



Spires April 2026

Church of the Ascension

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

GREGORY SENT, SENIOR WARDEN



Fellow Ascensionites ,

It is an exciting time to be a parishioner at Ascension! Many new people are coming to our church and diving in to become involved. New families have come to Ascension in the last month and returned. When asked why they came back, we were told "the parish community is so loving and welcoming." This is one of the many things for which we should be proud. Parishioners are stepping up to help in an even more energetic way, picking up the slack for a church without a rector.



On Saturday April 28, we had a great team of people who volunteered to clean the church. This is an old tradition to get the church in pristine condition for Easter and the Holy Week. With the recent beginning of elevator construction, the church is especially dusty this year. Jim Weiss, our parish office manager at Church of the Ascension, organized lists of what parts of the church were in greatest need of cleaning. Will Hober and Jim Weiss supplied Murphy's Oil Soap, buckets and rags to clean the church several times over. Several people this year signed up and worked together to not only clean but be part of the loving community, which we have at Church of the Ascension. I would like to thank the following people who gave hours to our church to make it even better: Jim Weiss, Will Hober, Margie Hildebrandt, Rob Theibert, Corky Thacker, Jeff Sommer, Owen Jones, Joe Sgambellone, Terrie Schade, Marsha Burrell, Steven Burrell, Kathleen Sanow, Dan Vanah, David Sent, Charlotte Sent, Derek Lewallen, Richard Ballard and others who if I have forgotten their names- I pray they forgive me and give the Grace of being simply human. It was a wonderful experience and a great way to see up close the beauty of our hand-carved, wooden, artistry provided by the generosity of generations long ago.

With the recent birth of three babies in our parish, there is a growing need for a nursery for parents and little ones. Susan Hankey spent hours working on the old nursery in the undercroft. She was sterilizing toys, moving furniture and finding vintage treasures, which will be repurposed for the space. Her goal is to have the room with a large monitor so people can watch the service in the very near future.

Vestry has stepped up with the absence of a rector and is looking at those on our prayer list. As a group each member took on three or four people to reach out to or visit. One parishioner called and shared her appreciation for the weekly calls she is now getting. She feels this is more contact she has had with our church community than she has had since being able to physically come to church in years.



We had a wonderful turnout this year for the Stations of the Cross. In fact, a larger group came this year than in previous years. Our Palm Sunday was a glorious day with beautiful weather and a crowd of loving parishioners, which reminds us of why we love Ascension. I encourage you to come to services during Holy Week, show support to our church community in any way you can and invite others to join us.

God loves you. No exceptions.®

GREGORY SENT, ARCHIVIST

The following Easter related documents are from our archives from Church of the Ascension. Three are the bulletins from 1947, 1950 and 1956. Several decades of bulletins were painstakingly saved and glued into scrapbooks. These are just a few of the many Easter bulletins. The minister in 1947 was Rev. Pattie and in 1950 and 1956 was Dr. Stuart Cole.

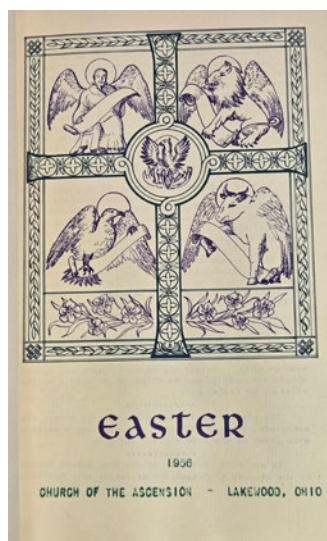
Also we have an Easter card, which was given by Rev. Studwell to all of the parishioners at the Easter service. It is signed by him and was saved in a scrapbook by Elsa Meckel, who was in the Altar Guild, in the Women's Choir and taught Sunday School. Her scrapbook filled with many treasures related to Ascension's history were donated by her great niece last year.



Easter Bulletin
(1947)



Easter Bulletin
(1950)



Easter Bulletin
(1956)



Easter card, which was given
by Rev. Studwell

CLARKE MORTENSEN, SEMINARIAN

As we are catapulting into Holy Week, I would like to invite you to meditate on the "Seven Last Words" of Christ on the cross. Some churches will have long (I'm talking 3+ hours!) services reflecting on these phrases, along with music. The Seven Last Words are as follows:

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

"Today you will be with me in Paradise."

"Woman, here is your son."

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

"I thirst."

"It is finished."

"Into your hands I commend my spirit."

What do these saying have to say about Jesus' priorities while on the cross? What might they reveal about both his humanity and divinity?

I am wishing you all a blessed Holy Week from Connecticut!

SUPPLY PRIEST SCHEDULE THROUGH APRIL

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Maundy Thursday, April 2nd | Fr. Peter Faass |
| Good Friday, April 3rd | Fr. Peter Faass |
| Easter Sunday, April 5th | Fr. Peter Faass |
| Sunday, April 12th | Fr. John Keller |
| Sunday, April 19th | Fr. John Keller |
| Sunday, April 26th | Fr. Keith Owen |

LENTEN CALENDAR

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

7:30pm Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

9pm to midnight, night watch (Please sign up in the office to indicate which time slot you will take)

Good Friday, April 3rd

7:30pm Solemn Liturgy

The Great Vigil of Easter, April 4th

8:00pm Great Vigil of Easter at Trinity Cathedral

Easter Sunday, April 5th

No 8:00am service

10:30am Holy Eucharist (Easter egg hunt following the service)

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.

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Saturday, April 4th at 8 pm

All are invited to join our bishop for the Easter Vigil
at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave, Cleveland,

KEEP WATCH AND PRAY

Thursday, April 2nd, from 9pm until midnight

We will have a prayer vigil in the Chapel at the Altar of Repose,
after the Maundy Thursday service. If you are able to take part.



EASTER EGG HUNT



On Easter Sunday we will have the children's **Easter egg hunt following the service.**

We are asking for people to donate their loose change and small wrapped
candy in order to fill the eggs (silver coins only please).

A collection box can be found at hospitality after the 10:30am service.

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

VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden, Gregory Sent
Junior Warden, Rob Theibert

Adam Clemens
Alex DeJesus
Kiera Dodd

Susan Hankey
Joe Sgambellone

DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Aaron Beatty
Becca Bretz
John Carlson
Jenny Christ

Cara Clemens
Keira Dodd
Derek Lewallan
John O'Donnell

Domenico Sgambellone
Corky Thacker

ATTENTION ASCENSION MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH!

Sundays, May 3rd and May 17th at 5:30 pm-6:30pm.

Save the date for our first two Youth meetings in May, here in Ascension's Strom Hall: We'll chat, pray, sing, and talk about your ideas for this group! Bring \$5 for pizza and pop.

Questions? Ideas? Want to get involved as an adult helper?

Text or call Cara Clemens at 216-906-5349.

SHAWL MINISTRY

Do to the elevator being under construction.

The Shawl Ministry will not meet in April.

THE AFTERNOON GUILD

Wednesday, April 8th at 12:30PM

The Afternoon Guild will welcome Tom Strong to speak on "Alzheimer's & Improving Memory".

This 12:30 pm meeting will begin with a light lunch followed by his talk at 1:15 pm:

Join us for this informative talk as noted medical lecturer and patient advocate Tom Strong discusses long and short-term memory, symptoms and causes of this age-related disease.

PLEASE let me know if you will be attending so I know how much food will be needed and/or if you'd like to help make lunch. Please email me at bach2schol@hotmail.com.

AN INVITATION

**The Plant-Based Supper Club will meet on
Thursday, April 9th from 6:30 to 8:30 in Ascension Hall.**

Sponsored by the Esselstyn Family Foundation, the Supper Club is part of a grassroots effort to inform the public about the health benefits of a plant-based diet. A highly respected surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn has conducted research showing that a plant-based diet can halt and even reverse heart disease, even in patients with the severest disease. This is the research cited by Bill Clinton as a major factor in his personal dietary changes.

To learn more, come to the dinner and enjoy the food. You'll be glad you did.

If interested, please contact Rob Stuart at (216)513-5078. All are welcome.

Something Olde



~Secretary~

Something New



OFFICE HOURS

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

EVENING PRAYER IN CHURCH

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

ASCENSION NIGHT OUT

We're excited to gather again for Ascension Night Out as we celebrate the joy of the Easter season together! After taking a break during Lent, it will be wonderful to reconnect, share a meal, and enjoy some relaxed time with one another.

When: Wednesday, April 15th at 6:00 PM

Where: Red Robin, 3190 W. 210th St., Fairview Park.

You can check out the menu here <https://www.redrobin.com/menu>

Thinking about coming for the first time? We'd love to have you there. It's always a great evening of good food and even better company. We're really looking forward to spending this time together and hope you can join us!

RSVP by Sunday, April 12th by calling the church office at 216-521-8727

or emailing Jim.Weiss@Ascension-Lakewood.org.

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, the Treasurer Rincy Isaacs risaacs@ascension-lakewood.net, or Aaron Beatty 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

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>.

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 if your child is interested in joining our group! All are welcome!

BELLWETHER FARM SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN

Can you believe our first summer camp session starts on June 7th?

We truly hope you can join us for fantastic summer at [Bellwether Farm](#).

Here you will find more [information](#), as well as links to help guide you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

CCD REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Click here to register for the College for Congregational Development at Bellwether Farm, August 2-7. Prepare to be immersed in a collaborative learning environment where we strategize how to grow into the faith communities God has gathered to love the world together.

Price is \$850/person for a single room at Bellwether.

Please reach out to the Rev. Leah Romanelli DeJesus if you anticipate needing a scholarship.

THE GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

March 17, 2026

Dear People of God in The Episcopal Church:

For more than a century, Episcopalians have given generously to the Good Friday Offering, which supports the vital work and ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Today, the need of the church in the Holy Land is greater than ever, particularly given the recent escalation of war in the Middle East, and I hope you will join me in making a generous gift today at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering.

I am in frequent touch with Archbishop Hosam Naoum, who leads the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and I know how urgently he and his people need our support as they alleviate suffering and provide hope to God's people of all faiths. The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey recently gave the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem \$1 million to support medical and trauma care for children, youth, and families in Gaza and the Palestinian territories, and I am hoping that we can build on that extraordinary gift with this year's Good Friday Offering.

Your gift will support:

- al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, which has continued serving patients during the Israel-Hamas War amid bombardment, devastating shortages of food, water, and medicine, and extended power outages.
- St. George's Church in Baghdad, Iraq, and its medical center.
- An eye clinic at Christ Church in Yemen.
- All Saints' Episcopal Church in Damascus, Syria.
- All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beirut, Lebanon.

The Episcopal Church supports just and sustainable peace in the Holy Land and around the world. While we pray and work for peace, our siblings in the Holy Land will continue to serve God's people with hospitals, schools, orphanages, and humanitarian aid programs. These ministries serve people of all faiths without distinction, bearing witness to the power of hope and healing across divides.

Together, we can support the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East as it turns despair into hope for God's people in the land where our faith was born.



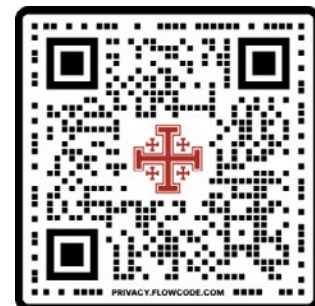
The Most Rev. Sean Rowe
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church

To make your gift today:

Online: iam.ec/goodfridayoffering

Send a check with "Good Friday Appeal" in the memo line to:

The Episcopal Church (DFMS)
P.O. Box 958983
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983



April 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | | <p>1</p> <p>7 pm - Evening prayer in the nave</p> | <p>2</p> <p>7:30 pm - Holy Eucharist and 9 pm to Midnight - Night Watch</p> <p><i>Maundy Thursday</i></p> | <p>3</p> <p>7:30 pm - Solemn Liturgy</p> <p><i>Good Friday</i></p> | <p>4</p> <p>8:00 pm - Great Vigil of Easter at Trinity Cathedral</p> |
| <p>5</p> <p>10:30 am- Service Easter egg hunt following the service 5-7pm - Youngish Adult Fellowship</p> <p><i>Easter Sunday</i></p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> <p>12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call</p> | <p>8</p> <p>12 pm - Afternoon Guild 7 pm - Evening prayer in the nave</p> | <p>9</p> <p>6:30-8:30pm - The Plant-Based Supper Club 7-8:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>11</p> |
| <p>12</p> <p>8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <p>12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference cal 5 pm - Finance Committee Meeting 7 pm - Vestry Meeting</p> | <p>15</p> <p>6pm - Ascension Night Out Red Robin 7 pm - Evening prayer in the nave</p> | <p>16</p> <p>7-8:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> |
| <p>19</p> <p>8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service 5-7pm - Youngish Adult Fellowship</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> <p>12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call</p> | <p>22</p> <p>7 pm - Evening prayer in the nave</p> | <p>23</p> <p>7-8:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> |
| <p>26</p> <p>8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call</p> | <p>29</p> <p>7 pm - Evening prayer in the nave</p> | <p>30</p> <p>7-8:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> | | |

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

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 22nd of the month to 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.

APRIL CELEBRATIONS



ANNIVERSARY

04/16 Dolly & John Doyle

BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 04/01 | John Carlson | 04/13 | Julia Masola |
| 04/01 | Ramzi Gazala | 04/18 | Joe Crichton |
| 04/01 | Mary Staley | 04/19 | George Staley |
| 04/04 | Claudia Esposito | 04/21 | Andrew Barr |
| 04/05 | Maizie Gillies | 04/21 | Elle Heller |
| 04/08 | Nick Ciarniello | 04/28 | Charlotte K. Partlow |
| 04/10 | Thomas Esposito | 04/30 | Rosemary Ballard |