44107 • [www.ascension-lakewood.org](http://www.ascension-lakewood.org)

## FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK



We begin this month participating in Light Up Lakewood on December 1st. As a parish we will serve free hot cocoa to guests at the festival, participate in the parade, and distribute invitations to join us for events at Church of the Ascension. It is a fun and visible way to say and show to the Lakewood community who we are and what we do.

So what are we specifically inviting people to? On the invitation 3 dates are listed: December 16, December 23, and December 25. On December 16th we will have a caroling sing-along, singing holiday favorites both secular and religious. It is an opportunity for anybody who likes to sing or listen to singing to join in a gathering that is not a religious service and sing Christmas songs. We will also take a free will offering for the Lakewood Community Services Center and have cookies and hot cocoa. The offering is not expected but is welcomed.

On December 23rd we have our big Christmas service at 4pm. In the morning we celebrate Advent 4 at 10:30am and after the Eucharist we green the church, we decorate for Christmas. Then at 3:30 there is a brass and organ prelude and the service begins at 4pm. It is a festive Eucharist with Christmas lessons and carols and includes a pop-up nativity for any kids who wish to participate. After the service we have a big Christmas dinner. All are invited and needed. Please come and invite family and friends.

There is no service on December 24th. Why do we have service on Sunday and not on Christmas Eve? I find that many people are torn and stretched already by trying to juggle lots of family commitments and other gatherings on Christmas Eve. Trying to add church into the mix is simply added stress. Since we have a lot of new members who did not grow up going to Christmas service and want to attract all kinds of people including those who did not grow up in the church, having service the Sunday before Christmas rather than Christmas Eve seems to be a lot more possible and comforting for people. That way we set the tone for the week of Christmas by focusing on what it is really all about!

*Continued on Page 2*

**Father Vincent encourages you to make an appointment with him to discuss anything on your mind or heart.**

**He is available on most Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.**

Please email him at [revvincentblack@yahoo.com](mailto:revvincentblack@yahoo.com) or call the office at 216.521.8727 to set up an appointment.

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Please submit all items for the January Spires by **December 19th**  
[danielvanah16@gmail.com](mailto:danielvanah16@gmail.com)

**Holy Eucharist**

8:00 am & 10:30 am

**Nursery**

10:15 am - 12:15 pm

**Sunday School**

10:30 am

**Website:** <http://ascension-lakewood.org>

## FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK *Continued from Page 1*

We also have Eucharist with trumpets and carols on December 25th at 10:30 am. Again, people who did not grow up going to church know that Christmas is a Christian holiday and so they assume there is service on this holy day. Also, many life long church goers love to go to service on Christmas morning.

We have stacks of these invitations. Please make sure to pick some up at church and personally invite people to join us. The most effective way to get people to visit your church is by you asking them personally. The card is an easy prop and reminder of the dates and activities, but your personal invitations are essential.

And you have good reasons to invite them. This is a great community of faith. At our community meal on Thanksgiving Day three people made a point to thank me for the great care and detail of the beautiful decorations and place settings and the delicious food. They each told me separately that they would not have had Thanksgiving and would have been all alone if they had not been invited to come to Ascension. So please invite. And by inviting we continue to provide a place and opportunity for Jesus to be born anew.

### DECEMBER 2018 SERVICES

One service at 10:30am on December 2, 23, and 30.

- December 2:** **No 8am service or formation.**  
10:30 am Jesse Tree and Holy Eucharist.
- December 9:** 2 services as usual 8 am and 10:30 am  
Adult Formation 9:15 am-10 am
- December 16:** 2 services as usual 8 am and 10:30 am  
Adult Formation 9:15 am-10 am
- December 23:** **No 8am service or formation.**  
10:30 am Advent 4 Eucharist followed by the greening of the church  
4 pm Christmas Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist
- December 25:** 1 service at 10:30 am
- December 30:** **No 8am service or formation.**  
10:30 am service.



### IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE 8AM AND 10:30AM SUNDAY SERVICES?

Yes, there is. The 8am service is shorter because there is no music and there are less people. The language is older and more poetic with "thee, thou, takest, etc." It is quieter and more intimate. There is a simple hospitality offered afterwards of usually coffee and cookies.

The 10:30 service has music, more pageantry, and is about 15 minutes longer. There is Sunday school for children during the first part of the service from September to the end of June. There is also a nursery available for infants and toddlers for the duration of the service. After the service there is usually a more elaborate hospitality time with a range of foods and refreshments.

**Children are welcome at both services.**

### WHAT IS EFM?

It is an amazing opportunity for adults to explore their faith through study, prayer, theological reflection, and fellowship. A group of parishioners meets Monday evenings, from 6-9 pm, September to June to discuss and explore the Bible, church history, and many perspectives on how Christians understand God as revealed through Jesus Christ.

**Please ask Father Vincent or John Mohlar about signing up to join in the fall.**

# FROM CORKY THACKER, SENIOR WARDEN



## Senior Warden's Report

Sunday, November 25 was the date we had requested for pledge cards to be returned, to enable preparation of our 2019 budget. As of November 26, fewer than half of our pledging households have done so and we're just slightly more than halfway to reaching our \$125,000 goal. I'm hoping the rest are coming in this week's mail . . . If you haven't turned in your pledge yet, please mail it or bring it to church this Sunday!

The amounts pledged thus far are 14% ahead of last year, and we've received two new pledges. I remain optimistic!

The importance of achieving financial sustainability hit home for me as a delegate to our Diocesan Convention last month. We had to vote to declare two parishes "extinct." One was St. Paul's in Marion, Ohio—where my great-great grandfather was confirmed; his son was the first baptism in the new vestry room while the church being built in 1856.

Our Finance Committee Chair, Bill Beyer, shared in November 18 services how close Ascension had come to that same fate a few years ago. He also explained how far we've come and how important it is to have Father Vincent living here in Ascension House and to call him to serve as our full-time priest July 1, 2019.

If we all pledge to contribute what we can, we'll keep growing this wonderful, vibrant parish that strives to serve as a beacon of hope and a witness to the gospel for all people.

Speaking of which, we're reaching out to our neighbors and inviting them to share in the joy of the season with a number of fun activities this month. Check out the flyer for "Community, Carols & Cocoa" and plan to attend and enjoy! Pick up some invitations and take them to family, friends and neighbors!

During December, we'll go caroling in the neighborhood and have a carol sing-along in the church that will benefit the Lakewood Community Services Center, in addition to our Christmas Lessons & Carols with our holiday feast. And of course, Christmas Day worship. Ghiradelli Hot Cocoa will be part of these events' hospitality.

Please also sign up in the church office for some areas where we need volunteers. We especially need people to bring Christmas cookies on the 16th and clean up help on the 16th and 23rd.

I hope to see you all—a lot—this month!

Sincerely,  
Corky Thacker, Senior Warden

## PLEASE RETURN YOUR PLEDGE FOR 2019

If you haven't returned your 2019 pledge commitment, please do so promptly. Our parish depends upon your pledge to be able to budget and plan for the coming year.

## REMINDER TO THE PARISH FROM FATHER VINCENT

Vestry meetings are open if you wish to attend.

**Please join us**

**Thursday, December 20th, from 7-9 pm.  
in Ascension Hall**

If you want to speak at the meeting please contact the Senior Warden,  
Corky Thacker: 216-371-4693 to be put on the agenda.

**God loves you. No exceptions.®**

*Join In!***Community, Carols & Cocoa***Enjoy!*

SATURDAY

24

**NOVEMBER****12 pm - 4 pm | Christmas Tree Sale Kick-off at Lakewood Garden Center**

Enjoy free hot cocoa at a table inside their building while you shop for your Christmas tree and greenery.

SATURDAY

1

**DECEMBER****4 pm - 8 pm | Light Up Lakewood 2018 Annual Holiday Festival**

Ascension volunteers will serve free hot cocoa and participate in the parade.

SUNDAY

9

**12 pm - 4:30 pm | Lunch and Prepare Community Gift Bags Followed by neighborhood caroling and hot cocoa.**Enjoy lunch in Ascension Hall, then help stuff gift bags with donated toiletries and personal care items for distribution at our December 13<sup>th</sup> Community Meal. Afterwards, join us for caroling in our neighborhood. Songbooks provided.

SUNDAY

16

**4 pm - 5:30 pm | Carols Sing-along with Cookies and Hot Cocoa**

This acapella sing-along in the church offers fellowship and cheer apart from worship. Refreshments will be served in Ascension Hall. Songbooks provided. Free-will offering to support Lakewood Community Services Center.

SUNDAY

23

**3:30 pm | Brass & Organ Prelude****4 pm | Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist and Pop-up Nativity Followed by Holiday Feast**

All children will be invited to join in the Pop-up Nativity, if they wish. Dinner and hot cocoa to be served in Strom Hall after the service.

TUESDAY

25

**10:30 am | Christmas Day with Holy Eucharist, Trumpets and Carols**

Celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth, followed by refreshments including hot cocoa in Ascension Hall.

**Church of the Ascension**

An Episcopal Church

God Loves You. No Exceptions.®



# December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:30 am- Service (Jesse Tree and Holy Eucharist)	3	4 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Spaghetti Meal	5 1:30pm - Shawl Ministry (Ascension Hall)	6	7	8
9 8 am- Service 9:15am-10am Adult Formation 10:30 am- Service	10 6 pm- Ascension Nite Out (Houlihan's Restaurant in Westlake)	11 6:30 pm - Buildings & Grounds Meeting	12 12:30 pm - Afternoon Guild (Ascension Hall)	13 5:30 pm - Community Meal	14	15
16 8 am- Service 9:15am-10am Adult Formation 10:30 am- Service	17	18	19 1:30 am - Shawl Ministry (Ascension Hall)	20 7 pm- Vestry	21	22
23 10:30 am- Service (Advent 4 Eucharist followed by the greening of the church) 4 pm-Christmas Lessons and Carols	24 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Spaghetti Meal  Christmas Eve	25 10:30 am- Christmas Service  Christmas Day	26	27	28	29
30 10:30 am- Service	31  New Year's Eve					

## CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICE FOR ADVENT

At the Church of The Ascension we're fortunate to have a lot of different opportunities to engage with scripture and deepen our faith. As we enter the season of Advent, you're invited to participate in a quieter, more contemplative way of experiencing God's word and preparing for the birth of Christ with a Wednesday evening service of Compline combined with Lectio Divina. Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) is a way of reading a single passage of scripture more slowly and deliberately than we usually do in normal Sunday worship, combined with spending time in meditation, and listening for the word of God. Lectio Divina is less about understanding what a piece of scripture "means" and more about experiencing and "feeling" it.

**Join us Wednesdays, December 5, 12 and 19 starting at 7pm, and expect to spend 30-40 minutes.**

**As we move into the busy holiday season, this will be a great opportunity to have some scheduled time for peace and reflection.**

**If you are interested in being a reader, see Father Vincent or Michael Crowdes.**



## CLOTHING DRIVE



The Choir are collecting clothing for St. Luke's Episcopal Church's clothing drive. This clothing will be made available to the needy free of charge. If you would like to clean out your closet– the "re-choir-ed" clothing box is located just to the right of the office. The choir will be responsible for delivering your donations. Cold weather is here, so think warm clothes too!!!

*I was told by a reputable source that hooded sweatshirts are a plus!!!*



## AFTERNOON GUILD

THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH AT 12:30PM



**WE WILL ALL GATHER IN ASCENSION HALL FOR A SOCIAL HOUR AND HOME COOKED MEAL FOR CHRISTMAS.**

**PLEASE BRING AN UNWRAPPED TOY FOR THOSE CHILDREN WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THAN MOST. YOUR GENEROSITY WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

**SHARE WITH US THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!**

*PLEASE RSVP IN THE OFFICE. ALL THE LADIES OF THE PARISH ARE INVITED.  
HOPE WE HAVE A GREAT TURNOUT.*

# ADULT FORMATION - EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Beginning in September and continuing through Lent we are going to explore the Bible using *The Path*, a concise, abridged, and narrated version which uses the exact words of the Bible and fills in between those words to cut out the big chunks giving us a book that reads like a story. The whole parish will use this resource, adults and children alike. There is a children and family version which we will use in Sunday School. From these stories we will prepare for our Jesse Tree liturgy in Advent in a more natural and engaging manner.

On Sunday morning beginning on September 9th we will read and discuss a chapter a week. In Sunday school they will discuss the same theme and characters and the chapters are numbered the same.

## Here is the schedule:

**December 2nd** - One service - Jesse Tree Service at 10:30 am. No adult formation or Sunday School.

**December 9th** - Advent Day—filling gift bags for community meal after 10:30 service

**December 9th** - Advent theme for Adult formation and Sunday School

**December 16th** - Advent theme for Adult formation and Sunday School

**December 23rd** - No 8 am service. No adult formation. Sunday school during 10:30 am service. Greening of the church after 10:30 am service. Lessons and Carols at 4pm.

**December 25th** - 10:30 am service.

**December 30th** - No adult formation or Sunday School. One service at 10:30am.

We will continue the reading and study in the New Year. I highly encourage everyone connected to the parish to join in the reading and study. If you are unable to join us at 9:15-10am Sunday mornings please consider buying the book and reading along as we do. The cost of the book is \$20.00. You can get a book in the office. Never let money keep you from joining in! Just let me know you need a book but can't pay for it. If you join us Sunday mornings, we will read it together so there is no preparing for the class. We will have books available for those who join us Sunday morning so you don't need to buy your own. Come when you can!



## We resume *The Path* in January.

We have one service on Epiphany but we will have formation beforehand at 9:15 am.

**January 6th** - Chapter 13

**January 13th** - Chapter 14

**January 20th** - Chapter 15

**January 27th** - Chapter 16



## JOIN US IN THE STUDY AND SHARING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE EPISCOPALIAN.

Beginning in September, on the first Tuesday of each month we will gather at 6:30pm and end at 7:45pm in the Guild Room to read and discuss the living of our faith. We will be using the book, *Walk in Love*. Each week we will read a portion of the book together and then discuss its applications to our lives. All are welcome to participate. Books will be provided for the class. If you would like your own copy or cannot attend the class but would like to read the book it is available in the office for \$20.00. It is both comprehensive and comprehensible and I highly recommend that everyone read and reference this helpful text.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you willing to assist as the second person for the nursery or Sunday School?

Contact David Campion: [dccampion@earthlink.net](mailto:dccampion@earthlink.net) or 440-668-4905

Click on the link below to access the ascension assistants for worship worksheet

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16XyLBnLM6yb\\_Ry-S5z1llkuKd2RZLJVoiYFH5Qk-GKM/edit#gid=1498723325](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16XyLBnLM6yb_Ry-S5z1llkuKd2RZLJVoiYFH5Qk-GKM/edit#gid=1498723325)

## COMMUNITY MEAL

THE COMMUNITY MEAL WILL BE ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

SET UP AT 4 PM ♦ DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM ♦ MEAL SERVED AT 5:30 PM



**THE DESSERT WILL BE:  
RED VELVET CAKE WITH WHITE ICING  
AND GREEN SPRINKLES**



WE WILL NEED THREE CAKES.

BREADSMITH IS NOW DONATING THEIR DAY OLD BREAD FOR OUR THURSDAY MEAL. **THANK YOU BREADSMITH.** YOUR BREAD IS AMAZING AND A BLESSING TO OUR CLIENTS.

MARGIE: [bach2schol@hotmail.com](mailto:bach2schol@hotmail.com)

## THE TRIALS FOR HOPE SPAGHETTI MEAL

Coordinated by Jonathan Gray



**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH &  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM - MEAL SERVED AT 5:30 PM**

**HELPERS FOR THIS MEAL ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

*Helpers are needed for this meal. Set up is at 4:00, doors open at 5:00, meal is served at 5:30. Let the office know so Jonathan Gray can be notified.*

## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS



### BIRTHDAYS

**December 12:** Parker Knapp  
**December 19:** Beverly Kliber  
**December 30:** David Campion  
**December 31:** Mason Perry



## Helping to Feed Our Sheep? Please be a Good Shepherd.

It is a great blessing (and a necessity) to have so many volunteers bringing food for our various internal and external ministries and social activities! Thanks to you all, and please keep doing what you've been doing—while keeping a few practical considerations in mind:

- ❖ Bring all required items needed for people to eat your dish, including serving spoons/forks, plates, tableware and napkins (unless someone else on the team is providing them, or you have checked the inventory available for coffee hour). If you forget, please go and find the needed items yourself, rather than asking someone else to get them.
- ❖ Take everything home with you when you leave. Please do not make others responsible for things you brought.
- ❖ Nothing is to be left in the kitchens, refrigerators or freezers in Ascension Hall or Strom Hall unless someone else has expressly said they want to use it for another event in the next week or two. If you store anything, please read and abide by the instructions posted on the refrigerators or in the kitchens regarding labeling, dating and sealing.

Feeding our sheep is a major part of our mission at the Church of the Ascension, and a great part of our joy in being together.

But we don't want to feed mice or culture mold.

Thanks for all of your help!



## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Dear Friends in Christ at the Church of the Ascension,

It was such a joy to celebrate our wedding ceremony at a church that has been so meaningful and special. We loved seeing so many of you in the congregation to support us and to know that you were thinking of us that day. We would like to especially thank Father Vincent for seeing us through the whole marriage process, the altar guild for their help with flowers and other decorations, the shawl guild for all the care put into the beautiful wedding shawl, and all others who helped in any way. We are so blessed to have you all as part of our spiritual family and will continue to pray for you in the years to come.

Gratefully,  
Stephen and Emily Ashby



# HOSPITALITY ROSTER

## December: Vestry

*(keep in mind Lessons & Carols)*



### ALTAR FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS – A HOW-TO

It is our practice to create a temporary pool of funds from which to buy the plants which adorn the altars and the chancel for Christmas in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Here's how it works. We place our contributions in envelopes provided (checks made out to the church, with "Christmas flowers" in the memo line or cash) and list those we want to remember with our gifts on the forms provided next to the box in which we collect the contributions. The amount of each gift is determined by the donor.

**The deadline for making gifts to the fund and placing names on the remembrance list is December 16th, which allows sufficient time for that list to be compiled for publication with the Christmas bulletins.**



Following the 10:30 service on the Christmas Day the plants are distributed to parishioners who due to ill health or disability are unable to attend worship.

## ASCENSION NITE OUT

**CHRISTMAS IS APPROACHING QUICKLY AND OUR  
CHRISTMAS NITE OUT THIS YEAR WILL BE ON  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10TH AT 6:00 P.M.**

### HOULIHAN'S RESTAURANT IN WESTLAKE

**25651 DETROIT ROAD AVENUE, 440-808-9090**

*Exit South at Columbia Road and turn right at Detroit.*

*Houlihan's will be on the south side of the street*

ALL ARE WELCOME. HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE  
THERE SHARING OUR CHRISTMAS MEAL TOGETHER

**CALL JOYCE AT 216-592-8362 WITH REGRETS ONLY.**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL !!!**

