



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of* SPOKANE

News & Notes | June, 2026

ARTICLE FROM THE BISHOP'S PEN

I have never been an exercise for the sake of exercise person. I don't really like it. But I was an athlete, back in the day. I played basketball, track, ran cross country, and I worked out in the fire department gym. All of those I did as a member of a team, with others working out as well, playing together, supporting one another. I enjoyed the atmosphere and even the competition of the workouts. As I got older and those things went away, I had dogs that kept me active, and I enjoyed walking with my dogs over the years. But as my lungs got worse and my dog died, that all stopped. And that was fine with me, the point was never the exercise, but the companionship. Many people love to exercise and don't need companionship to do so, but I am not one of them. I wonder if that is also part of why I am a "religious not just spiritual" person - I want, no I need, the community of the faithful for my spiritual health. I find it easier to pray the Offices of the church in community with others, find my commitment to being in worship stronger when I know others are also there, feel a sense of being part of something much bigger than just my own self.

Being religious and not just spiritual is more than just being part of a community however, it is also about taking on the challenge of seeing the Godly in the ugly. A community is never all peaches and cream, it is never all happiness and light. When we gather in community we have differences of opinions, we argue, we get petty and jealous, we have our feelings hurt, we can be anything but Christlike. But we also learn how to forgive, to have compassion, to be with one another in sorrow and in joy, we bring food, we offer healing, we support and uphold one another. When we commit to being in the community of the church we commit to seeing Christ in the face of our fellow members, even when they just irritated us. Sometimes it is easier to see Christ in the face of a stranger than the fellow parishioner who just stepped on your last nerve. And yet it is in community that we learn what it means to truly

follow Jesus. Jesus called his disciples into community, taught them, empowered them, and sent them out to be disciples. And Jesus does the same for us. The work of the disciple is not exercise for its own sake, but the work of Christ for the sake of the world. The spiritual exercises are not for our personal satisfaction but for the exercise of ministry in the world.

As I continue to work to rebuild my own strength and stamina after major surgery, I know that having a partner in this work has been essential, by myself it would be too easy to skip the hard work of rehab. Just like in my spiritual life it can be easy to skip the work of keeping my spiritual muscles healthy without others who support me. And my task is to be support to others in their spiritual life. It is when we gather in community, a messy community yes but an essential community, that we can truly grow in our discipleship. I invite you this month to find ways to uphold one another in your communities, and to support one another in your life in Christ.

Faithfully,

+Gretchen

Follow along with Bishop Gretchen's healing journey by clicking the button below. New updates are shared each Friday—offering a way to stay connected and hold her in prayer in the weeks ahead.

[Bishop's CaringBridge Link](#)

IMPORTANT THINGS COMING!

SPOKANE PRIDE 2026



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SPOKANE



Save The Date

The Building Bridges; Healing Divides grant program is partnering with Music that Makes Community to offer a communal song sharing retreat that digs a little deeper into how communal song sharing can bridge and heal in our communities.

[Register Here](#)



Camp Cross

Registration for Camp Cross 2026 summer sessions are open! There's a camp for everyone so make sure you sign up today. Scholarships are available!

[Sign Up Today](#)



DIO CON | Pasco, WA

Save the date for Diocesan Convention in Pasco, WA and make sure to book your room ahead of time! Registration opens June 1st.

[Learn More Here](#)

CANON'S CORNER

2026
CAMP CROSS
CABIN FURNITURE FUNDRAISER

Pilgrims (\$1+):
The Rev. Rachel Endicott
Susan Fisher
Fred Guimond
Bettina Katz
Skyler Oberst
Roberta Rebeck
Jim Rees
Rebecca Robins
Ray Rosch
Linda Wharton
Andy Zahl

Companions (\$100+):
The Rev's Linda & Adam Bartholomew
MaryAnn Bennett
Nicole Dietrich
Vicki Gerton
Janine Hales
Peter Kahlunian Jr.
Martha Klaveano
Janyce Johnson
David & Ann Newton
The Rev. John Palarine
Louise Pallis
Thomas Pitzer
Dean Ritchie
St. Luke's Episcopal Church,
Coeur d'Alene
Bill Tubbs
Andy Zahl

Wayfinders (\$200+):
Pat Bernardo
Theresa & Richard Brim
Jennifer Casper
Vanita Davis
The Rev. Dr. Peter & Kathy Kalunian
Mary McPherson
Suzanne Vogt
The Rev. Linda & Gia Young

Stewards (\$500+):
Eric Kimball
Sarah Moore

Witnesses (\$1,000+):
Patricia Drake
Alex Flannagan
David Hutton
Dorothy LaMastus
The Rev. Nic & Krista Mather
The Rev. Bob Totten

Angels (\$2,500+):
Colleen Knowles

Archangels (\$5,000+):
The Rev. Susan & Brian Cleveley
Joanne & Dan Cenis

Luminaries (\$10,000+):
The Rt. Rev. Gretchen & Margaret Rehberg
Joan Ogden, the Very Rev. Heather
VanDeventer, and the Rev. Dr David Gortner

TOTAL RAISED SO FAR: \$44,638.29

Camp Cross Cabin Furniture Campaign Update and Labor of Love Invitation!

For generations, Camp Cross has been a place where people encounter God's love in community. Our new facilities will help us extend our missional reach to serve those who may have found the existing infrastructure difficult to use; featuring improved accessibility, private bathrooms, and comfortable accommodations. **Our goal is to raise \$80,000 by July** to fully furnish every cabin, and an additional \$80,000 to create a maintenance endowment for the cabins. Every donation matters. We invite those who can to adopt a cabin for \$10,000, fully funding \$5,000 for furniture and \$5,000 for maintenance. **So far we've raised over \$44,000 with your generous support.**

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated so far - there are lots of you - see photo above or right click it to download!

Register Now for Labor of Love 2, Fri June 5th-7th

We're building a new labyrinth at Camp Cross and we need your help! Participants will work as a team to prep the site, dig small trenches and lay red bricks to create a gorgeous new meditation space for campers and guests. Full instruction will be provided, all you need to bring is a good and willing attitude. Other opportunities during the weekend include cleaning goose poop off the docks, gathering fallen pine cones off of the trails, and helping in the kitchen to serve meals. \$20 per person. Accommodation and three square meals a day provided. Guests are welcome to stay and help as late as June 10th. Hit the button below to register!

Cn. Alex Flannagan
Executive Director of Camp Cross
Canon for Camp, Youth & Family Ministries

Cn. Andrea Is Out On Sabbatical

Friends,

It is with joy that I begin a three month sabbatical, beginning now and ending in the final week of August! This upcoming September will mark 7 years of ministry and service with the Diocese of Spokane. I confess that I am tired. I am beyond grateful that I have an opportunity for rest and renewal in the form of sabbatical, and thank Bishop Gretchen for this generous opportunity. My foci for this season are Rest and Beauty. I will be spending as much time in the beauty of nature as possible this summer while also engaging some life-nurturing reading, art, and contemplation.

Please hold me in prayer during this season as I likewise hold you in prayer. I cannot wait to re-engage work and ministry again this fall, and hope to see many of you at Diocesan Convention in October!

As always, I live in gratitude to follow Jesus with each of you, and look forward to what will unfold for us this fall after this season of rest and beauty. I'm curious what new songs we will sing together!

God's joy be ever with us,
Andrea

HERE'S THE NEXT 3 MONTHS

JUNE

4 - Wardens and Treasurer's Zoom Meeting

5 to 7 - Lay Leaders Retreat IHRC

5 to 7 - Camp Cross Labor of Love 2

6 - Walla Walla PRIDE

13 - Spokane PRIDE

14 - Tri-Cities PRIDE

JULY

2 - Wardens and Treasurer's Zoom Meeting

9 to 12 - Sandpoint PRIDE

27 to 31 - Hawaii Pilgrimage

AUGUST

6 - Wardens and Treasurer's Zoom Meeting

25 - Beloved Community Zooms Continue

28 & 29 - BB;HD In-Person meeting

All Bishop Visitations have been cancelled until further notice.



HAPPENING AROUND THE DIOCESE

Congregations In Call

Our congregations in the Diocese of Spokane are searching for clergy who are passionate about community, creativity, and meaningful ministry. Whether you're looking for a new call or simply exploring what's next, we invite you to learn more about the churches and communities we serve across Eastern Washington and North Idaho.

[View Current Openings Here](#)

Beloved Community

The Clergy Immigration Table and Comunidad Cristiana recently gathered in Spokane Valley to hear a powerful firsthand story from a congregant recently released from ICE detention, highlighting the real and ongoing impact of immigration enforcement on local families. Read the full article by The Rev. Rick Matters to learn more and how you can support families in need.



[See the Full Article Here](#)