



Spires March 2023

Church of the Ascension

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

FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK



Beloved people of God,

I give thanks to God through our Lord Jesus Christ for calling us to serve, worship, and grow together at Church of the Ascension.

As part of my vocation as priest, every six years I am eligible to take a sabbatical away from my role and responsibilities as your pastor. This is standard practice in the Episcopal Church and is written into the letter of agreement between parishes and priests. The time allotted is two weeks of sabbatical for every year of service for up to seven years. My last sabbatical was six years ago, so I am allotted 12 weeks. I begin my sabbatical on January 16th and return to the office on April 5th. That will be a total of 11 weeks and one day. I could have come back the Monday after Easter, had I taken the full 12 weeks. Although there would be nothing

wrong with that, I decided instead to return in time to walk through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday with you because I wanted to journey with you through the holiest days of our liturgical life.

So that everyone is on the same page, I want to share with you my general plans for my time away.

First, I will spend a month of retreat on a cruise. I was offered the opportunity to have an inside cabin, with no window, for the cost of the taxes and gratuity. Most retreat centers I found are in cold climates and the cost for room and board is considerably higher than the cost of taxes and gratuity for the cruise. Many of you know that being on the water is very spiritual for me. I will also have a lot of time to read, write, and meditate without any concern for meal prep or cleanup. etc. I will also have time in the sun as the cruise will go through the Panama Canal twice.

I will spend a week in Delaware and visit a priest friend who I met though the clergy program I completed though the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation.

I will spend a few weeks in Brisbane, Australia with a friend I taught with in Japan, and her family, playing with her kids and taking many nature walks.

Finally, I will end with 11 days in Central Florida visiting a friend I've known since college who is a college professor. He will help me reflect on my life and set new goals.

I believe this time will be well spent and accomplish my sabbatical goals of rest and rejuvenation, study and reflection, and visioning and planning.

I appreciate and understand the great privilege to be able to take sabbatical. I also appreciate the necessity and value of sabbatical if I am to continue to serve as a priest in a healthy, creative, and total capacity.

Please pray for me during my time away and know that I will be praying for you as well.

Yours in Christ,
Father Vincent



God loves you. No exceptions.®

FROM SUSAN O'DONNELL, SENIOR WARDEN



SENIOR WARDEN'S MESSAGE FOR MARCH 2023

Lent is upon us.

Reverend Keith Owen will lead us through worship during Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd at 7:30pm.

Wednesday evenings at 6pm, Clarke Mortensen, our intern, will lead us through Stations of the Cross. If you have never experienced this, I can tell you that it is a gripping weekly experience that grounds you within your Faith.

Bible study, adult formation, will continue with Clarke each Sunday following the 8am service and preceding the 10:30am service in Ascension Hall. It begins at about 9:15am and lasts close to an hour. See Clarke Mortensen, for more information.

Sunday School continues each Sunday. Children gather in Ascension Hall during part of the Sunday church service. Special Lent activities are planned by the instructors. On the second week of each month, Margie Hildebrandt, "our" retired music educator and choir leader, direct our youth as a choir to sing at the church service. Jon Peterson and Margie have always said those who sing pray twice. Choir teaches our children those wonderful bible songs, develops community, poise, and confidence. Make sure your children take advantage of this opportunity led by a certified music instructor. In February we had 11 children participate. It was beautiful!

During hospitality join our silent conversation. A white board with the words "I experienced God..." have been written to encourage us to share and explore where we have found God that week. We know Father Vincent has asked us this repeatedly. We add our experiences to the white board with words and phrases each week. We can connect our ideas with lines, and add enriching details to support each other, and learn from each other. At Easter we will have a beautiful board filled with a collective semantic map of meaningful words and phrases describing our Faith experience.

On Tuesdays at 12:12pm dial in right from your home for a shared prayer phone meeting. Jim Weiss leads this weekly experience. Call the office to get more details.

Forward Movement booklets are available at no cost in the church office to help you during your own individual Lenten journey.

So, you see, there are so many ways to deepen your faith at Ascension. I know I am ready to immerse myself within Lent at Ascension. I hope you are too. Join us.

Walking with you in Faith,
Susan O'Donnell

SABBATICAL

Father Vincent Black is on Sabbatical from January 16th until the Wednesday of Holy Week, April 5th, 2023.

Every six years our priest is eligible for sabbatical of 12 weeks, 2 weeks per year of service.

A priest takes sabbatical to focus on self care, inner reflection, and rejuvenation. It is a time for the priest to pray, reflect on vocation and the spiritual life, read, write, and rest. It is also time for the parish to reflect on shared ministry with their priest and to pray for the priest's vocation and well being.

The Rev. Leah Romanelli DeJesus will field pastoral care along with the Rev. Brad Purdom and the Rev. John Keller. Simply call the office if you would like to request a pastoral visit. The Rev. Keith Owen will journey with the parish during Lent, from Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday. Father Vincent will be back for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

FROM CLARKE MORTENSEN



At my job, there is a woman I've run into several times over the course of a couple months. She is somewhat of a spiritual seeker and is very curious about things like church and the Bible. Consequently, when she found out how large a role the church plays in my life, she proceeded to ask me lots—and I mean lots—of questions. I was able to take half an hour or so and sit down with her to talk, but mostly listen. In the course of our conversation, I ended up inviting her to Church of the Ascension. This is not something I do on a regular basis, perhaps out of fear of seeming too pushy. To my surprise, she seemed grateful for the invitation and is considering visiting.

I think the fear of inviting people comes from a good place, because we don't want to pressure people into coming to church. After all, that's bound to have the opposite effect and drive people away. But it can also hinder us from presenting church as something people should want to come to. Our church is great, and we should say so! I wonder how different our church would look if we all took the time this Lent to invite one person into our community of faith.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Dear colleagues and friends,

News and images of the earthquake devastation in Turkey and Syria are horrifying and heartbreaking. With thousands dead and unknown numbers of injured, it is a humanitarian tragedy of epic proportion.

Along with our prayers, we can send financial support online [here](#) or by sending a check to the Diocese of Ohio (2230 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44115) marked for Earthquake Relief. All funds will be distributed through Episcopal Relief and Development. I will send support personally and from the Bishop's Discretionary Fund, and encourage you to join me.

Gratefully,
The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. Bishop of Ohio

INFORMATION FOR LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP

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.

LEARN ABOUT OUR BELIEFS

Interested in learning more about the belief and practices of the Episcopal Church? Father Vincent will lead a hybrid class on Sundays in Easter beginning on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 16th, and ending on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 21st. Please call or email Jim in the office to register by April 10th. We will use two books, The book of Common Prayer 1979 and Walk in Love. Both books will be available for purchase in the office.

Rev. Nicky Skipworth from England, who will be joining us for the month of June, will join us for the class via Zoom.

SHAWL MINISTRY

Shawl ministry will meet on **Wednesday March 1st & 15th** in Ascension hall from 1 pm - 3 pm. We will continue to meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Delivery Help Needed! People wanted to help deliver shawls. This task is getting to be too much for the ladies – we need some help! Contact Mary Staley at (216) 214-3522

ADULT FORMATION - BIBLE STUDY

The Gospel According to Luke on Sundays at 9:15-10am. Led by Clarke Mortensen.

YARD CLEANUP

Saturday, March 4th at 9 am

Weather permitting. Shoveling, trimming and garbage pick-up.

Note for your calendar: yard clean-ups are the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 am.

Many hands make light work! St Ed's has been helping!

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 Jim 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.

OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours are: 9 am – 1:30 pm, Tuesday - Thursday

AFTERNOON GUILD

On the second Wednesday of each month Afternoon Guild meets at noon to set-up and eat at 12:30pm. Friends and parishioners gather in Ascension Hall for a shared meal, prepared by team members. This past month members enjoyed a delicious home cooked lunch and then made Valentine's for parish shut-ins with donated craft supplies. What a fun afternoon!

Thank you, Afternoon Guild, for remembering all of those that are house bound.

This is exactly what makes Church of the Ascension so special.



AFTERNOON GUILD MEETING FOR MARCH WILL TAKE PLACE AT CLAGUE PLAYHOUSE

Members and friends, the Afternoon Guild meeting for March will take place at Clague Playhouse on Sunday, March 19th at 2:00.

We will attend the Performance of "[Ada and the Engine](#)".

Following the performance, those who wish to join us, will go to dinner at your own expense at Houlihans. I will need an RSVP for this.

I still have a few tickets for the play and they are available FOR \$18.50.

If you would like to go, please contact me ASAP at 440-331-0890.

Clague Playhouse
1372 Clague Road
Westlake, OH 44145

Houlihans
25652 Detroit Road
Westlake, OH 44145



MONTHLY PICK-UP YOUTH CHOIR



The KIDS will sing on Sunday, March 12th

On the second Sunday of each month all children are welcome to join our monthly pick-up Youth Choir and sing a song for the 10:30 am service offertory.

Please let Margie know if your child will be there! 440-331-0890 or bach2schol@hotmail.com.

"THOSE WHO SING PRAY TWICE!"

MIDDLE SCHOOL PILGRIMAGE

An overnight retreat for youth in grades 6-8

March 18th, 1pm to March 19th, 10am

Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to an overnight retreat at Trinity Cathedral. Arrival is at 1pm Saturday, and families are invited to the 9am service on Sunday morning after which is departure.

This retreat is centered on story-telling and identity. We will be inspired by the art exhibit in Trinity's gallery to gain insight and confidence into who we are and who we are called to be.

Expect games, friends, and other fun activities!

<https://www.dohio.org/calendar/2023/03/18/middle-school-pilgrimage>

APPLY TO BE A BELLWETHER FARM SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR

Are you ready for a transformational summer? Join an amazing team of staff at Bellwether Farm Camp, Retreat, and Education Center as a camp counselor! Challenge yourself to spend your summer outside on this beautiful land, growing into the person you are called to be. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. [Apply here](#).

APPLY TO BE THE BELLWETHER FARM SUMMER CAMP NURSE

The camp nurse ensures that campers and staff receive the proper attention during any health incidents. This includes being aware of and attentive to all medications, allergies, and any health conditions, as well as being on call for scrapes, bruises, bee stings, and any other illnesses. In addition, the camp nurse is the primary responsible person for any health incidents and emergencies. Licensure is not required, although some experience or training in the healthcare field is preferred. Working with the camp staff and counselors, the camp nurse is a vital part of the Bellwether Farm Camp community. More information is available on the [Bellwether Farm website](#).

SUMMER CAMP AT BELLWETHER

Each Bellwether Farm Summer Camp is a small, weeklong camp centered on the beauty of all things great and small. Campers participate in a variety of activities stemming from and connected to our farm, fields, and forests. Activities include animal time with goats, sheep, chickens and more, foraging, creek, swimming, reading, singing, cooking, hiking, fishing, farming, canoeing, archery, and arts and crafts. Reflection, prayer, and discussion are also incorporated into the day-to-day life of the community. Campers will reside in cabins with up to 8 campers and 2 counselors, organized by age and gender identity. Bathhouses are a short walk away. All meals are farm-to-table and emphasize the connection of our bodies to God's creation.

A Mini Camp is offered to rising 2nd and 3rd graders as a "taste" of weeklong camp. Mini-campers will be integrated into the life of the camp starting Sunday afternoon, and depart on Tuesday evening.

Specialty Camps include all traditional camp activities in addition to a focus on specialty subjects that integrate into the life of Bellwether Farm.

Theater Camp will emphasize the dramatic and spoken word as powerful forms of meaning and self expression. Campers will practice storytelling, poetry, and script reading, as well as other thespian activities. The community will also develop and create a show, culminating in a final performance. This camp is focused on finding meaning in the written word and finding the voice and confidence to express it.

Music and Visual Arts Camp will incorporate choral singing, vocal exercises, percussion instruments, and other musical activities. No experience is required, although if you play an instrument, you will be welcome to bring it. Campers will also participate in creating nature art inspired by the landscape, including weaving, print-making, painting, and collage. This camp is focused on finding fun in musical and artistic community, as well as building understanding, skill, and self expression.

If you would like an exception to the listed age ranges (to include a sibling, etc.). [Please contact us.](#)

SUMMER CAMP DATES AT BELLWETHER

June 18-23 - Traditional Camp (Rising 6-12th grade)

June 25-30 - Specialty Camp: Theater (Rising 3-8th grade)

July 1-2 - Family Camp Weekend (Intergenerational)

July 9-14 - Traditional Camp + Mini Camp (Rising 2-9th grade)

July 16-21 - Specialty Camp: Music and Arts (Rising 3-8th grade)

July 23-28 - Traditional Camp + Mini Camp (Rising 2-9th grade)

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, one Service	April 2nd,.....	10:30am
Stations of the Cross.....	April 5th,	6:00pm
Maundy Thursday	April 6th,	7:30pm
Good Friday.....	April 7th,	7:30pm
Easter Sunday	April 9th,	10:30am

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will have Stations of the Cross in the church on the Wednesdays of Lent through Holy Week at 6:00pm, starting Wednesday, March 1st.



PALM CROSSES

Join us in making palm crosses in Strom Hall, on Saturday, April 1st, at 9:30am

This is an intergenerational event. Bring the family!

KEEP WATCH AND PRAY

We will have a prayer vigil in the Chapel at the Altar of Repose, after the Maundy Thursday service on April 6th until midnight.

If you are able to take part. Please sign up in the office to indicate which time slot you will take.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Egg Hunt will follow the 10:30 am Easter service.



ASCENSION EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2023 FUN AND MORE FUN PLANNED FOR 2023

May 14th, Sunday, Mother's Day Breakfast, tickets for purchase

May 20th, Saturday, Ascension Market & Bike Rodeo, 9 am to 3pm

June 24th and June 25th, Saturday and Sunday, Rose Show

Frankfurter Fridays 6 to 7pm.

June 30th

July 14th

July 18th

August 11th

August 25

August 27th, Car Show 10am to 2 pm

October 7th, Saturday, Pet Blessing 10am

October 29th, Sunday, Trunk or Treat, following church

November 23rd, Thanksgiving Dinner, following church

December 3rd , Sunday AGO Organ Concert 4pm to 6pm

December 9th, Saturday, Cookie Walk, 9am to 3pm

December 10th, Sunday, Carols and Cocoa, 5pm to 7pm

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR EASTER – A HOW-TO

We create a temporary pool of funds from which to buy the plants which adorn the altars and the chancel for Easter Day in memory or in honor of loved ones. Place your contributions in the envelopes provided (checks made out to the church, with "Easter flowers" in the memo line or cash) and list those you want to remember on the form provided next to the box for the contributions. Or send your donation online and an email to secretary@ascension-lakewood.org. 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 April 2nd (Palm Sunday), which allows sufficient time for that list to be compiled for publication with the Easter service bulletins.





March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:30 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall 6 pm - Stations of the Cross	2	3	4 9 am - Yard Cleanup Weather permitting.
5 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service	6	7 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	8	9 5:30 pm - Community Meal	10	11
12 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service Children Sing <i>Daylight Saving</i>	13	14 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference cal	15 1:30 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall 6 pm - Stations of the Cross	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18
19 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service 2:00 pm - Afternoon Guild Ada and the Engine Clague Plathouse	20 <i>First Day of Spring</i>	21 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference cal	22 6 pm - Stations of the Cross	23	24	25
26 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service	27 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	28 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference cal	29 6 pm - Stations of the Cross	30	31	

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.

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.

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

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS



March 01:	Stephanie Gillies	March 11:	Noah Sutterisch
March 04:	Laura Egeland	March 14:	Megan Cook
March 07:	Charlotte Sent	March 15:	Julie Exline
March 07:	David Sent	March 28:	Grace Hildebrand
March 08:	Cherie Paisley	March 31:	Christopher Deibel
March 08:	Barbara Telfer	March 31:	Rosalie Ferline