



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of* SPOKANE

News & Notes | October, 2026

ARTICLE FROM THE BISHOP'S PEN

At the House of Bishops meeting recently we talked a lot about what we're seeing in the world today, and much of what we are seeing is change.

Throughout the world we are experiencing rapid change due, in part, to climate change, technological advances, wars, and demographic changes. These changes come to us as external forces, beyond our immediate control, and so many people feel powerless. Rapid change that people feel powerless in the face of brings anger and resentment, and people look for something or someone to blame. Scapegoating others is a classic way people respond to express a sense of power and control. We are seeing this taking place on the global level.

We have been here before. Our history and our scripture tells us the dangers of scapegoating others, seeing other people as enemies and the source of all our problems. Fear and hatred do not bring about good. When we allow fear and anger to lead us to exclusion, to scapegoating, to discrimination, we always end up on the wrong side of the Gospel.

Fortunately, there is another way, and it is the way of Jesus. When the world sings hate, we sing love. When the world sings revenge, we sing forgiveness. When the world sings punishment, we sing mercy. When the world sings fear, we sing faith.

There are many changes taking place in our world, and I expect that to continue; But what will we sing in response to those changes? This past year, our diocesan theme has been sing to the Lord a new song. The songs we sing are new because we live in new times, but they are not new when it comes to love and forgiveness and mercy

and faith. We sing with our spiritual ancestors, our songs of hope and joy, lament and sorrow, trust, and faith. We are called to sing a new song to the Lord in a world that does not know the song. We are called to let our voices ring out the story of salvation, the story of hope, the story of redemption. As we sing a new song to the Lord let us use the words and the tunes that speak to us today, and let us join our voices with our spiritual ancestors in trust and faith and love and hope so that in the midst of great changes around us, we will not give in to the fear and anger but stay firmly rooted in our faith in Christ.

Faithfully,

+Gretchen

CANON'S CORNER

A Sabbatical in Nature, Rest, and Joy!

Cn. Andrea Oetman

I'm so happy to be "back" after my sabbatical this summer! For three months, I had the privilege and opportunity to step away from the daily demands of work and to focus on the beauty of nature, on rest, and on joy.

My favorite part of sabbatical was the intentional time spent in nature. Connecting with God in nature is one of my favorite ways of spiritual engagement. While I spent most of my hiking, camping, paddleboarding, and biking time within the diocese, I also was able to visit the foothills of the Rockies in Colorado and the diversity of Yellowstone.



Paying attention to nature is one of my favorite forms of prayer. The act of hugging a giant tree or taking a nap on a paddleboard in a little cove or dropping to my knees to view the tiniest flowers imaginable... these are the moments when my body reaches out to the Creator.

Many of the practices I engaged on sabbatical are ones I can and do incorporate into my daily life as well. Taking a few minutes to watch how the breeze is blowing through the leaf-bitten lilac bush outside my window, or listening to the drops of much-needed rain as they hit my squash leaves. (Please, if you would like some squashes, let me know!) Prayer can be both a spectacular, top-of-the-mountain experience and an ordinary leaf stuck to your shirtsleeve experience. I find myself longing for both, almost continually.

I wonder what prayer is like for you in nature. What do you find more easy or more complicated about prayer in and with nature?

Grateful to be on this journey with you,
Cn. Andrea

IMPORTANT EVENTS COMING!

**DIO
CON
2026**

SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG!

OCTOBER 16TH - 18TH



**RED LION
PASCO, WA**



ALL LEADERSHIP MEETING

IMMACULATE HEART RETREAT CENTER
DECEMBER 4 & 5



THE NEXT 3 MONTHS

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
16 to 18 - Diocesan Convention Pasco, WA
25 - Bishop Visit: St. Peter's | Pomeroy, WA

NOVEMBER

1 - Bishop Visit St. Luke's | 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 Diocesan Office Closed 11/25-11/27

DECEMBER

3 - Wardens and Treasurer's Zoom Meeting
4 & 5 - All Leadership Meeting IHRC | Spokane, WA
6 - Bishop Visit St. Anne's | Omak, WA
13 - Bishop Visit Holy Trinity | Sunnyside, WA
20 - Bishop Visit St. Paul's | Kennewick, WA
25 - Merry Christmas! Diocesan Office Closed 12/21/26 - 1/4/27



HAPPENING AROUND THE DIOCESE



Exercising Your Baptismal Vows Politically

An Article by Beloved Community

What does our faith have to do with voting and civic life? The Beloved Community Working Group reflects on how our Baptismal Covenant calls us to seek justice, love our neighbors, care for the stranger, and steward creation, and how those

commitments can shape the way we participate in our communities and elections.

This article offers practical ways to put faith into action, from prayerfully learning about candidates and issues and making a voting plan to encouraging others to participate, respecting differing perspectives, and becoming involved in local

government. It also invites us to pray for fair elections and for God's will to be done in our communities and country.

[Read Full Article Here](#)

Community Engagement

Mallory Davis

Are you seeking to build skills around community engagement and organizing?

The Church has a long history of acting in partnership with the community for making changes. If you are interested in developing the skills of a partner-in-change, we have a free offering just for that!

As part of our membership in Spokane Alliance, diocesan members can attend Foundations of Organizing Training offered by Spokane Alliance for free. The next training is November 20-21, 2026.

Register below as a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane and then send me a message letting me know you've done so.

Sincerely,
Mallory Davis
Program Director
Building Bridges; Healing Divides
Episcopal Diocese of Spokane

[Register Here](#)



**FOUNDATIONS
of
COMMUNITY
ORGANIZING**

Learn how to build power, engage in democracy, and make lasting change.

Concrete skills to:

- Build strong public relationships
- Create action-oriented institutions
- Take action

DATE: Friday November 20 and Saturday November 21
TIME: 9am-4pm
LOCATION: 230 E Montgomery (Spokane Ed Assoc.)
RSVP: spokanealliance.org/events



SPOKANE ALLIANCE

UNTO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

THE LEGACY OF THE
GREAT COMMISSION IN
THE INLAND NORTHWEST

St. John's Cathedral
Sept 17-Nov 14, 2026
Thurs-Sat 10:30a-4p
or by appointment

Featuring the
Spokane Garry Bible Collection

Sept 19, Oct 10, Nov 7

On loan from the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture



127 E 12th Avenue, Spokane | stjohns-cathedral.org | 509-838-4277



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