



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of* SPOKANE

News & Notes | September, 2026

ARTICLE FROM THE BISHOP'S PEN

I have been reflecting on gratitude recently. I have found myself incredibly grateful. Grateful to be home and able to be back working again. Grateful for the outpouring of support to the diocese around the fires. Grateful for the changing seasons and movement into fall (my favorite season). Grateful for the finishing of the Camp Cross retreat center and new cabins. I know that there are lots of books about gratitude, suggestions for a gratitude journal, ways of practicing gratitude, and I also wonder if at times we simply need to allow ourselves to be grateful! With no expectation of writing it down or doing something about it. Sometimes we just need to feel.

I have also been pondering the relationship of generosity and gratitude. The many people generously supporting the disaster relief fund, the many people generously giving for the new construction at Camp Cross, the many people generously giving of their time and efforts to support the work of camp and their local congregation all have led me to gratitude. What I know is that the example of the generosity of others, and my gratitude for that generosity, leads me to greater generosity myself.

As we enter into fall, the back to school for many, the changing seasons, I wonder how we are being called to generosity and gratitude. I wonder as well about different types of generosity. For instance, the generosity of service to others is one of time and talent. The generosity of both stepping up to and stepping back from leadership. The generosity of noticing the gifts of others and naming those gifts. The generosity

of offering thanks for service others have offered. What I do know is that generosity and gratitude transform us.

Let us this fall engage in generosity and gratitude, and especially offer our gratitude to God for God's gracious generosity towards us!

Faithfully,

+Gretchen

Fall Gathering Day 2026

You are invited to join congregations across the region and diocese for the fall Gathering Day! Why might you come? Because it will day of learning, fellowship, and gaining ways to help our congregations in these challenging times.

Human beings are story tellers, stories help us make sense of our history and our present, and help cast the vision of the future. Some of those stories are spoken, some written, and some sung. We will be looking at how “Sing a new song the Lord” is about telling our story today, and how that song shapes our sense of the world and our desire for the future. We will look at the songs sung in Scripture and how those songs can speak to us today. We will look at how music itself helps us tell our stories, and how music impacts those stories. And we will ask song we are singing today – the story we have both as individuals and as congregations. This work will help us as congregational members and leaders see song and story in a new way and how we can use song and story to shape our life together.

[See Gathering Day Locations Here](#)

FROM THE DIOCESAN OFFICE



Standing Together in the Face of Wildfire

Our hearts are with all those who have been impacted by the devastating wildfires across Spokane and throughout the regions of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane. We continue to hold in prayer those who have lost homes, businesses, communities, and a sense of security, as well as the firefighters, first responders, volunteers, and neighbors who are caring for one another in the midst of this crisis.

Through the generosity of our diocesan community, the

Disaster Relief Fund is already helping congregations and communities affected by the fires. Your support is providing much-needed assistance where it is needed most, allowing us to respond together as the hands and feet of Christ.

If you are able, please consider making a gift to the Disaster Relief Fund. Every contribution helps us continue to care for our neighbors, support our congregations, and bring hope and practical assistance to those affected by these devastating fires. Together, we can remind our neighbors that they are not alone.

[Donate Here](#)

IMPORTANT EVENTS COMING!



Come on Sept. 5th!

Join us at Camp Cross to celebrate our brand new Cabins and Retreat Center. Lunch is provided, so please make sure to register!

[More Info Here](#)



Retreat with Music!

Register today for a musical retreat! Hear from diverse music leaders and take back what you learn to your congregations!

[Register Today](#)



DIO CON | Pasco, WA

Diocesan Convention 2026 is in Pasco, WA on October 16th - 18th. Register today to reserve your spot!

[Register Here](#)

THE NEXT 3 MONTHS

SEPTEMBER

3 - Wardens and Treasurer's Zoom Meeting

5 - Theological Ethics | Iona Collaborative Course Begins

10 - Church History | Iona Collaborative Course Begins

11 to 13 - Music That Makes Community at Camp Cross

13 - Bishop Visit: St. Stephen's | Spokane, WA

18 to 19 - Council Meeting

19 - COM

20 to 29 - House of Bishops

26 - Fall Gathering Day

OCTOBER

1 - Wardens and Treasurer's Zoom Meeting

2 to 4 - Creation Care Camp at Camp Cross

4 - Bishop Visit: St. Timothy's Yakima, WA

11 - Bishop Visit: St. Paul's Walla Walla, WA

25 - Bishop Visit: St. Peter's Pomeroy, WA

16 to 18 - Diocesan Convention | Pasco, WA

25 - Bishop Visit: St. Peter's | Pomeroy, WA

NOVEMBER

1 - Bishop Visit
St. Lukes | Wenatchee
Methow Episcopal | Winthrop

5 - Wardens and Treasurer's Zoom Meeting

8 - Bishop Visit
St. Andrew's | Chelan, WA

22 - Bishop Visit
St. James' | Cashmere, WA

26 - Happy Thanksgiving
(Office Closed 26 & 27)



HAPPENING AROUND THE DIOCESE

Indigenous Voice of a Follower of Jesus

Join the Beloved Community of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane for a five-week study of Indigenous Voice of a Follower of Jesus. Together, we will explore a vision of faith where creation is family, healing happens through relationship, and the Creator speaks through many voices.

The group will meet Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom, beginning September 17 and continuing through October 15. This study is free of charge.

To register, please email rickmatters@gmail.com.

CHURCH HISTORY

Presented By The Iona Collaborative



Theological Ethics

Presented By The Iona Collaborative

