



*Spires* September 2025

# Church of the Ascension

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

## REV. VINCENT BLACK



Beloved People of God,

*"Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20&21; BCP 102)*

We begin September the day after leadership Sunday, August 31st, which featured many of our children and youth in key liturgical roles including Domenico as our preacher. If you missed it, I encourage you to go to our YouTube channel and listen to his insights and reflections as well as to the youth led voluntary and sequence hymn. We are so blessed to learn from and grow with our kids in ministry and service!



On the first two Sundays in September, the 7th and 14th we will meet between services from 9:15-10:15am in Ascension Hall to reflect on the past 150 years and to explore what God might be dreaming for this parish moving forward. We will use our book, *The History of the Church of the Ascension: 150 Years of Ministry in Lakewood, OH* to look for patterns, pitfalls, strengths, charisma, and more. On September 7th we will discuss the first 64 pages and then the rest of the book on September 14th. Please make every effort to join in this important process of reflecting and dreaming. Books are available in the office for \$20.00.

On Tuesday September 9th all are invited to meet for an hour to explore our Episcopal Identity. The Ascension team who attended the College for Congregational Development at Bellwether Farm August 10th -15th will guide the activity, presentation, and discussion. There will be light refreshments, and we will end with Compline. See page 127 in *The Book of Common (BCP)* to find the service of Compline.

Continuing the themes of history and Episcopal identity, we will have Choral Evensong on Sunday September 21st at 4pm, followed by dinner. All are encouraged to participate in this very special gathering. In celebration of our 150th anniversary and in recognition of our interconnectedness, the dean of Trinity Cathedral will preach, the cathedral music director and choir will lead the music, and the rector of St. Peter's, Lakewood will preside. It will be beautiful and festive!

Also in September, considerably earlier than usual, we will have our pet blessing and memorial service at 10am on Saturday the 13th. At the service we begin by telling stories of our pets that died and spreading their ashes in the sacred circle in the St. Francis Garden. Then we will give thanks to God for them and for our living pets and ask God's blessing upon them and us. If you intend to spread ashes, please let Father Vincent or Jim know so we can plan accordingly. This is a great opportunity to invite other pet lovers and to offer comfort to those who may be grieving the loss of one of their furry companions.

*"May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Romans 15:13; BCP 102)*

**God loves you. No exceptions.®**



Our 150th Celebration year reached a crescendo the last weekend in July. With all the events we had scheduled and guests (local and out of town), we were anticipating a fun and memorable weekend, but like the Sacred Moments exhibit, the events themselves transcended our most optimistic expectations.

The weekend actually started on Wednesday, when Mia Hutchinson Soosai presented a lecture on The French & Andrews Family in Lakewood History. The prominent members of COTA and early Lakewood pioneers worked a fruit farm, from Detroit Avenue (then known as Plank Road) to Lake Erie, between Andrews and Lakeland Avenues. Even in the description, it's hard to avoid streets named after them. If you've ever been on Clifton, you can see more of their namesake streets, like Virginia & French. In 1875 when our church was built, growth in Rockport Township was still gathering steam. By the end of that century, orchards and farms, like those owned by these families, were being sold to make way for the growing population.

On Friday, we held two events simultaneously. Inside the church, Jennifer Cauffield and Jeff Hutchinson presented "Rise & Fall" The Hutchinson Family of Lakewood and their Role on the Great Lakes. The Hutchinsons were another prominent family found in our record books, who played a large part in Great Lakes shipping. They introduced new concepts to shipping and weathered different economic storms. Their contribution to Great Lakes history was long and notable, as was their presence on our church's roster.

While the lecture was in full swing, Owen Jones and I were manning the grills for Frankfurter Friday. We expected a few more people than normal due to the talk, but you know what they say happens when you "assume" (ahem). While the number of people surprised me, Rob Theibert was definitely thinking ahead because we didn't run out of food for what turned out to be one of the biggest Frankfurter Fridays we've ever had. It was a joy seeing so many people rub elbows and talk. Several of the out of town guests were able to see, up close and in person, exactly what this event means to the church and the community. That evening was simply delightful.

Now it's time for a confession. I've lived less than a mile from the Old Stone House for more than 20 years. I regularly pass it walking my dog. And while I love history, I never entered the building. I'm happy that changed on Saturday morning of our big weekend. The Oldest Stone House is a Lakewood landmark. While the Historical Society has a lot of early artifacts from the time, they did not have any portraits of early occupants. That changed once Greg Sent uncovered portraits of O.W. and Isabell (née Honam) Hotchkiss, which COTA gifted to the Historical Society. The Hotchkisses helped fund construction of the original 1875 church. These portraits are now displayed prominently in the Old Stone House. If you haven't been there, it's a very interesting look into how people lived 150 years ago. The Historical Society shared a great deal of information about the house, the times in which they lived, and all sorts of stories. It was well worth the time.

Following the open house, our Saturday dive into history continued with a presentation of Ascension and Lakewood History, delivered by Dr. Robert Shimp, Director of the Lakewood Historical Society in the beautiful and historic Nicholson House. Dr. Shimp provided a wonderful overview of the people who built Lakewood up from a rural, farmstead area into the bedroom community it eventually became. As we know, Ascensionites who built our church were also instrumental in building the city, and Dr. Shimp highlighted their contributions outside the church.

The talk was followed by a luncheon, where we gathered to eat at tables in several beautiful rooms. Ann Beyer (with husband and right-hand man Bill), served a delicious lunch; we have Roger Barnhard to thank for linens and wonderful presentation. These generous acts allowed us to eat and talk about the presentation and get to know each other better. Once again, the presentation room and the luncheon rooms were filled with people. There's no doubt about it: Ascension shows up!

We capped off the day with a Festive Banquet & Presentation. We started the evening in the church, with heartfelt messages from Fr. Vincent, Greg Sent and I. Cindy Marx, the church's council representative, presented a proclamation she sponsored, in which the city officially recognized our 150th anniversary. The presentation portion was capped off with Mother Leah Romanelli-DeJesus's video she made while undergoing discernment at COTA.

After the presentations, we headed to Strom Hall for a wonderful banquet. Strom Hall looked stunning, the food was delicious, and the rest of the evening was spent in relaxed conversation. We got to know our out of town guests and each other better during the course of the evening. One thing that always amazes me about the people of Ascension is our ability to connect. We connect with familiar faces as well as new faces with equal facility. Our spirit shows when we're together. It's part of what makes us special.

On Sunday, we culminated our capstone weekend by welcoming Bishop Anne Jolly, who presided over the service. The Bishop's celebration was a wonderful way for the diocese to recognize our special year. The church was packed and the Spirit moved throughout. It was a beautiful service with a heartfelt and personal sermon. After the service, we moved to Strom Hall for hospitality, and again filled our large auditorium. It was amazing to see so many people (and again, eat such great food - thank you Stephanie Gillis and Racheal Klemola).

The weekend was absolutely amazing. Every event exceeded my expectations. From the number of people who participated to the outstanding weather to the flawless execution of each event, it was a weekend for the ages. It takes a lot of hard work and planning to deliver at a high level. Thank you to everyone who helped.

A quick note: Bishop Anne and her husband David put their vacation on hold to worship with us. They literally left hospitality and went straight to the airport to resume their vacation. Their presence helps us understand that our milestone isn't just ours; it's a tradition we share beyond our grounds and into the diocese itself. We thank her and her husband for putting their personal lives on hold for us.



Speaking of hard work, in the midst of our special year and the events surrounding it, we had the 5th Annual Car Show in August. This event continues to grow, with more cars, people, and raffle baskets than ever. Once again, we were blessed with beautiful weather and a joyous atmosphere to deliver a special event for everyone, inside and outside of our community. Susan O'Donnell heads up the show and devotes countless hours to making it a success. Many others help with this effort and the hard work shows in how smoothly everything goes. Thank you Susan and company for all your hard work. It may look easy, but preparation starts many months in advance and involves a lot of coordination and organization. Thank you again to everyone who puts time and energy into this annual treat.

Mark your calendars for two September events. Bring your pet(s) to be blessed (or ashes for interment) at the Pet Blessing and Memorial Service, Saturday, September 13 @ 10am in the West Garden. Stuffed animals also welcome! Then on Sunday, September 21 @ 4pm, Trinity Cathedral is marking our anniversary year with Evensong at Ascension. This centuries-old tradition is sure to be a musical gem and a spiritually contemplative evening prayer service. Expect COTA to be filled with song. Just listen or join in as the spirit leads; either way, treat yourself to a transformative experience!







## GREGORY SENT, ARCHIVIST

**The following was my speech right before the banquet on July 26, 2025. It was a wonderful day with new and old friends. We had parishioners at the dinner, who come to church weekly, visitors, who grew up in the church and were "coming home" and new friends, who had perhaps never previously felt the love and community of our church.**

**I was asked by Father Vincent to share my words in the Spires this month for those who perhaps were unable to be with us that weekend.**

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Greg Sent. I was born the year that this church celebrated its 100th anniversary. I was baptized by Rev. Braun, confirmed at the age of ten, went to Sunday School here and was often found as an acolyte with my older brother George. If you want any funny stories about me as an acolyte leading the choir out of the church and into the parking lot, ask Jon Peterson later.

As a young man I became passionate about genealogy. I remember being an insecure teen and feeling like my ancestors who had passed away, would never judge, never condemn and on the fun side... I could collect as many as I wanted! (anyone who knows me – knows I love to collect)

A few years ago, Father Vincent asked me to consider using my love of Lakewood History and my passion for genealogy and combine it to help organize the history of Church of the Ascension. I think I jump at the opportunity with a very quick YES! Together we collected anything we found that looked historic from cupboards, file cabinets, drawers in the office, and boxes in the apartment above the chapel.

I was like a kid in a candy shop. I had no idea we had such amazing images of our church or the parishioners over the years. The first thing I noticed, which was my hook to want to learn more was the fact that our church's history is Lakewood history. The pioneers of Rockport were almost all at Ascension. The streets and historic landmarks can almost all be traced back to the early days of our church. I was humbled when I looked through the parish registers and list of people who served on vestry. (Of course, in the early years they were all only men) Coal barons, industrialists during the Gilded Age, doctors, lawyers. It made me curious to learn more about the women of our church. Society pages of local newspapers helped to give an idea of the movers and shakers of the Women's Gild at Ascension, where the women put the fun in fundraising and had events nonstop.

I started this journey with history thinking that I would be mostly looking at records for people long gone. People that had been dead for decades and possibly forgotten. I wanted as many of these people remembered and their lives and contributions brought to light. What I didn't realize was how those who have passed on would push me to talk to so many living people.

With our amazing history at Church of the Ascension, we have now connected with the Lakewood Historical Society. They helped us and provided many images of former parishioners, which made their way into our bulletins and our cookbook. In return, we shared with them the original images of the pioneer family, who lived in the Oldest Stone House. Likewise, we shared images of Mr. and Mrs. West whose farm inspired the name of the suburb West Park.

We as a church built a connection with the archives of the Diocese found at Trinity Cathedral. Their archivist, Rev. Brian Wilbert took the time to help with the preservation of our records, research of many of our past clergy members and taught best practices for developing our own archive.

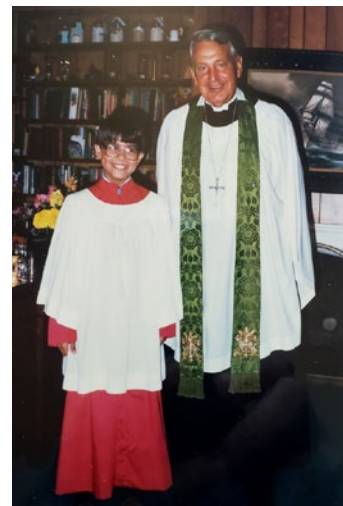
With all that, I felt we really were hitting just the tip of the iceberg. If you know my family, you know that tenacity is in our DNA (if you don't believe me, I can tell you stories to cover three generations of strong-willed women, who all were part of Ascension). I started a hunt of great proportion. The harder it was to find information, the more determined I was that their story needed to be uncovered and shared. I used ancestry.com, local obituaries and created family trees for each family that I could for our shared church ancestry.

I had no problem calling strangers on the other side of the country and quickly introducing myself before they hung-up thinking I was a solicitor. It was during all of this that I realized somehow the tide changed. The living became more of the priority. We had visitors coming to our services because their families were being remembered. Our entire church community was engaged and welcoming to them. BTW we do have an amazing, loving church community and for that I am so proud to be a part. People from other states were watching our live-stream services and being part of our weekly service.

An entire energy was created at Ascension. Looking at the calendar, the quilt, the formal tea, people working together to create written records of our church's past, present and future. and the upcoming other events, we have had a wonderful celebratory year.

Reading about our church's history, we should all realize that in many ways Ascension hasn't changed. We are blessed to have the beautiful wooden pews, pulpit, Bishop's chair and more - all made by the famous Kundtz Company. We are blessed that we still have the beautiful stained-glass windows and altar.

But in so many ways our church has changed and all for the better. Remember Valerie Hart, who visited this year. She is now a retired Episcopal minister, which during her youth here at Ascension was unheard of. Women are now on vestry. And remember that young acolyte with the run-away choir? He did what he never thought possible. He married his husband Dan at Ascension in front of the same altar as his parents. Their children were baptized from the same font and his family is loved and celebrated. All in a church and community that truly believes that "God Loves you- NO exceptions"

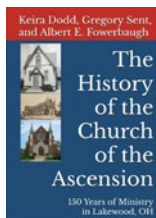


Gregory Sent and Rev. Harold Braun

I thank you all for allowing me to be a part of this church's history.

## LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD!

Join Father Vincent on **Sunday September 7th and 14th at 9:15-10:15am** in Ascension Hall to discuss *The History of the Church of the Ascension* and where we go from here.



Please read pages 1-64 in preparation for September 7th discussion.

We will discuss pages 65 to the end of the book on September 14th.

**Books can be purchased in the office for \$20.00**

## PLEASE JOIN US:

Would you like to learn more about our Episcopal identity? Join our College for Congregational Development (CCD) team on **Tuesday, September 9th, at 7:00 pm in Ascension Hall** as we explore what makes Episcopalians Episcopalians! There will be a brief presentation and discussion, ending with Compline. Bring your questions and curiosities! There will be light refreshments.

**Please see Alex DeJesus, Emily Junkans, Kiera Dodd, or Fr. Vincent for more information.**

## EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

If you have a desire to make meaning of your life, to better understand your relationship with God, to uncover your gifts so that you might use them in God's creation, and to be in community with others as you discern your purpose, then consider joining an Education for Ministry (EfM) program. Developed through the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., the curriculum for Lay people offers seminary-level education without the burden of tests and grades. It will start in most parishes in September and finish in June, every week for 36 weeks. Currently, it is being offered at [8 parishes](#) around the Diocese. Mentors are filling classes now for the fall season, so contact the mentor of the class. At Ascension that is Keira Dodd [keiradodd@yahoo.com](mailto:keiradodd@yahoo.com) or John Mohlar [johnmohlar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnmohlar@sbcglobal.net). The cost is \$350 per person, annually, plus books. For more information, please visit: [linktr.ee/efm.sewanee.edu](http://linktr.ee/efm.sewanee.edu).

August 27th

Dear Parishioners,

John and I would like to thank you for your amazing support and enthusiasm for our parish Car Show. This past Sunday, the sun warmed us and provided a wonderful backdrop for community building and new friendships. Ron, one of our yearly exhibitors told several of us that Ascension's Car Show is his favorite.....he is astounded by our friendliness, with the best car show food and raffles around. John and I call this the **"Ascension Effect"**. Ron also likes that we are not one of these giant car shows.

John and I personally thank you for how all of you reached out to area businesses for raffle donations, food donations and your time as volunteers. **The "Ascension Effect"**.

We thank you for working with the donated gift cards and turning them into special raffle baskets. We thank the parish and choir for the team effort to build the Italian Basket and a Children's Basket. We thank the parish members who donated their own individual baskets that helped capture the love and care that Ascension brings to others. **"The Ascension Effect"**.

John and I thank you for connecting and extending personal invitations with your friends that are car enthusiasts and have those special relationships with our Lakewood community and/or church. Through your friendships we met reps from Tim Lally Chevrolet who had a great time and needed to go to the ATM to get more money to spend at our event. We met a parishioner's old Lakewood High School friend who had a stunning car to show as well as three families who brought cars to show that have had a special historic connection with Ascension. One of those families was Dave Buehler who joined us for the day with his Templer. All of us agree that it was wonderful to reconnect with Dave. I know Dave felt our love for him. He experienced the **"Ascension Effect"**. The Jones men showed up to help him push and trailer his car to and from Ascension. And he met all of you with conversation, stories, handshakes and smiles. Again, the **"Ascension Effect"** is undeniable.

John and I want to thank Jim and Will for meeting with John and I weekly as we worked for three weeks straight to organize every aspect of the car show from how the raffles would work, to tickets, to registration, to the voting table and offering constructive and meaningful improvements to the how the Car Show unfolds from 10am to 2pm.

Thank you to Jim and Will for the delicious home cooked pulled pork and the cook team for Annie's famous Sloppy Joes. This food brings the love of home cooked, different than the usual car show food of burgers and dogs.

And lastly, thank you to the enthusiasm and generosity of all the parish members that volunteered to work: from designing and donating car show fliers, to the raffles which demand precise management, to food tickets that sold relentlessly to the very end, to the kitchen workers who never sat down, to the popcorn team who spread our love, to the registration workers who greeted, registered exhibitors and directed parking, to Joe who managed music and announcements to the voting table workers who worked to control voting ballots, to vote counters who tried to make sense out hundreds of votes for trophies and the mission table workers who offer those friendly faces and answer our guests questions and pass along our church information. The **"Ascension Effect"**.

John and I are not sure we will be able to continue the Car Show next year. We too, like many of you are experiencing many changes as we age. John and I each walked over 10,000 steps on the car show day. We don't know how we can sustain that intense physical commitment as well as the precise planning and organizing from May to August.

John and I are proud to end this letter of gratitude by sharing that the Car show is 100% donations. There is no overhead. We raised just shy of \$4,000.00 for our precious church (not bad for a four-hour event). This would never be possible without all of you and your commitment to Church of the Ascension. John and I might call this the **"Ascension Effect"** but truly it is our commitment to our faith and the Holy Spirit.

With gratefulness, faith and love, John and Susan O'Donnell





## CLARKE MORTENSEN, SEMINARIAN

This fall, I will be interviewing for the next step of the ordination process which is candidacy for holy orders. (You may remember that my current title is postulant.) On October 10th, I will be at Bellwether Farm (for the first time, as a guest!) and meet with the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee. Their job is to make sure I am prepared to move on in the process and make a recommendation to Bishop Anne, though all the final decisions rest with the bishop. The Sunday following my interview, I will be visiting Ascension for the first time since I started seminary! I look forward to seeing all of you during that weekend and worshiping with you.

This step in the process has been shifted forward because the bishop has slightly changed the timeline on which people are being ordained. The traditional model is to graduate seminary, then be ordained as a deacon, and then six months later be ordained as a priest. This works well in some contexts, but in a diocese where most of the jobs are rectors of small parishes, that six-month period of being a deacon can cause problems like still needing to pay supply priests while also having a full-time clergy person. The timeline that the diocese is shifting to is one that has become more common, in which seminarians are ordained as deacons in the winter of their senior year, and then ordained as priests during the summer after graduating. This means that they can gain experience as a deacon while still in school, and then jump straight into a new job as a priest. This means (God willing and the people consenting) that I am on track to be ordained as a deacon next year, in roughly December of 2026, and as a priest in the summer of 2027.

I share all of this with you to give you a window into the ordination process, which can be confusing to those both outside and inside!

## A Legacy of Faith and Future: Celebrating 150 Years

Beloved People of God,

For 150 years Church of the Ascension has stood as a beacon of faith and community in Lakewood, Ohio, holding the distinct honor of being the oldest church of any denomination in our vibrant city. As we celebrate this remarkable sesquicentennial, we are launching a special **Legacy Campaign** to honor our past and secure our future.

Our goal is to raise **\$150,000** to support vital projects that will enhance our worship, strengthen our ministries, and preserve our cherished campus for generations to come. A significant portion of these funds, **\$90,000**, is dedicated to a project close to the heart of many: the **completion of our magnificent pipe organ**.

Many of you know that when our organ underwent its extensive refurbishment in the early 2000s, funds ran short, leaving one crucial element unaddressed: the **16' pedal Violone**, which requires 73 new pipes. Our devoted organist, **Jon Peterson**, who has graced our services with his talent for more than a third of the church's existence, dreams of seeing the organ fully completed in his lifetime. Imagine the profound richness and depth this addition will bring to our hymns, anthems, and special musical offerings!

The Legacy Campaign funds will also be used to address other pressing needs. We will **replace the roof on Strom Hall kitchen**, estimated to be **\$30,000**, ensuring the continued functionality and protection of this important space used to prepare community meals. Additionally, **we will add to our endowment for Facility Upkeep**, providing long-term financial stability for the ongoing maintenance and preservation of our historic buildings.

To acknowledge your generous support for this project, those who contribute a minimum of **\$1,500 to the 150th Legacy Campaign** will have their names inscribed on a **plaque of honor** within the church.

Your contribution of any amount to the Legacy Campaign is an investment in the enduring legacy of Church of the Ascension. It's a chance to honor the countless individuals who have built and sustained this parish for 150 years, and to ensure that our church continues to be a spiritual home, a vibrant community hub, and a cornerstone of Lakewood for the next 150 years and beyond.

I prayerfully ask for your generous support as we embark on this exciting chapter. Please consider how you can help us surpass our goal and leave your own mark on the rich history of Church of the Ascension.

## INFORMATION FOR LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP

The service is streamed live each Sunday at 10:30am on The Church of the Ascension website:

<https://ascension-lakewood.org/> and on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/4rs872e2>.

Previous services and featured choir videos on YouTube at: <https://tinyurl.com/3c336j6n>.

## EVENSONG WITH TRINITY CATHEDRAL

**Sunday, September 21st, at 4pm**

Dean BJ Owens preaching, the Cathedral Choir singing, Rev. Mike Lager, rector of St. Peter's presiding

**Followed by dinner. Please sign up if you are planning to attend.**

## COMMUNITY MEAL

If you have ever wanted to participate in the Community Meal but can't, we need help providing TP for the clients each month. Rather than bringing in TP, we decided it would be easier to ask for a monetary donation to purchase the needed TP. Your donation can be put in an envelope and taken to the office.

**Thank you in advance if you can participate.**

## ALTAR GUILD

Have you ever wondered about the beautiful arrangements and preparations that make our services so special? Our Altar Guild plays a vital role in creating a sacred space. We're looking for new members! If you'd like to learn more about what we do and how you can join this ministry, please contact Derek Lewallen at 440-821-6266. We need members to help with both 8 am and 10:30 am services.

## WE NEED HELP FUNDRAISING

A change has been made to the date for the Holiday Market.

**Mark November 8, 2025 on your calendars as the new date.**

Any time is the right time to begin a project for the Holiday Market. Each and every one of us has a talent and these talents can be turned into items for sale at the market.

We need as much product as possible so please start your talents today.

## CANNING JARS NEEDED

Anyone with jars to donate please bring them to the church office for Gregory Sent. The season is here and it is time for all of us to work on projects for the Holiday Market.



## Something Olde



~Confirmation~

## Something New



## OFFICE HOURS

9 am – 1:30 pm, Tuesday – Thursday

## EUCCHARISTIC VISIT

If you are unable to attend church and would like to request Holy Communion to be brought to you please call or email our Church Secretary 216-521-8727 [secretary@ascension-lakewood.org](mailto:secretary@ascension-lakewood.org)

## CENTERING PRAYER

Centering Prayer will resume on Thursdays at Noon in Ascension Hall starting on Thursday, September 11th. For more information ask Father Vincent or call Jim in the office.

## 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.

## THE AFTERNOON GUILD

**Wednesday, September 10th at 12:30pm**

We will enjoy lunch together (if you'd like to help let Margie know) and then we will do a craft for shut ins while we discuss activities for the year. Please let me know if you plan on joining us!

**NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Margie at [bach2schol@hotmail.com](mailto:bach2schol@hotmail.com) or 440-476-8450!

## CHOIR

Welcome back to our Choir. We will start rehearsals on Thursday, September 4th for our first service on September 7th. It will be an exciting year as we continue our 150th year celebration.

Let us know if you can't participate this year! See you soon! Margie and Jon.



### MONTHLY PICK-UP YOUTH CHOIR

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

Margie will prepare the kids during the first part of the service and they will then offer that song as an Offertory Anthem the same day. Please send me a note

[bach2schol@hotmail.com](mailto:bach2schol@hotmail.com) if your child is interested in joining our group! All are welcome!



## WANTED: SINGERS!



Please consider joining The Ascension Parish Choir for the upcoming "singing season." The upcoming liturgical season will be a banner year full of special services and music as we celebrate our 150 years of praising God in word and song.

The tryouts for a position in our choir are fun, painless and easy. These auditions check for range and pitch accuracy and do not require any solo performance.

Please contact either my self or Margie to arrange a tryout session.

Jon Peterson  
440-655-9498  
[jay8pea@yahoo.com](mailto:jay8pea@yahoo.com)

**"THOSE WHO SING PRAY TWICE!"**

# Introducing a new way to get your Contribution Statement and view the Church Directory via the IconCMO Member Portal

## What is IconCMO and How Does It Help Our Church?

IconCMO is a database that keeps financial records and member information for our Church. It facilitates the use of this database by Ascension's administrative staff to communicate with parishioners and maintain its financial records using a fund accounting methodology.

### As a Church member, you can:

- review and edit your own information in the database,
- view and communicate with other church members — an online church directory,
- view or print out your donation statement at any time,
- and see what groups you are in.

### Our church staff can:

- edit or view any record based on their security level,
- add donations, pledges, members, groups, and attendance,
- review church accounting books or payroll,
- communicate via mass email or text messaging to the entire church or certain groups,
- and more...

## What Do I Need To Get Started?

Please request 'Member Access Credentials' (MAC) from the Church Administrator Jim Weiss [Jim.Weiss@ascension-lakewood.org](mailto:Jim.Weiss@ascension-lakewood.org), the Treasurer Rincy Isaacs [risaacs@ascension-lakewood.net](mailto:risaacs@ascension-lakewood.net), or Aaron Beatty [aaron@ascension-lakewood.net](mailto:aaron@ascension-lakewood.net). This is a required first step.

You will receive an email from the Church Administrator with a [clickable link](#), and your username and temporary password. Please click on the link to login and change your password. You may be required to enter the Church's phone number; if so, type 216-521-8727. You may also change your username to one that you prefer instead of the assigned random number. Save these credentials for future use.

## How Do I Access Icon With A Web Browser?

Go to [Icon CMO](#) on your browser. You will need to enter the Church's phone number (216-521-8727) and your saved credentials.

## Can I Use My Mobile Device?

Yes! Our church members can have access to the church directory at their fingertips. Check out the church software app in the iOS App Store or Google's Play Store below or look up 'iconcmo' in the app store for your device.



Please download the app to your device

After you have received the MAC, open the IconCMO app and log in through the church software app using your credentials

## Can I See My Own Donations or Print Them?

Yes! No more waiting for donation statements to arrive via pony express mail for tax time. Our church members can print their statements right from the member portal. Our church members can verify that all their donations are recorded by the church instead of waiting until the end of the year. *Please note that the donations via Vanco (Credit Card or Debit Card) are updated usually by the 7th of every month for the previous month.*



## What Else Can I Do?

The Member Portal helps church members in many ways to connect to the church and its members. Members are also able to update their own information (except for their picture). This leads to greater reliability of information as congregational members monitor their own profiles. Check out what is available below!

### Key church member features

- See and edit/update your personal information.
- Review what groups each individual belongs to.
- Review your contributions history and print a statement.
- Save the church time and money from mailing statements.
- Browse the online church directory.



Sample Screen

## SHAWL MINISTRY

Shawl ministry will meet on **Wednesday, September 3rd and 17th** in Ascension Hall from 1 pm - 3 pm. We will continue to meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

## ASCENSION NIGHT OUT

**Wednesday, September 17th at 6pm**

It might not be a backyard BBQ, but we can still celebrate the end of Summer with a burger.

Join us at the Red Robin in Fairview Park. Red Robin is located at 3190 W. 210th St., and their website is [Family Friendly Burger Restaurant | Red Robin](#).

Please RSVP by either calling the office at 216-521-8727 or email [Jim.Weiss@Ascension-Lakewood.org](mailto:Jim.Weiss@Ascension-Lakewood.org) no later than Sunday, September 14th

## BREATHE YOGA MINISTRY RESTORATIVE YOGA WITH MEDITATION

**Sunday, September 7, at 12:45pm in Strom Hall**

A serene practice designed to foster connection with your mind, body, and the Holy Spirit. This restorative yoga class gently guides participants through calming postures and meditative moments, allowing for deep relaxation and spiritual renewal. It offers a sacred space to release tension, quiet the mind, and experience the divine presence within. Ideal for those seeking peace, healing, and a deeper spiritual connection.

**Classes are the first Sunday of the month at 12:45pm in Strom Hall.**

## 150TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY BOOK AVAILABLE!

Get a history of the 150 years of Church of the Ascension!

**Now available for a minimum donation of \$20.00.**

## 150TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK AVAILABLE!

150th Anniversary Cookbooks: A Slice of History with photos, recipes, and biographies spanning the years!

**Now available for a minimum donation of \$20.00.**

## SESQUICENTENNIAL MEMORABILIA

Make sure to get your anniversary mementos for sale outside the parish office.

Items include bags, ornaments, mugs, and magnets. Limited supply.

**ALL PURCHASES AND DONATIONS CAN BE  
MADE VIA THE FOLLOWING QR CODE:**



## PLEASE BEWARE OF SCAMMERS

**DO NOT PAY FOR CHURCH EVENTS OR SIGN UP FOR THEM VIA EMAIL.**

Please be careful and check that all events for 2025 are listed on the save the date bookmarks or on the webpage <http://www.150years.org>

**If you are not sure call Jim in the office 216-521-8727.**

## 150th Anniversary Bourbon Raffle Benefitting Church of the Ascension Lakewood, OH

**Drawing Saturday, November 22nd at noon**

Livestream on our website and Youtube channel.

**Winner need not be present and will be notified by phone or email.**

**50 Bottles / 50 Winners**

**One ticket = one chance to win.**

**Each ticket is eligible for one bottle only. Must be 21 years old**

**\$25 each or 5 for \$100**



Ticket Sales



Website

## T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

Short sleeve T-shirts are \$20 and \$25 for 2XL or larger.

Long sleeve T-shirts are \$25 and \$30 for 2XL or larger.

**PAYMENT IS DUE UPFRONT VIA CASH OR CHECK.**

If you would like to place an order, or if you have any questions.  
Please contact Stephanie Gillies. Email [stephgillies14@gmail.com](mailto:stephgillies14@gmail.com)

**Below are the choices of colors.**



**INDIGO**



**ROYAL**



**HEATHER MAROON**



**BLACK**



**MILITARY GREEN**



**CARDINAL**

## PET BLESSING AND MEMORIAL

**Saturday, September 13th**

There will be a Blessing of the Animals and pet memorial service at 10:00 am in the West Garden.

All live pets are to be caged or leashed. Stuffed animals welcome as well!

If you intend to have the remains of your pets spread in the holy circle, please call  
the church secretary at 216-521-8727 by Tuesday, September 9th.

**Memorial offerings may be made to support our garden fund.**



# September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Labor Day</i>	2 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	3 1-3 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall	4 7-8:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal	5	6 9am -12 pm- Yard Clean Up
7 8 am- Service 9:15-10:15 am - Looking Back, Looking Forward 10:30 am- Service 12:45 pm- Breathe Yoga Ministry 5-7pm - Youngish Adult Fellowship	8	9 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call  7 pm - College for Congregational Development (CCD) Presentation, Discussion ending with Compline	10 12:30 pm - Afternoon Guild in Ascension Hall	11 12 - 12:45 pm - Centering Prayer 5 pm - Community Meal  7-8:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal	12	13 10 am - Pet Blessing and Memorial
14 8 am- Service 9:15-10:15 am - Looking Back, Looking Forward 10:30 am- Service Kids Sing	15	16 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	17 1-3 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall  6 pm - Ascension Night Out at Red Robin in Fairview Park	18 12 - 12:45 pm - Centering Prayer 5 pm - Finance Committee Meeting 7 pm - Vestry Meeting 7-8:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 10:30 am- Service 4pm - Evensong with Trinity Cathedra 5 pm - Dinner following the Evensongl 5-7pm - Youngish Adult Fellowship	22 5 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	23 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	24	25 12 - 12:45 pm - Centering Prayer 5 pm - Finance Committee Meeting 7 pm - Vestry Meeting  7-8:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service	29	30 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call				

## 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.

**SCAN THE CODE BELOW**



**Or visit:** [ascension-lakewood.org](http://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.

## ASCENSION YOUNGISH ADULT FELLOWSHIP

**Meets in Ascension Hall Every First and Third Sunday 5pm-7pm.**

Just like the group name says, this is all about fellowship. Come get together to spend time in community with your fellow parishioners aged 18+. We will play board games, watch movies, engage in conversation, and more as we grow closer together and strengthen our bonds as friends and siblings in Christ.

## DANIEL VANAH, EDITOR

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



## SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS



### BIRTHDAYS

**September 09:** Kai Jones  
**September 09:** Jennifer Spada  
**September 11:** Richard Ballard  
**September 12:** Marjorie Hildebrandt  
**September 13:** Leah DeJesus  
**September 13:** Jeffry W. Knapp  
**September 13:** Gilbert Newlands  
**September 13:** Gregory Sent  
**September 14:** Hugo Hildebrandt  
**September 15:** Christina Ferraro  
**September 17:** John Mohlar  
**September 22:** Nancy Murphy

### BIRTHDAYS

**September 24:** Cole Spada  
**September 26:** Mark Lewallen  
**September 27:** Codi Hildebrandt  
**September 30:** June Phelps

### ANNIVERSARIES

**September 03:** Kristen Alley & Christopher Coppock  
**September 03:** Christina Ferraro & Joe Kidwell  
**September 11:** Michael Black & Michael Crowdes  
**September 18:** Keith Galestock & Fred Kempth  
**September 18:** Courtney & Raymond Semproch  
**September 26:** Rosemary & Richard Ballard