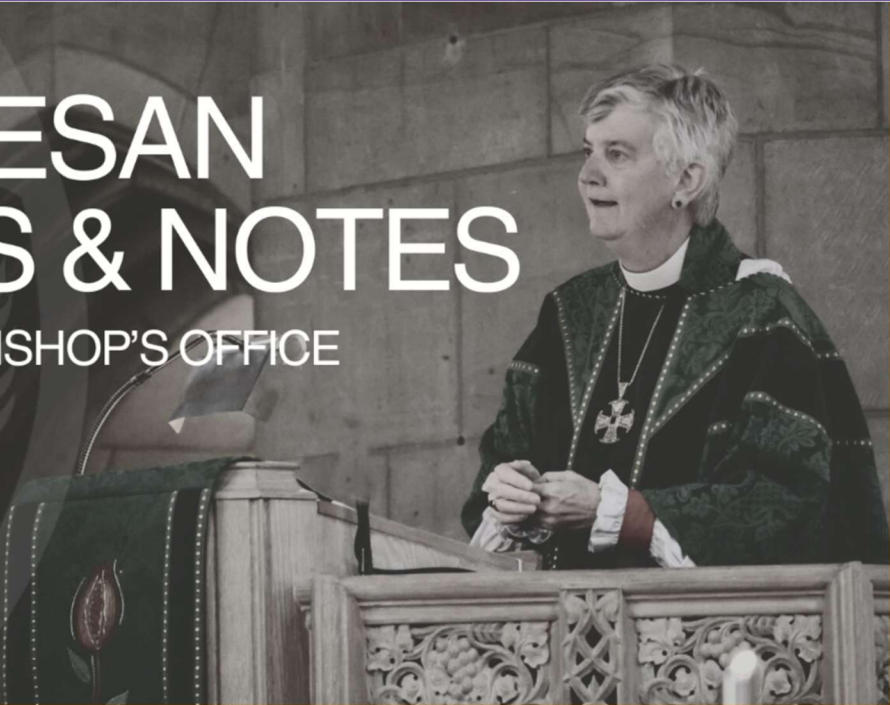


# DIOCESAN NEWS & NOTES

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



FEBRUARY 2025

Vol. 9 | Issue 2

## FROM THE BISHOP'S PEN

There is a story about a man who was a tightrope walker who stretched his rope across the Niagara Falls and walked across while the crowd watched and clapped. He walked across several times to show that he was perfectly capable of doing so. Then he took a wheelbarrow and asked the crowd if they believed he could walk across Niagara Falls on the rope while pushing the wheelbarrow. They cried out yes, they shouted that they believed he could do this. He asked them several times if they believed and they kept shouting yes. Then he asked for a volunteer to get into the wheelbarrow.

Jesus is Lord! This is one of the earliest statements of faith for the followers of Jesus. To say “Jesus is Lord” is statement of allegiance, of trust, of faith. The metaphor of getting into the wheelbarrow is not a perfect one of course, but to say “Jesus is Lord” is to place total allegiance and trust in God.

For the earliest Christians to say “Jesus is Lord” was also to say Caesar was not. Jesus is Lord was a political statement. It was then, and it is now. Not political in a partisan way, but political in the question of how will we live, how will we be together, how do we act now that our allegiance is to Jesus, to God? In the movie Chariots of Fire there was a scene where an older gentleman said “in my day it was king first and God second.” To say “Jesus is Lord” is to always put God first in all areas of our life.

In my own life I must ask myself whether or not I truly always put God first. The truthful answer is that while I *want* to, I don't always. I don't always act in the way that God has told us, I am not always merciful, compassionate, forgiving. I don't always see the hungry and give food, see the homeless and help provide housing, see the sick and lonely and bring healing and community. When I think about my own commitment to the statement "Jesus is Lord," I fail more than I would like. This is probably why I believe in and need the Church. I need to be with others who are also committed to the way of Jesus and who can help me, just as I can help others.

I wonder about you. I wonder how you live into this early statement of faith, a statement that calls us to place our allegiance with God and not any earthly rulers, a statement of total trust and faith that propels us to live as followers of Jesus. I wonder how you use your congregation to help you in your life with Jesus.

Jesus is Lord, that is the truth we proclaim, and the truth we are called to live in both word and deed.

+ *Gretchen*

**FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE**

**CLICK THE PIC FOR MORE INFO**



# WINTER CROSS

FEBRUARY 14-16  
LAZY F CAMP,  
ELLENSBURG



WARDENS  
TREASURERS  
RECTORS  
VICARS  
WORKSHOP



MARCH 1  
ST. STEPHEN'S  
SPOKANE



# SPRING GATHERING DAY

MARCH 29  
9:30AM - 3:30PM

VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO



The Episcopal Diocese  
of Spokane

THE EPISCOPAL  
DIOCESE OF SPOKANE

# THE COLLEGE FOR CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AUGUST 3 - 8  
REGISTRATION OPEN



The Episcopal Diocese  
of Spokane

## CANONS CORNER

### Church Growth and Development Grant

The Church Growth and Development Committee is pleased to announce the availability of funds for 2025 for grants to congregations and faith communities in the Episcopal Diocese of

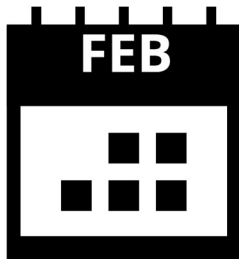
Spokane. Grants are available to fund projects to develop more faithful, healthy, and effective communities of faith. Successful grants will be consistent with the aspects of Congregational Development, the diocesan mission and strategic plan provided on the first page of this packet. The Committee will award a total of \$20,000. Application deadline is: March 28, 2025. See the grant guidelines and application, located on the diocesan website, for more details.

I've updated the website with all of the needed info. It can be found [HERE!](#)

-The Rev. Cn. Susan Cleveley

## ANNUAL GIVING GUIDE

Here you will find monthly ideas for approaching your annual giving campaign throughout the entire year. Looking for the full year guide, find it here: [Stewardship Annual Giving Guide.](#)



### In February...

In February, it's all about identifying the why of annual giving, and how to clearly communicate and work toward that missional call. Consider the following:

- What is the missional call that you are working to fund?
- How will you work to fund that mission throughout the year? How will you communicate with your congregation and team, at every conversation around giving, that you are funding your discerned mission?
- Consider whether your congregation has a discerned mission, and whether that mission is clear enough to build time frames around, to particular expectations for, and even to be a measure by which big decisions can be made about what gets funded.

**CHECK OUT WHAT'S COMING!**

## February

2nd - Bishop's Visitation  
St. John's Cathedral  
Spokane, WA

2nd-8th - Clergy Retreat

14th-16th - Winter Cross

16th - Bishop's Visitation  
St. James | Pullman, WA

23rd - Bishop's Visitation  
St. Paul's | Kennewick, WA

## March

1st - Wardens, Treasurers,  
Rectors, Vicars, Workshop  
St. Stephen's | Spokane, WA

2nd - Bishop's Visitation  
St. Stephen's | Spokane, WA

9th - Bishop's Visitation  
St. Paul's | Cheney, WA

16th - Bishop's Visitation  
St. Michael's | Yakima, WA

23rd - House of Bishop's  
Meeting

## April

13th - Palm Sunday

13th - Bishop's Visitation  
St. James' | Cashmere, WA

20th - Easter  
Bishop at St. John's Cathedral  
Spokane, WA