



# NEWS & NOTES

News and notes from the Bishop's office

March 2018

## IN THIS ISSUE...

- From the Bishop's pen "Political"
- The Lutherans are coming!
- Worship leader workshop
- Youth leadership team meeting
- Music & Liturgy Workshops
- Camp Cross
- Women's retreat



*The Rt. Rev'd Gretchen M. Rehberg at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection.  
Photo credit Richard Chan.*

## FROM THE BISHOP'S PEN

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Why does the church have to be so political?" (I ask that you read all of what follows and if you have questions or are concerned please write me). I have heard several variations of this question in the past year as I have visited congregations and been in meetings. I am mostly asked this by someone who is unhappy with a particular stance the church as taken, rarely if ever does anyone complain when they agree! I am struck by the question for it seems to me to understand the role of the church very differently than I think Jesus would, certainly different than what I believe is the witness of Scripture. Now let me say that it is wrong of the church to ever identify with one particular political party. Political parties come and go and vary from one county to the next. The church is way bigger and concerned about way more than any political party. What is both deeply political and of great importance to the church, are the questions of how we will live in community together, how we will act towards each other, what common set of rules and behaviors shall we seek, and how we will seek out justice when there is a violation of those common rules.

The witness of scripture is that God calls us into communities, and that God cares deeply about how we act and how we live together. We hear the words of the prophets' roll down through the ages and they usually warn about behavior that is deemed incompatible with following God - behavior such as: oppressing the poor and mistreating the orphans, widows, strangers, and refugees. We are told by Jesus that whatever we do to the least among us we do to him. The church throughout the centuries has played a key role in society and has had a moral voice which has mattered. We might in this country talk about separation of church and state, but that separation is about the establishment of a state church or the requirement for a religious test, it is not

about the important and vital role of the church to speak up in the face of injustice, oppression, violence, greed, and any other matter which impacts the public good.

No political party has a lock on getting it right, and partisanship is to be avoided. Politics however, is not, for when the church is political she is speaking out about the public good, applying the words of Jesus to our time and place, this has always been part of the church. If preaching the words of Jesus are deemed to be political I pray that every priest and deacon in this diocese is accused of being political! If talking about how our faith leads us to action is deemed political I hope every Christian is accused of being political! When you hear a sermon or read a newsletter article about an event happening and think "that is too political" ask what in the words of Scripture or witness of the church do not support what has been preached or done, allow yourself to ponder why you might be challenged by the preacher - what might Jesus be inviting you to hear? If you believe that the preacher has crossed the line into partisanship, go and have a conversation that addresses where you think that happened and how you differentiate that partisanship message from the Gospel. Jesus said some words which were very pointed, such as "love your enemies" and "do good to those who hate you," not everyone wanted to hear them, but those words still speak to us today.

When the church is involved in all areas of our life together we can also offer this world a model for how to live together when we disagreed. For instance, people of deep faith can disagree on the best way to feed the hungry; followers of Jesus are told to feed them. When followers of Jesus agree on the call to feed the hungry and sit at table together in love even as they debate and challenge each other on the best way of accomplishing the goal we witness to a life in community that does not denigrate and demonize those with different ideas. This world, this country, needs this witness.

Followers of Jesus are also called to speak up to the leadership in their political parties (all political parties!) when the policies of the party are contrary to the faith we profess. This is the way of following Jesus, who never shied away from confronting those in power when their actions were contrary to ways of God. And when followers of Jesus disagree about what policies are inconsistent with our faith all of us are called to go deeper into scripture and the witness of the church and learn together, pray together, worship together as we seek the will of God.

---

**Nobody has a lock on the truth, only God, and all are called  
to be humble enough to seek that that truth.**

---

This month we go deeper into Lent and experience the holiest time in the Christian year. We experience the rejection and state execution of Jesus, the one we know and worship as Son of God. Jesus would have been shocked to hear that the religious establishment should stay out of politics because he knew that any religion that does not care about how we are together in our daily life, does not care about "the polis," is a religion that does not matter. Following the way of Jesus is about committing to a complete way of life. This way of Jesus has ramifications for our life together, for our politics, so why is the church so political, because we are trying to follow Jesus.

+Gretchen

## THE LUTHERANS ARE COMING!



We have formally entered into an understanding with the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the ELCA to share space in Paulsen House beginning this month. The Lutheran offices will be on the second floor, along with shared conference and meeting room space. This is a great way to not only be in full communion but to be in a closer working relationship. We have named the two meeting rooms upstairs the "Lutheran Rose" and the "Canterbury Cross" rooms. We are hoping to have more meetings here now that the rooms are available.

## WORSHIP LEADERS WORKSHOP

Bishop Rehberg will be leading a worship leaders training (and refresher) on Saturday, March 17, from 1-4 pm at St. Timothy's in Yakima. All who desire to be licensed to be a worship leader, which means licenses to officiate at public services of Morning and Evening Prayer, are invited to attend. The Bishop plans on offering more of these trainings in different regions of the diocese throughout the year.

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Canon John Palarine led a spirited meeting with youth and adults this past month to start up a

Youth Leadership Team for the diocese. If you or someone you know (especially youth and young adults) would be interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Canon John, [johnp@spokanediocese.org](mailto:johnp@spokanediocese.org)! This team is also helping with the program planning for Camp Cross. We are all excited about what this future holds for youth ministry and Camp Cross.



## MUSIC & LITURGY WORKSHOPS



## REGISTER HERE

([https://spokanediocese.formstack.com/forms/diocesan\\_events](https://spokanediocese.formstack.com/forms/diocesan_events))

Everyone in the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane is invited to join in this Music & Liturgy workshop. This workshop will be held in each of our 4 regions! Sign up for your workshop today.

## Led by Dent Davidson

Dent Davidson is missioner for liturgy and the arts in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. He is available to consult with congregations seeking to enrich their liturgy and music ministry.

A professional church musician since his teens, Dent Davidson's primary work is to unite voices in song with joy and passion. He travels frequently as a workshop clinician and consultant in music and worship, and currently serves on the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church, and as music chaplain to the Episcopal House of Bishops.

With a degree in composition and vocal jazz, Dent enjoys widening the scope and variety of music sung and heard in worship, and spends much of his time composing and searching for new resources. His goal: To touch hearts by embracing the beauty of the Anglican Choral Tradition and expanding it. (In other words: a church that swings!)

**DATES:**

**6-16-18:** NW Region - St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 428 King St, Wenatchee, WA 98801

**10-6-18:** SE Region - St. James' Episcopal Church, 1410 NE Stadium Way, Pullman, WA 99163

**11-3-18:** SW Region - All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave, Richland, WA 99354

**TIMES:** Workshops will start 9:00am and end at 4:00pm with a scheduled lunch break. Lunch will be provided.

**PRICE:** Free! But please register so we can make arrangements for seating and food

**CAMP CROSS 2018 SCHEDULE & REGISTRATION**

The Camp Cross summer schedule is set and registration will soon be up. Look for information to come on registration opening online at [www.campcross.org](http://www.campcross.org).

**Sessions 2018**

5/25-27 - Labor of Love Youth Weekend

6/1-6/3 & 6/8-6/10 - Labor of Love

- 6/15-6/17 - Leaders in Training (LIT)
- 6/17 - Open House
- 6/24-6/29 - Intermediate (Grades 4-6)
- 7/1-7/3 Mini Camp (Grades 2-3)
- 7/4-7/7 - Days at the Lake
- 7/8-7/14 - Mid High (Grades 8-10)
- 7/22-7/26 - Arts Camp (Int. & Jr. High)
- 7/29-8/3 - Jr. High (Grades 7-9)
- 8/5-8/12 - Sr. High (Grades 10-13)
- 8/24-8/26 - Women's Weekend
- 8/31-9/3 - Labor Day Family Camp
- 10/8-10/13 - Closing Week

**DIOCESAN WOMEN'S RETREAT**

The deadline to register for the women's retreat is Monday, March 5, 2018.

Join us for a women's retreat, open to all women in the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane. Come ready to retreat into a space of quiet, a time to ponder, a time to pray, a time to be with God.

**REGISTER NOW**

[https://spokanediocese.formstack.com/forms/diocesan\\_events](https://spokanediocese.formstack.com/forms/diocesan_events)

"Loved & Called; Listen & Respond - What is the action of God towards us?"

Led by Vira Melendez-Redman

**Dates & Times:** March 16-17

Starts Friday, March 16th 5 pm

Ends Saturday, March 17th after luncheon

**Location:** Immaculate Heart Retreat Center

**Price:** \$50 for overnight and \$35 for day, includes dinner, breakfast and lunch.

**What to bring:** Comfy clothes, (but take into consideration March weather) walking shoes, reading material. Think comfort~ Mostly come and be open to new possibilities, new opportunities

For questions about the retreat, contact the Women in ministry/ECW Coordinator for the diocese, [Evita Krislock](mailto:evita@krislock.com) ([evita@krislock.com](mailto:evita@krislock.com))



## Contact Us

245 E 13th Ave  
 Spokane, WA 99202-1114  
 509.624.3191, Fax 509.747.0049  
[malloryd@spokanediocese.org](mailto:malloryd@spokanediocese.org)  
[www.spokanediocese.org](http://www.spokanediocese.org)

## BISHOP'S MARCH & APRIL SCHEDULE

Find the diocesan calendar [online here](#).

Date	Itinerary Item	Location
3/3	Diocesan Council Meeting	Online
3/4-3/10	House of Bishops	Camp Allen, Texas
3/14 5:30p	Cathedral Lenten program	Spokane, WA
3/16	Women's Retreat	IHRC, Spokane, WA
3/17	worship leader training	Yakima, WA
3/17-3/18	Bishop's Visit to St. Timothy's	Yakima, WA
3/29-4/1	Triduum and Easter at the Cathedral of St. John	Spokane, WA
4/9-4/13	Project Resource Conference	Camp Allen, Texas
4/15	Bishop's visit to St. Michael's Mission	Yakima, WA
4/21	NW regional Gathering Day (St. Andrew's)	Chelan, WA
4/22	Bishop's Visit to St. Andrew's	Chelan, WA
4/23-4/25	Gathering of Leaders	San Francisco, CA
4/28	SE regional Gathering Day (Nativity)	Lewiston, ID
4/29	Bishop's visit to Grace Church	Dayton, WA
4/29 @ 4p	Celebration of new ministry (Nativity)	Lewiston, ID
4/30-5/2	Clergy Conference (Immaculate Heart Retreat Center)	Spokane, WA