



The Church of the Ascension

Lakewood, Ohio


THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
An Episcopal Church
GOD LOVES YOU. NO EXCEPTIONS.®

Our Diocese

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The Diocese of Ohio consists of 76 congregations stretching across the 48 counties in the northern half of Ohio, an area approximately 170 miles wide and 95 miles deep. The diocesan offices are located within Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland. We welcome everyone to our doors, from lifelong Episcopalians to seekers looking for God, to those with a less specific sense that something is missing in life.



In 2017, the Diocese dedicated Bellwether Farm in Wakeman Township, near the demographic center of the diocese. Bellwether is a camp, conference, and retreat center situated on a regenerative farm designed to foster innovative community and educational partnerships.

Our Faith Community



Seeking a Priest-in-Charge; a servant leader to join us in our journey of faith.

Seeking a ministry partner to join us in our community outreach to bring Church of the Ascension into our next stage. We are looking for someone who preaches biblically based sermons and share the joy of the Gospel to all, regardless of age, gender expression, economic status, and life stage. Learning is very important to us and we appreciate a ministry partner who will lead and support continued efforts.

Church of the Ascension is a welcoming, joyful, energetic, and deeply connected community of faith that reflects the energy and diversity (age, stage of life, lifestyle, socioeconomics, ethic and cultural heritage, gender, and sexual identities) of Lakewood.

Some of us grew up in The Episcopal Church, and others of us are very new to the Church. However, we are all learning together how to walk in love as followers of Jesus. We believe that God loves all people endlessly – no exceptions. We are rooted in tradition and embracing change. Our parish has been blessed to experience increases in weekly average attendance levels over the past several years.





We believe that our mission is to serve and provide a welcoming space for the wider community, and our spaces enable creative outreach. We seek to be inspired by the Holy Spirit to be a beacon of hope and a witness to the Gospel for ALL people.

Church of the Ascension just completed an epic year celebrating our 150th anniversary in 2025; reflecting on where we've been, those on whose shoulders we stand (from historical to modern), and where we are going for the next 150 years.

Our ministry is supported by a wealth of assets, including a spacious 100-year-old Tudor Gothic church building, featuring antique stained glass windows and woodwork, a large commercial kitchen, multiple gathering spaces, extensive on-site parking, and a large grass space used for community gatherings such as car shows, rummage sales, and hotdog community meals in the summer ("Frankfurter Fridays").

We have a vibrant music program (adult choir and children's choir) and enjoy the moving sounds of our historic pipe organ (which will soon get its final set of pipes to complete it as originally designed, following recent fundraising efforts).





Church of the Ascension is blessed with the talents of certified lay preachers and a community gifted in expressing our faith.

As a curious community that encourages questions and seeks answers, we believe in education that brings us a greater understanding of God, the Bible, history, and our place in all of it. This energy is seen in our active Education for Ministry program as well as our lay-led children's education and Sunday and mid-week adult programs. We seek to continue to grow in our knowledge and love of God.

We are family-friendly and offer the opportunity to find peace, reflect on our spirituality, and experience God's never-ending love, compassion, and grace.



Our Local Community

Lakewood is an inner-ring suburb of Cleveland. It is a walkable, family-friendly, progressive, and diverse place. It has city energy with a small-town feel.

Lakewood features an historic, but well-preserved, housing stock as well as more recently built apartments and condominiums near the church.



Lakewood offers access to a variety of outdoor recreation options at city and county metroparks (including water access to the Rocky River, as well as Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River just outside of city limits), an eclectic mix of locally owned restaurants, excellent schools, and a vibrant arts community.

With its location just a few minutes west of downtown Cleveland, Lakewood boasts easy access to amenities such as world class museums, professional sports, one of the largest performing arts districts outside of New York City, and a variety of touring groups.



Benefits

Salary and benefits are competitive and commensurate with experience, following diocesan guidelines.

Additionally, Church of the Ascension has an on-site rectory, which is central to our community-focused identity. The ideal candidate would live in the rectory. This home has recently received a tasteful renovation, with a new kitchen, central air-conditioning, and security system.

The rectory also received updates to the electric, plumbing, and the gas fireplace in the living room. It has more than 2,000 square feet of total space, with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, a third-floor guest suite with full bath, a screened-in porch, a private patio, and a two-car garage. Utilities, internet, lawn care, and snow removal are included. Landscaping and a large backyard provide privacy.

By the Numbers



**Total Baptized
Members: 195**



**Average Sunday
Attendance: 83**



**Number of
Pledge Units: 58**



**Total Income:
\$526,220**



**Annual Expenses:
\$365,132**



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Interested candidates are invited to submit a cover letter, Vocation Hub Profile, and a resumé to the Rev. Canon Jessie Gutsell Dodson, at jdodson@dohio.org.

www.ascension-lakewood.org
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