



*Spires* December 2025

# Church of the Ascension

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

## JOE SGAMBELLONE, SENIOR WARDEN



Christ the King marks the end of the liturgical year, and our new beginning is underway. As we wound down the year, we said goodbye to our beloved Fr. Vincent Black, who will remain in a special place in our hearts. As the new liturgical year opens, we will be going through the process to call a new priest. This process will no doubt be challenging, exciting, and not without bumps, but we will come together as a community to find the right candidate. We haven't yet, but by this printing the vestry will have met with Canon Jesse Dodson (Canon to the Ordinary and our diocesan contact for clergy transition) to open this fledgling process.



Since the normal priest Spires column is missing, we're asking members of the congregation to write during the interim. We're starting in January with Alex DeJesus, and will follow with Kiera Dodd in February (both members of Vestry). If you have an interest in writing and want to make a contribution, please let me (or another vestry member) know.

We welcomed the first of our supply priests this month. Thank you all for making them feel welcome. I guess it goes without saying that you'd make them feel welcome, we're kinda known for that.

On Fr. Vincent's last service with us, he made a dramatic announcement, telling us that the \$150,000 Legacy Campaign goal was met. This truly remarkable feat, and we have you to thank for it. There is more information in the letter Fr. Vincent wrote further on in the Spires, but I wanted to say "Thank You" and also let you know that any funds collected above and beyond our goal will be put into our Facilities Upkeep endowment fund. This fund will help current and future generations keep the building and grounds usable. We don't want to ever have to again climb out of the hole of deferred maintenance.

We held our Annual Christmas Market and it was a great delight to have so many wonderful Christmas items to choose from. We even had a visit from Channel 5 News! Thanks to Honey Partlow, Linda Rerko, and Dolly Doyle for organizing, Becca Bretz handling the vintage Christmas area, Kiera Dodd, Anne Pesta, and Dan Vanah taking photos of our own St. Nick, Richard Ballard. Aaron Beatty handled finances, Derek Lewallen and Owen Jones sold 50/50, while Bill Rice and Jan Bednarski offered the 150th anniversary merchandise. John Mohlar handled set-up and tear down. Susan and John O'Donnell had an exceptional menu for the event: delicious wraps and soups, including an Irish Vegetable soup made using a recipe she brought back from Ireland. Just delicious. These folks and many other volunteers and bakers made the market a success and a truly fun time.

The altar once again looked stunning for our Sunday before Thanksgiving service. This is one of my favorite post-service hospitalities as we get to eat and take home the bread prepared at the Elmwood Bakery. Thanks to Linda Rerko, Melissa Rerko, the Clemens family (Adam, Cara, Corey, Seth, and Aaron), most of the Vanah-Sent family (Dan, Greg, David, and Arthur), Honey Partlow, and Domenico Sgambellone. The overwhelming response from that experience seems to be fun and YUM!

**God loves you. No exceptions.®**

## JOE SGAMBELLONE, SENIOR WARDEN

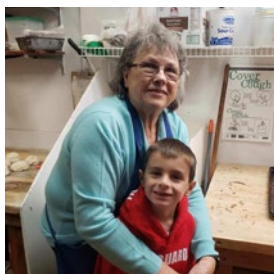
Thanksgiving was another wonderful event where we were able to come together with people inside and outside our faith community.

Margie Hildebrandt organized the meal, and sincerely thanks to the following people who stepped up to help provide a meal for the community: Will Huber, Aaron Beatty, Linda Rerko, Lisa Drazil, Nicki Luther, Rob Theibert, Owen Jones, Janis Carlson, Susan O'Donnel, 3 students from St Ed's (Marcus, Jason and Saw tu) for combining to set up, cook and clean up.

Saturday was a busy day at the church. From the beautiful greens being hung by our beautification team of Greg, Dan, and David Vanah-Sent, Derek and Mark Lewallen, and Domenico Sgambellone. At the same time, our grounds crew were busy clearing 4 inches of snow from around the church. Thanks to Rob Theibert, Owen Jones, Emily Junkans, and Bruno Sgambellone.

Looking ahead to December, our annual Cookie Walk / Bazaar will take place on Saturday, December 13, 9a-2p. If you're a baker, we can always use more cookies. We never seem to have enough (that's also a hint to get there early to get your favorites). The next day, December 14 at 5p is our Carols and Cocoa, which is a great way to sing to classic Christmas carols. We're also caroling it up at our Lessons and Carols service on December 21 at 4p (no 8a service). Join us for Christmas Dinner after the service, starting at 6p. Why do we have Lessons and Carols on December 21 and not Christmas Eve? It turns out that when we worship on Christmas Eve, our attendance is quite low. This schedule could change with a new priest, but that is the reason we celebrate as we do.

For now, in our services and other activities, we'll try to keep everything the same to the extent that we can. Once we have a plan in place to search for a replacement, I'll will update everyone. Thank you all and God Bless!



## FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR JIM WEISS

Please note that the Church Office will be closed beginning Wednesday, December 24, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 6. During this period, I will not be checking email or voicemail.

If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please contact the Senior Warden, Joe Sgambellone.

All emails and voicemails will be addressed during the first week of January.

# GREGORY SENT, ARCHIVIST

## **John Russell Pattie (1903-1961)    Alice Margaret Young (1903-1991)**

John Russell Pattie was born on April 25, 1903 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Dr. John Pattie and Helen Pattie. His father was a Scottish-born dentist, who moved his practice to Akron, Ohio.

John Pattie attended public schools in Akron and then studied at Kenyon College, where he graduated in 1927. He then graduated in 1930 from Bexley Hall in Gambier, Ohio.

On May 26, 1931, John R. Pattie married Alice Margaret Young, a graduate of Miami University. Together they had three children: Mary Alice, Jane and John.

As a young minister, he was first an assistant in Trinity Church in Alliance, Ohio and then rector of Christ Episcopal Church of Warren until he was called to Church of the Ascension after the untimely death of Rev. Studwell. Rev. Pattie began his rectorship at Church of the Ascension on July 1, 1940.

The years the Pattie family had at Ascension were marked with great joys and sorrow. During World War II, the church sent their young men and women overseas to serve and many parishioners lost their lives. Our parish records show the burials of many who served their country. In general church attendance and faith during those years grew. The community looked to the church leaders for guidance, stability, and compassion. Many wartime weddings were held in the chapel of the church with brides in relatively simple suits compared to later gowns. After the war, many elaborate weddings occurred, which were described in great detail in society pages.

Pattie was known for inviting parishioners to his family farm, where families would picnic, share food, and enjoy the church community. Rev. Pattie left Church of the Ascension in January of 1949. He became rector at St. Christopher's by the River, Gates Mills. While there, he was awarded an honorary doctor-of-divinity from Kenyon College.

On October 1 1961, Rev. Pattie and Alice left America for an exchange experience in Alsager, England. They planned to be in England until the following March. During a walk in Alsager, Rev. Pattie passed away on December 19, 1961 at the age of 58. On January 3, 1962, Bishop Burroughs and retired Bishop Tucker conducted a memorial service for Rev. Pattie at St. Christopher's-by-the-River. After the loss of her husband, Alice Margaret Pattie moved to New York and co-authored a book entitled "Up from Grief." She was also a director of a group called Tower League, which was a ministry to older parishioners. She was considered a pioneer in a field many churches and ministers were reluctant to touch. She encouraged frank and honest discussions of death and grieving. Alice Margaret Young Pattie passed away on December 5, 1991. Alice and Rev. John Pattie are buried at the Kenyon College Cemetery in Gambier, Ohio.



**John Russell Pattie**



**John Russell Pattie**



# GREGORY SENT, ARCHIVIST

## **Rev. Stuart Gottlieb Cole (1902 -1987)    Doris Mary Lyons Cole (1905-1973)**

Stuart G. Cole was born on November 21, 1902 in Elmira New York to Frank and Rose Cole. He was baptized and confirmed in Trinity Episcopal Church in Elmira, where he served as a choirboy and acolyte. He later studied at and was a graduate of Hobart College in 1925 and later earned a bachelor of divinity degree from Kenyon College in 1928. The same year he was ordained a Deacon in Elmira, NY on April 11, 1928 and served as a curate at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Syracuse, NY and at the same time was also a priest in charge of two other parishes in two nearby towns.

On July 14, 1930, Rev. Stuart Cole married Doris Mary Lyons in St. Stephen's Church in Rochester, New York. Together they had two sons: Stuart Hadley and David Charles. In 1932 he answered a call to be rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Seneca Falls, New York. In 1939 he was called to serve as Chaplain and Director of Guidance for Hobart and William Smith Colleges. He was also an assistant professor of philosophy and religion, coach of the freshman lacrosse team and. During his time there with the outbreak of World War II, he became Chaplain and counselor for the U. S. Navy V-12 officer-training program on the campus.

In December of 1944, he became the rector of Church of the Ascension in Rochester, NY until he became rector of Church of the Ascension in Lakewood, Ohio in 1949. Two years after Rev. Cole and his family came to Lakewood, a major renovation of the front of the church occurred. It was during this time that the large Rose window was placed on the front of the church and not long after the stained-glass windows on the main floor were installed. He remained in Lakewood for 20 years. During his time in Lakewood, he was recognized for his devotion and work in Ohio and New York when in 1954 he was awarded two honorary degrees. He was awarded a Doctor of Sacred Theology from Hobart College and a Doctor of Divinity from Kenyon College. From then on, he was known as Dr. Cole by all at Church of the Ascension. The same year (1954), Ascension Hall was built over the gymnasium.

Dr. Cole was known for his extreme devotion to the parish, being available daily and at any time. He was known for his sermons that connected Scripture and related it to real life. He was an out-going personality, who could preach a moving service but also could deliver a very worldly joke. Cards, drinks and cigars were all common staples for the vestrymen especially when they traveled together.

On May 16, 1964, Dr. Cole presided over the wedding of his son, David, who married at Church of the Ascension. After serving Church of the Ascension since 1949, Dr. Cole retired on June 30, 1968. He was remembered by so many parishioners as being as close to perfection as they could remember.

Dr. Cole and his wife moved to Bay Village after retirement. Doris passed away on February 4, 1973. After the death of his wife, Dr. Cole moved to California to be closer to his children and grandchildren. Dr. Stuart Cole passed away on March 13, 1987 in Alhambra, California. Dr. Stuart G. Cole and Doris were buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Horseheads, New York.



**Rev. Stuart Gottlieb Cole**



**Rev. Stuart Gottlieb Cole**

# GREGORY SENT, ARCHIVIST

## Harold Edward Braun (1915-2002) Velma Mae Beal Braun (1918-1996)

Harold was born on August 30, 1915 in Dover, Ohio. He was the son of Edward and Antionette Wagner Braun. His parents were Russian born, German-speaking immigrants. He went to public schools in Dover and graduated in 1933 from Dover High School. He enjoyed sports and played on the basketball team, which played in the State Championship. After high school, Harold Braun studied at Muskingum College, where he enjoyed being in orchestra, band and playing basketball and running cross country. He also excelled in ministerial groups on campus.

It was at Muskingum College that Harold Braun and another student became acquainted. Velma Mae Beal was studying to be an English and Home Economics teacher. Harold E. Braun married Velma M. Beal on May 28, 1942 in Guernsey, Ohio. Together they had three children: Christine, Douglas and Constance.

Harold became a Methodist minister and served as such for ten years in Brunswick, Ohio. During World War II, Harold Braun served his country in the Navy as a chaplain on the General Howe in the South Pacific.

In December 1953, he was ordained a deacon of the Episcopal Church and the following year ordained to the priesthood in June 1954. In July 1955, he completed two years as a curate of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lakewood, Ohio and was then named rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oregon, Ohio. In 1968, Rev. Braun was called to return to Lakewood, Ohio but this time to Church of the Ascension. He began work at Ascension on September 15, 1968.

During his time at Ascension, there were many changes. Rev. Braun made it clear from the beginning that he ran a tight ship and was a strong leader. Not everyone adjusted to the changes easily. The organist and Christian Educator both left during his early time. Our first female on vestry, Barb Fludine, happened one year after he arrived in Lakewood and just a few years later our first female as Senior Warden, Mary Lindenstruth, occurred. In 1976, women finally had the right to become clergy, which actually upset some parishioners. Throughout his time at Ascension and no matter what the financial issue might be, Rev. Braun had a wonderful talent of helping people in the community open their hearts, minds and wallets for the church. He was an outgoing and fun character, known to enjoy a drink and smoke his pipe with the men of the church, as well as golf or bowling.

Velma Braun took the position as minister's wife to heart. She sat in the front pew every Sunday and was there to help in any and every way. She was known to play the organ and piano at services if needed. She would cook holiday meals for parishioners who might not have family with whom to celebrate. She was known to keep the kitchen and washrooms of the church spotless, simply because she felt it was the right thing to do. When their daughter Constance (known as Connie), married at Church of the Ascension, Velma Braun demonstrated her powers of multitasking. She sewed not only the wedding dress for her daughter but also all of the dresses for the bride maids.

Around the time of his retirement, a group of parishioners made donations for the large stained-glass window, which is now found above the altar. It was then that the rood beam was moved so as not to block the beauty of the new window. In the summer of 1987, the church said goodbye to the Brauns when Rev. Braun retired. After retirement from Church of the Ascension, Rev. Braun served as interim director in Gates Mills, Ohio and Belleville, Ohio. Rev. Braun dedicated fifty years of service to the Episcopal church.

Velma passed away on September 18, 1996. Rev. Harold Braun died on April 8, 2002. They are buried in Fort Meigs Cemetery in Perrysburg, Ohio.



**Harold Edward Braun**



**Mary Holland Gordon  
(1850-1926)**

## CLARKE MORTENSEN, SEMINARIAN

As we enter into the season of Advent, what we're entering is of course a season of expectation and waiting. We're waiting for Jesus to be born, we're waiting for his second coming, and we're waiting for a new priest. There is a lot to be excited about! And there is also a lot to be nervous about in this time of in-between.

But what should we do with this anxiety? Take it to God in prayer. Luckily for us, there's nothing we can go through that God doesn't understand. God is with us in this time of expectation and waiting. I'd like to share with you a prayer that is dear to my heart, one of the verses of St. Patrick's Breastplate.

*I bind unto myself today  
The power of God to hold and lead,  
His eye to watch, his might to stay,  
His ear to hearken to my need,  
The wisdom of my God to teach,  
His hand to guide, his shield to ward,  
The word of God to give me speech,  
His heavenly host to be my guard.*

### SUPPLY PRIEST SCHEDULE THROUGH JANUARY

#### December

7th: Fr. Peter Faass  
14th: Fr. John Keller  
21st: Fr. Keith Owen  
25th (Christmas): Fr. Keith Owen  
28st: Fr. Keith Owen

#### January

4th: Fr. Keith Owen  
11th: Fr. Peter Faass  
18th: Fr. John Keller  
25th: Fr. Peter Faass

### HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Sat,	December 13th	Cookie Walk	9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Sun	December 14th	Carols and Cocoa	5:00pm
Sun,	December 21st	Lessons and Carols	4:00 pm
Sun,	December 21st	Christmas Dinner	6:00 pm
Thurs,	December 25th	Holy Eucharist	10:30 am

### CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS

**Sunday, December 21st, 4pm**

We will have our service of Lessons and Carols.

**There will be no 8am service on December 21st.**

# 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.

## CENTERING PRAYER

We will meet on Thursdays at Noon in Ascension Hall.

For more information call Jim Weiss the Parish Administrator 216-521-8727.

## EVENING PRAYER IN CHURCH

Wednesdays, 7-7:30pm, in the nave.

## EUCCHARISTIC VISIT

If you are unable to attend church and would like to request Holy Communion to be brought to you please contact the Parish Administrator 216-521-8727 [Jim.Weiss@Ascension-Lakewood.org](mailto:Jim.Weiss@Ascension-Lakewood.org)

## Something Olde



~Living Creche~

## Something New



## THE AFTERNOON GUILD

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

The Afternoon Guild will meet on Wednesday, December 10th for a light lunch. Lunch will be provided for \$5. Then we will assemble gift packages for a Cleveland classroom. They will get a book, white board marker and an eraser for our 'Lets read and write bag we'll assemble. I have everything purchased for a \$5 total from each of you. Please be prepared to bring \$10 to eat and provide the gifts. RSVP so I know how much food to bring!!! If there is time we'll sing our favorite carols!

**ALL ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

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

## 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!

## 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.



# 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

## CAROLS AND COCOA

**Sunday, December 14th, 5pm**

We will have outdoor caroling and cocoa on the front lawn. Please invite family and friends!

## THE COOKIE WALK

**Saturday, December 13th in Strom Hall from 9am - 2pm or until sold out.**

A variety of delicious cookies will be available, sold by the pound. We will also have wonderful items from the Holiday Market, all made by our very own parishioners.

We will accept payment with cash or credit card.

**Please invite family and friends! It's a good way to try new cookies, make gift boxes, and get cookies if you don't bake.**

## COOKIE WALK HELP NEEDED

**Please consider baking.** The more cookies we have to sell the more we will raise for Church of the Ascension.

**Not a baker?** We need help on the evening before and the day of the sale – setting up, helping customers choose their cookies, check out/collect payment and clean up.

**Would you like to help setup?** We will set up tables in Strom Hall on Friday evening (12/12 at 6pm) with table clothes and plates. The more we get done Friday the less we need to get done Saturday. We will need set up volunteers for the morning of the cookie walk – should arrive at 8 am.

**Would you like to help customer get their cookies?** Volunteers are needed. We will have gloves for those people giving out cookies to use. We will have bags or boxes for the customers to use. Scales will be available to check quantity and to weigh out at the end of their purchase in two locations.

**Would you like to help clean up?** We will need help cleaning up after the event around 2pm.

## 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>

## OFFICE HOURS

9 am – 1:30 pm, Tuesday – Thursday

**The office will be closed on Wednesday, December 24th  
and will remain closed till Tuesday, January 6, 2026.**

## SHAWL MINISTRY

Shawl ministry will meet on **Wednesday, December 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.

## 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.**



**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!**  
**Come One! Come All!**

## **Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival**

Prayerfully consider participating or attending this beautiful and touching way to end your celebration of Christ's Birth. This Elizabethan Festival features a large cast along with live sheep, goats, donkey and a camel!!

Several of our choir members represent Church of the Ascension each year and will do so again this season. Three of our parishioners were part of the pageant last year and Owen Jones will be one of the Kings again this year!

This should be on your "must do" Christmas list this year.

**Boar's Head Rehearsal at Trinity Cathedral: Saturday, December 27th at 5:00 pm**

**Performances at Trinity Cathedral: Sunday, December 28th at 2:00 & 4:30**

Joyfully,  
 Jon and Margie

## **CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**Sunday, December 21st, 6pm**

We will have our Christmas Dinner following the 4pm Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion Service

## **ALTAR FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS**

We create a temporary pool of funds from which to buy the plant which adorn the altars and the chancel for Christmas in memory or in honor of loved ones. Place your contributions in the envelopes provided (checks made out to the church, with "Christmas 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](mailto: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 December 17th.**

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



# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	3 1-3 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall 7 pm - Evening prayer in the nave	4 12 - 12:45 pm - Centering Prayer 7-8:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal	5	6 9am -12 pm- Yard Clean Up
7 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service 5-7pm - Youngish Adult Fellowship	8	9 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	10 12:30 pm - Afternoon Guild in Ascension Hall 7 pm - Evening prayer in the nave	11 12 - 12:45 pm - Centering Prayer 5 pm - Community Meal 7-8:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal	12	13 9am - 2 pm - Cookie Walk
14 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service Kids Sing 5 pm - Carols & Coco	15	16 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	17 1-3 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall 7 pm - Evening prayer in the nave	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 4 pm - Christmas Lessons & Carols Service 6pm - Christmas Dinner	22	23 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 10:30 am- Holy Eucharist Christmas Service <i>Christmas</i>	26	27
28 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service	29 5 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>			

## 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 YOUNG/SH 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)

## 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.

## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### ANNIVERSARIES

**December 23:** Julia & Nicholas Masola



### BIRTHDAYS

<b>December 08:</b>	Alex DeJesus
<b>December 09:</b>	Bill Rice
<b>December 14:</b>	Melissa Rerko
<b>December 18:</b>	Courtney Semproch
<b>December 21:</b>	Will Hober
<b>December 23:</b>	Terrie Schade
<b>December 30:</b>	David Campion