

Discover Our Theme for the Coming Year

DIOCESAN NEWS & NOTES

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



November 2025

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FROM THE BISHOP'S PEN

We had a great convention last month, full of conversation about how God calls us in love and how we respond in love. We gathered for worship, for study, for fellowship. We elected and appointed people to various diocesan leadership bodies, heard reports, and in general celebrated being one diocesan family. It is a busy time, and a good time.

Often at the end of convention, I will announce the theme for the coming year, but the theme was not fully set in my mind at that point. Instead, I was struggling with several options, none of which seemed quite right. As I prayed, as I was in

conversation with and listening to others, slowly the theme came into sight, from our psalms' joyful invitation: *Sing to the Lord a new song!* (Psalm 98:1)

We might hear that as a call to novelty – to leave the old behind and start something entirely new. But in Scripture, a new song is not about discarding what came before. We might hear the phrase as being blind to the challenges before us. But in Scripture a *new song* can be one of lament. No matter what, it is about singing God's song again, freshly, both from a desire for God to act, and in response to what God is doing. Every time God acts in history – delivering Israel from Egypt, renewing the people through the prophets, raising Jesus from the dead, filling the Church with the Holy Spirit – a new song rises up. We sing this song to the Lord, we focus our attention on God, and sing God's song, not the songs of this world.

This theme invites us to listen deeply for what God is doing among us in this season. To “sing a new song” means to let our hearts be tuned once again to God's rhythm – to praise, mercy, and justice – rather than the dissonant noise of fear, division, and despair that so often fills the world around us. It is a call to devotion, transformation, and action, to lives that harmonize with God's ongoing melody of love. We sing as individuals, and we sing especially as choirs, bring our unique voices together in a community of song where every person is needed for the harmony we sing.

We do not ignore the songs we have sung before. Our familiar hymns, our traditions, and our shared stories remain precious threads in the fabric of faith. We also know that God's Spirit is always composing — adding new verses to the ancient refrain. Singing a new song means joining God in that creative work, letting the Spirit breathe new life into our worship, our community, and our witness.

As we move through this year together, may we be attentive to the new song God is teaching us.

May we sing it with courage and joy.

And may the world hear, through our lives, not the echo of anxiety or division, but the music of God's love — ancient, ever-new, and meant for all creation.

“Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.” — Psalm 96:1

Faithfully,

+ *Gretchen*

Lay Leader Retreat Cancelled

Our Lay Leader Retreat originally planned for November 14–16, 2025 has been cancelled. The good news is that we still have our Spring Lay Leader Retreat happening on May 1–3, 2026! Registration isn't open for that yet, but please mark your calendars and save the date for this special weekend of connection, learning, and renewal. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months!

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

CLICK THE PIC FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER

DIO CON 2025

**MISSED
CONVENTION?
CLICK HERE
FOR ALL
VIDEOS AND
RESOURCES.**



ALL LEADERSHIP MEETING

NOVEMBER 7-8

IMMACULATE HEART RETREAT CENTER



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 PRIESTS

ON SATURDAY, THE SIXTH DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO-THOUSAND AND
TWENTY FIVE,
AT TEN THIRTY IN THE MORNING

THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT 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

November

2 - Bishop's Visitation
All Saint's | Richland, WA

6 - Wardens and Treasurer's
Zoom Meeting

7 & 8 - All Leadership
Meeting | IHRC

9 - Bishop's Visitation
St. Peter's | Pomeroy, WA

~~14 to 16 - Lay Leadership
Retreat~~ | CANCELLED

27 - Thanksgiving!
Dio Office Closed 🍂

December

4 - Wardens and Treasurer's
Zoom Meeting

6 - Ordination to the
Priesthood | 10:30am
St. John's Cathedral

14 - Bishop's Visitation
St. Paul's | Walla Walla, WA

22 - Dio Office Closed until
1/5/2026

25 - Merry Christmas! 🎄

January

8 - Wardens and Treasurer's
Zoom Meeting

18 - Bishop's Visitation
Resurrection | Spo. Valley,
WA

25 - Bishop's Visitation
St. Andrew's | Spokane, 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 November...



In November, continue building toward your fall campaign plans.

- Have a celebration event to mark the end of the campaign!
- Consider a Pledge Blessing Sunday or similar communal recognition.
- Year-end letters: begin thinking and planning toward tax benefit letters and how to communicate gratitude and your

church's mission in conjunction with them.

- Send out thank yous to all paying donors, confirming pledge and amount paid to date.

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND TEC



News & Resources

Check out this great resource for you and your congregations!

[Read More](#)