



*Spires* September 2021

# Church of the Ascension

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

## FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK



Beloved People of God,

It is with awe and gratitude that I begin my 9th year as your priest. My first day at this parish was September 1st, 2013. I am truly amazed at all you and God have done and continue to do! The Psalm for the first Sunday in September is Psalm 146. It begins, "Praise the Lord! I will praise

the Lord with all my life; I will sing praises to my God as long as I live." It is my deepest desire to be part of a faith community that praises God with all that they are, with their very lives. And in God's goodness I am graciously blessed to be part of such a community here at the Church of the Ascension.

You continue to sing praises to God even through the challenges of the pandemic and uncertainty with words and with your lives. You raised the money to get our pipe organ blower fixed in record time so that we could literally keep singing our praises to God. You welcomed back the Reverend Gregory Stark and heard from him the impact you have had and continue to have on him as a Christian and as a priest. So much so, that before leaving the country to further his studies, he wanted to spend time here in this holy place and thank you for feeding him and to challenge you to go on feeding others and to be fed yourselves by God's love and grace.

And you welcome Leah back to this parish for her final year of formation and preparation for ordained ministry. She has been entrusted to this parish by the bishop and the diocese as a seminarian because of your willingness and witness to praising the Lord with your lives. Because you love God, you witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, you are open to the guiding of the Holy Spirit. Because you give generously of your money and resources of your time and talent. Because you believe that God loves all people, no exceptions. Because you pray for each other and for the world. Because you feed people and are willing to seek Jesus in breaking bread with others.

I am so blessed to be your priest and I pray that I too may praise the Lord with all my life and with all that I am.



**God loves you. No exceptions.®**

# FROM SUSAN O'DONNELL, SENIOR WARDEN



## SEPTEMBER MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

September. Wow. Our summer events were an amazing success. Now we are looking forward to the Blessing of the Animals and another Family/Intergenerational Outdoor Service in September. More meaningful ways to engage with God at Church of the Ascension.

As we move into September we begin thinking about budgets, pledges, gifts, and fund-raising. As you already know our Church has lost monthly income from the Montessori School rental. Yes, we have gotten some interest in the building to rent. But nothing has come through and we are still immersed in the pandemic. The good news is the Diocese is not going to halt our financial aid as they planned, but they have reduced it to \$15,000 for this year. We are incredibly grateful for their continued financial support during these times.

So, for 2022 we are looking to use saved money to balance the budget. Thank goodness those on Vestry and the Finance Committee made this provision for us. Obvious to all of us with home budgets, this is a temporary safety net. Those funds will deplete quickly.

To summarize, pledges are vital now and thank you ALL as the Body of Christ for your financial gifts for Ascension. Just look around at Ascension. With great joy you can see that we are still thriving. We are growing our membership despite the pandemic and have been blessed to continue our presence in the community. Your dependable pledges and gifts have made this possible. Our organ is repaired. Our roof and walls no longer leaking. All gifts count. We at Church of the Ascension are a walking testimony to those words.

We must continually work to fulfill our missional prayer, "May the Church of the Ascension be so inspired by your Holy Spirit that it may serve as a beacon of hope and a witness to the gospel". Even with the pandemic we have done just that. We have created presence in our community during 2021.

- Two Weekly Worship Services: Indoors, Outdoors and a Monthly Family/Intergenerational Outdoor Service
- Weekly Streaming Worship
- Weekly Virtual Prayer Gathering
- Three Monthly Community Meals
- Four Frankfurter Fridays
- A Parish Picnic

IN TOTAL WE HAVE SERVED 680 MEALS so far in 2021. This represents 400 VOLUNTEER HOURS to prepare and serve those meals to OUR COMMUNITY.

- Annual Ascension Market Place
- 10 weekly AA meetings

What's next???

To fulfill our missional prayer and grow our gifts to God and the church we must continue to put our missional prayer into action.

Church of the Ascension will celebrate 150 years of service to Lakewood in 2025. We are planning an outdoor fundraiser to kick off this celebration. On Saturday, October 16th from 10 to 3 we are planning a CAR SHOW on our one-of-a-kind property in Lakewood. We will invite the community, build community presence, and celebrate the evolution of change over the past 150 years with the treasure of collectable cars. Two parking lots and the front lawn will be used to show cars. The east parking lot will be our guest parking lot. Simple events like fifties music, a concession stand, a fifty- fifty raffle and ribbons celebrating 150 years

# FROM SUSAN O'DONNELL, SENIOR WARDEN

in Lakewood will be presented to participants and make the event friendly and fun. Donations will support our Missional Prayer, the Prayer for Church of the Ascension. We are hoping to raise a thousand dollars. This is a modest goal. I am prayerful this can become a yearly event for us.

How can you help? Organize a playlist for music. Sit and supervise guests at checkpoints. Organize a modest concession stand. Work the concession stand. Organize a fifty-fifty raffle. Sell raffle tickets. Get the word out to the community with flyers. Come and participate. It is all quite simple. Through our gifts from God we will continue to thrive at Church of the Ascension.

Join me as I pray on this and PLEASE continue your prayers for our beloved Church of The Ascension.

With Faith and Gratitude, Susan O'Donnell

\*\*\* The photo I have attached to the message is from our wedding at Ascension in 1976. John and I are in a 1970 Thunderbird, parked in front of Ascension on Detroit Ave.

## Church of the Ascension Policies Concerning COVID-19 on and after June 13, 2021

Chalice will be offered beginning June 13th.

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.

We will continue to stand for communion through the end of August when we will reassess.

Outdoor Holy Eucharist will continue at 8am through August 29th. Outdoor Family Service will continue on the 4th Sunday of each month through September 26th.

Masks and social distancing will no longer be required inside the building for those fully vaccinated beginning Sunday July 4th. 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.

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.

Everyone is expected to continue washing hands thoroughly as well as sanitizing all chairs, handles, switches, and surfaces. We will sanitize the building by fumigation monthly rather than weekly beginning in July.

Hospitality on Sundays and community meals will continue to be held outside through the end of August. Community meal organizers can then decide what is best for their respective meal beginning in September. Safety policies and cleaning practices will be strictly followed.

Groups may begin serving coffee and other refreshments inside beginning in September strictly following all safety policies and cleaning practices.

Singing will continue to be pre-recorded until the fall when the choir will resume leading singing in worship. All participants are encouraged to sing along with both pre-recorded and live singing. Hymnals and Prayer books will be returned to the pews after the plaster work in the church is completed.

## AFTERNOON GUILD

### POT LUCK LUNCH!!!

**Wednesday, September 8th, at 12:30 pm in Ascension Hall**

Afternoon Guild will "open up" our 2021-2022 meetings starting in September.

Hope you'll all try to attend this special meeting as we will plan our programs for our group. Know you'll come with some great ideas for our project or projects for this year.

All women of our church are welcome and quite often a gentleman or two, as we try to include workers in our church around lunch.

See you on the 8th. Joyce

We meet September - May, with 2 lunch "on the town in "October and May.

## SHAWL MINISTRY

Shawl ministry will resume on Wednesday September 1, 2021. We will meet in Ascension hall at 1:30 pm. We will continue meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

## MONTHLY FAMILY OUTDOOR SERVICE

Because of the wonderful responses from our children and adults alike, we will have an outdoor family service once a month. It will be held on the fourth Sunday of the month at 9:30am. Our next Outdoor Family Service be held on September 26th. All are invited to attend.

## HAITI RELIEF

On Saturday, August 14, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the southwest portion of Haiti. This devastating earthquake was followed by Tropical Storm Grace on Monday night and much of Tuesday. More than 1 million people, including more than half a million children, have been impacted by the back-to-back disasters, and the death toll is close to 2000. Episcopal Relief & Development and its partners are responding immediately with direct assistance to vulnerable households in the region, as partners plan long-term recovery. Your generous gift can provide assistance to help people in the wake of these disasters. To assist in these efforts, visit: [episcopalrelief.org/haiti-relief](https://episcopalrelief.org/haiti-relief).

## 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.

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

## Ascension Permanent Zoom Meeting Link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82605560985?pwd=NUZPYmp5bFpSQXEzVGZEOXpjOExaQT09>

Meeting ID: 826 0556 0985

Passcode: ascension

Tap for cell phone to call automatically:

+13017158592,,82605560985#,,,,\*786753522# US (Washington DC)

Or Dial

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 826 0556 0985

Passcode: 786753522

## 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/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/ascensionlakewood/videos/),

and at [www.ascension-lakewood.org](http://www.ascension-lakewood.org).



# September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:30 pm - Shawl Ministry Ascension Hall	2	3	4 9 am - Yard & Garden Cleanup
5 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service	6	7 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	8 12:30 pm - Afternoon Guild Ascension Hall	9 5:30 pm - Community Meal	10	11
12 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service	13	14 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	15 1:30 pm - Shawl Ministry Ascension Hall	16	17	18
19 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service	20	21 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	22	23	24	25
26 8 am- Service 9:30 am- Family and Intergenerational Service 10:30 am- Service	27 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	28 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	29	30		

## PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

Please mail in your pledges/financial offerings so we can meet our financial obligations.

Please join us in helping to keep The Church of the Ascension strong  
and able to meet the needs of an ever-changing world.

**USE YOUR SMART PHONE TO SCAN THE CODE BELOW**



**OR VISIT:** [theascensionshop.com](http://theascensionshop.com) where you can make a one-time donation or set up continuing contributions.

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

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.



## SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS



### BIRTHDAYS

**September 5:** Sally Gazala  
**September 06:** Alisha Conway  
**September 08:** Steve Ashby  
**September 09:** Eleanor Jones  
**September 09:** Jennifer Spada  
**September 11:** Richard Ballard  
**September 12:** Marjorie Hildebrandt  
**September 13:** Leah DeJesus  
**September 13:** Jeffrey W. Knapp  
**September 13:** Gilbert Newlands  
**September 13:** Gregory Sent  
**September 14:** Hugo Hildebrandt

### BIRTHDAYS

**September 15:** Christina Ferraro  
**September 17:** John Mohlar  
**September 22:** Nancy Murphy  
**September 23:** Kent Johnson  
**September 24:** Cole Spada  
**September 27:** Codi Hildebrandt  
**September 27:** Ava-Joyce Lewallen

### ANNIVERSARIES

**September 03:** Christina Ferraro & Joseph Kidwell  
**September 26:** Rosemary & Richard Ballard

## ASCENSION CONNECTIONS

- Our own, Greg Sent, has been a key organizer of Lakewood Historical Society's Miniature Show. "Small Wonders" opens Saturday, September 11th and runs every Saturday and Sunday through October 3rd at the Lakewood Nicholson House Support Lakewood and experience Greg's dedication, and love of all things Lakewood as he brings these collections for all of us to enjoy.

Tickets for adults are 15 dollars and children ages 3-12 are 5 dollars.

<https://buytickets.at/lakewoodhistoricalsociety/552112>

- St Paul's Episcopal Church of Medina is putting on an Octoberfest Saturday, September 11th from 1pm to 9pm. Presale tickets are 6 dollars and day of tickets are 10 dollars.

Kelly Aughenbaugh is the rector there. You may remember that she previously lived one summer in Ascension House with Noah Sutterisch, Steve Ashby, Lauren Dockery and Greg Stark who were also exploring their calling to God. [www.stpauls-medina.org](http://www.stpauls-medina.org)

Over 60 amazing dollhouses and room boxes!



Tickets go on sale  
starting August 15th

**\$15 Adults**

**\$5 Children, ages 3-12**

<https://buytickets.at/lakewoodhistoricalsociety/552112>

To benefit the Lakewood Historical Society

Showcase  
Dates & Times

Saturdays and Sundays: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

September 11, 2021 to October 3, 2021

Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood