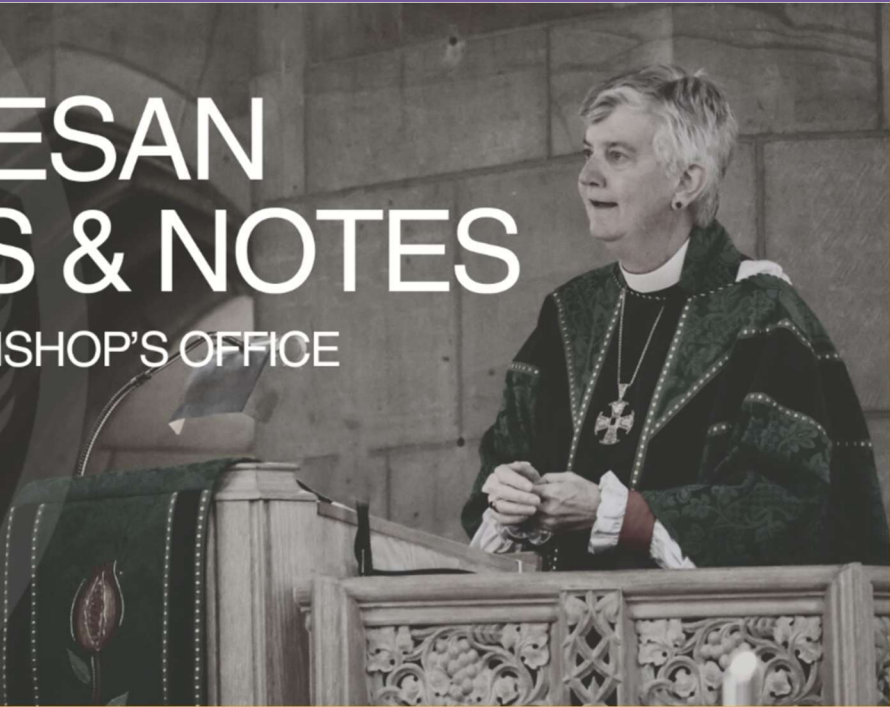


DIOCESAN NEWS & NOTES

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



APRIL 2025

Vol. 9 | Issue 4

FROM THE BISHOP'S PEN

I vividly remember one particular class during the very first theology class I took. That day the professor said that when we die we are dead. Dead, dead, dead, pushing up daisies dead. We all sat there looking at him in a bit of shock as he let the silence grow. Then, he said, God raises us from the dead and into resurrection life. The point he was making is that resurrection life is God given, not something that just is. In the same way, creation itself is God given. This actually is really good news. We say in our funeral liturgy that our hope in the resurrection is “sure and certain” because it is hope that is in God, not in ourselves or our current understanding of reality. God is sure and certain, and in God we place our hope. Hope in this context is not like hoping to find a parking lot – that is actually a wish! Hope is a theological virtue, it is itself given by God, a free gift that we do not have to earn or prove ourselves worthy of. This month we experience Holy Week and Easter, we live the great Triduum, the sacred three days that are our holiest days of the year. We eat with Jesus in the

upper room, we mourn at the foot of the cross, we sit in vigil, and then, at long last, we rejoice in the act of God in the resurrection. Too often we want to rush to resurrection. I totally get this desire, after all who wants to live in suffering and sadness, who wants to sit in grief and mourning. But the cross comes first. And what is truly amazing is that it is God, God the Son, who is on that cross. I might not want to live in a world of suffering and sadness and grief and mourning, but I am a Christian partly because the God I believe in and have given my life to is a God who walks this life with us and knows suffering, has himself wept in grief, has experienced sadness. And this God shows us that these are not all that is. We see in the life of Jesus the God who loves, who heals, who feeds, and who shows us how to do the same.

Resurrection life is given by God, and we have already been given part of that life now. We live through our baptism in the death and resurrection of Christ. The Church is the resurrected Body of Christ. As the resurrected Body of Christ it is our call to offer life, proclaim love, love mercy, be compassionate, do justice, walking humbly, and witness to the way of Love that is life itself. The world offers a vision of life that leads only to pushing up daisies with no hope of life. Christ offers life in the resurrection here and now.

In our world it is easy to get discouraged, easy to think nothing we do matters, easy to slip into the ways of division and discord. We are called to a different way. So we gather together and experience the cross and live the resurrection and are reminded that they both are fully part of God's way. Let us this month be together in worship, be together in prayer, be together in love, so we might be Christ's Body in the world.

+ *Gretchen*

Wardens/Treasurers zoom (open to all who wish to attend)

As we said during our Wardens/treasures/clerics day, we are offering a "first Thursday of the month" zoom from noon to one pm with a focus on the functions classically carried out by

wardens and treasurers. We will have a period of time together in a group and then in breakout rooms by position. We are hoping that the noon hour allows for participation by those who might work during the day, and please feel free to come for as long or as little as you have available.

This month the initial topic is buildings and capital vs operating budgets. It is clear that many congregations do not have a capital improvements plan or budget, or worse, put capital items on the operating expenses. Let's be in conversation about how to prepare for deferred and future capital expenses and how to make sure you are keeping separate capital and operating income and expenses.

Find the zoom link [HERE!](#)

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

CLICK THE PIC FOR MORE INFO





CLERGY CONFERENCE

MAY 12-15
IMMACULATE HEART
RETREAT CENTER




LAY LEADERSHIP RETREAT

MAY 30 - JUNE 1

IMMACULATE HEART RETREAT CENTER



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

Annual Appeal and Camp Cross Sunday

Camp Cross provides a safe and quality summer camp experience for youth, adults, and families across the Diocese of Spokane and beyond to come together and celebrate their faith. We believe in offering this experience to everyone, regardless of circumstance or family income, and as such rely on the generosity of our donors to replenish the scholarship fund each year. A donation of any size is greatly appreciated and helps us continue to expand the ministry's outreach. Please go to: The donation page of our website (or click the button below) and select "Camp Cross Scholarship" or send a check payable to "Episcopal Diocese of Spokane" to 245 E 13th Ave, Spokane WA 99202, with "Camp Cross Scholarship" in the memo line.

All congregations are invited to pass the plate in participation of Camp Cross Sunday, this May 4th. Please consider offering prayers, posting to social media, and including a reminder to folks to sign up for summer camp in your church bulletins and

announcements. Camp Cross is your diocesan summer camp, and we look forward to serving you and members of your congregation this summer (and beyond!).

Cn. Alex Flannagan

[Donate HERE](#)

TENS Webinar

We have an exciting opportunity coming up in May! The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, TENS, will be offering a special webinar segment for our diocese on May 8th, 7-8:30pm! This webinar will be a space for the TENS leadership to offer some stewardship best practices for us, as well as to engage in conversation and answering questions. Clergy and Lay Leaders who are engaged in stewardship are especially welcome, though it is open to anyone! This will be a wonderful opportunity to consider and discuss stewardship ideas and practices before many of our stewardship efforts get underway for the year.

This webinar will be recorded, and the slides will be available for us, so register whether you're able to attend in person or would like to receive the recording.

Register for this free webinar!

Cn. Andrea Oetman

[Register Today!](#)

CHECK OUT WHAT'S COMING!



The Episcopal Diocese
of Spokane

BY THE GRACE OF GOD
AND WITH THE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE

THE RIGHT REVEREND GRETCHEN M REHBERG
BISHOP OF SPOKANE

WILL ORDAIN

JEREMY ARMSTRONG
ELAINE PATRICK

TO THE SACRED ORDER OF DEACONS

ON WEDNESDAY, THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF MAY, TWO-THOUSAND AND
TWENTY FIVE,
AT SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
127 EAST 12TH AVE.
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

YOUR PRAYERS AND PRESENCE ARE REQUESTED

THE FESTIVAL COLOR IS RED
CLERGY ARE INVITED TO VEST AND PROCESS

April

13th - Palm Sunday

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

20th - Easter 2025
Bishop at St. John's Cathedral
Spokane, WA

27th - Bishop's Visitation
Holy Spirit | Sandpoint, ID

May

4th - Bishop's Visitation
Holy Trinity | Grangeville, ID

11th - Bishop's Visitation
Resurrection | Roslyn, WA

12-15 - Clergy Conference
IHRC Spokane, WA

14th - Ordination
St. John's Cathedral

30th - Lay Leadership Retreat
IHRC Spokane, WA

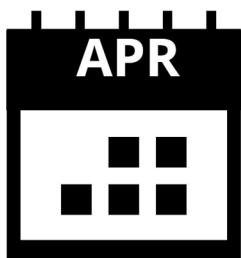
June

15th - Bishop's Visitation
St. Mary's | Bonners Ferry, ID

22nd - Bishop's Visitation
Grace Church | Ellensburg, WA

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 April...

In April, continue the annual giving calendar planning you began in March. Consider the following:

- Finalize your theme, content, and schedule of the annual giving plan that you began discussing in March.
- Design the calendar, goals, and materials that will be needed throughout the year.
- Review campaign prospect lists to determine special asks for major gifts.

