



The Diocese of Springfield

# E-NEWSLETTER

April 2026 - The Week of Palm Sunday

*The Annunciation, Shutterstock*

## ECCI Registration is Open

Registration for Episcopal Church Camp of Illinois 2026 is open! This year's week of camp will be held from Sunday, June 21st through Friday, June 26th. ECCI is a wonderful place for both youth and adult participants alike to be enriched through experiencing life in Christ together out in nature. This year's week of camp will once again be hosted at Camp Wartburg in Waterloo, Illinois. Parents should take note that this year's pickup date is on Friday, not on Saturday as it usually is. Sign up now to take advantage of the \$25 early bird discount. Additional discounts are available for first time campers (half off!) and students that refer a first time camp attendee. To register, click [here](#).



## UPCOMING:

- 4/02 - Maundy Thursday
- 4/03 - Good Friday
- 4/04 - Holy Saturday
- 4/05 - Easter Sunday
- 4/21 - Anselm of Canterbury
- 4/25 - Saint Mark the Evangelist
- 4/29 - Catherine of Siena

# Report from the Anglican Diocese of Tabora

*Below is an abridged message from the Rev. Canon Lucas Ngassa Chuma, the Diocesan Executive Secretary for the Diocese of Tabora.*

“On behalf of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Elias Chakupewa, Bishop of the Tabora Diocese, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous financial support toward the construction of the Girls’ Hostel project. Your partnership has been a great encouragement to our ministry and to the community we serve.



The Girls’ Hostel is being constructed to provide safe, secure, and supportive accommodation for girls pursuing their education. This facility will significantly contribute to improving attendance, academic performance, and overall well-being for the beneficiaries.

We are pleased to report that construction has progressed well. The main structural walls from the foundation have been completed, room partitions are in place, and the building layout is now clearly visible. The remaining phases of the project include roofing, plastering, flooring, doors and window installation, electrical and plumbing, and finishing. We remain hopeful that, with God’s provision and continued partnership, this important project will be completed successfully for the benefit of many young girls in our community. Once again, we thank you wholeheartedly for your generosity, commitment, and love demonstrated through this support.

Kindly continue to keep this project, the beneficiaries, and our Diocese in your prayers as we move toward completion. May God richly bless you and your ministry.

Yours faithfully,  
Rev. Canon Lucas Ngassa Chuma

## St. Paul's Bell Blessing

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, with the blessing of Bishop Burgess, Fr Garron Daniels blessed the new Carillon Bell System at St Paul's. The new electronic bell system was given to the glory of God by David and Nancy Elson in memory of their son, Benjamin Robert Elson. The bell has been nicknamed "Big Ben"; the same nickname Ben Elson had most of his life. This is the first time in 166 years that bells have rung out at St Paul's. The bells can be heard every hour and at Noon and 6 PM for the Angelus prayers.



## Evensong in Champaign

The Chapel of St. John the Divine will present Choral Evensong on May 24th, Pentecost, at 4:00 pm. A picnic reception follows the service.



# Combined Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Beginning on the Eve of Thanksgiving Day, 2026, the people of the Central and Southern Illinois Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) will join with the Diocese of Springfield in a service of Holy Eucharist. The service location will alternate yearly between the Cathedral of St. Paul the Apostle and one of the three Springfield Lutheran Congregations (Grace Lutheran Church, Peace Lutheran Church, and St. John's Lutheran



Church). The order of service will be according to the tradition of the church in which the Mass is being hosted and will include a combined choir, with the Offering being designated to a local outreach program. These services will provide an excellent opportunity for those of the ELCA and the Diocese of Springfield to join together in fellowship and worship, to the glory of God.



## Invitation to Cursillo

The next Cursillo weekend is set for October 1-4th at Toddhall in Columbia, Il. The Cursillo weekend, a three-day retreat, designed to deepen relationships with Christ, ignite faith renewal, and foster growth in Christian service, while strengthening faith through fellowship, prayer, daily worship, music and spiritual reflection. This year's Cursillo begins on Thursday evening, October 1st and concludes late Sunday afternoon the 4th, offering a powerful experience for committed Christians seeking spiritual exploration. Additional information is available in the Canterbury Room or through discussions with anyone who has attended a weekend in the past.



**EPISCOPAL  
CURSILLO  
MINISTRY**



## NASHOTAH HOUSE

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Artists and art-lovers alike are invited to The Tree of Life, an arts retreat hosted at Nashotah House from June 15-19, 2026. Over the course of the week, we will gather in prayer, shared meals, and the joy of artistic collaboration as we participate in discussion groups, studio demonstrations and instruction, and, most significantly, make art together. Drawing on philosopher Hans Georg Gadamer's inspirational essay "The Relevance of the Beautiful" on the tripartite nature of Beauty — play, symbol, and festival — retreat participants and instructors will collaborate in serious play to produce meaningful and beautiful symbols, designs, objects, and images, culminating in a festive final group installation piece. Registration is due by May 15th. For more information or to register, [click here](#).



## SEWANEE

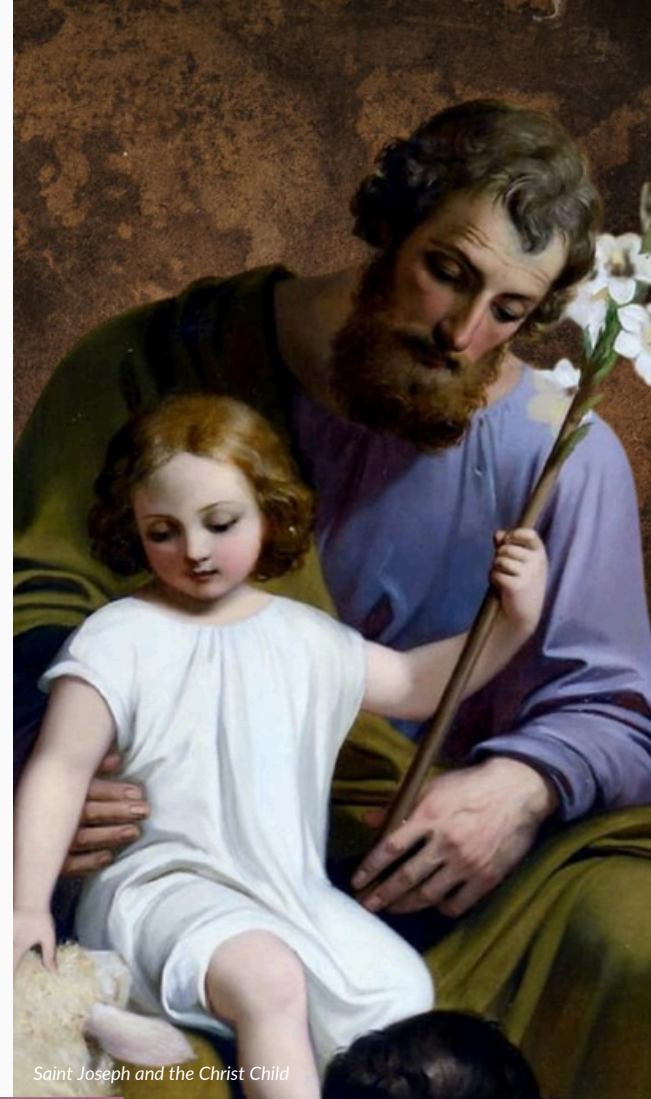
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

St. Augustine's Altar Guild of All Saints' Chapel in Sewanee, Tennessee will host a liturgical arts conference featuring Marianna Garthwaite Klaiman, an expert in the field of church textiles. Marianna will offer a presentation in the morning covering many aspects of our church vestments, including their history and specific information about care and restoration. The afternoon will be devoted to a hands-on workshop where participants will make a padded hanger suitable for use with heavy vestments. The fee for the conference is \$50.00 per person and includes lunch and all materials for the workshop. Space is limited to 100 participants, so register early! For more details and registration information, email [staugustinesguild@gmail.com](mailto:staugustinesguild@gmail.com).

Please include those in our Diocese who are pursuing Holy Orders in your prayers:

Danny Shuler, Postulant, St. Thomas, Salem  
Andrew Mead, Postulant, Trinity, Lincoln  
Zach Buscher, Postulant, Trinity, Lincoln  
Jeff Wenzel, Postulant, The Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle, Springfield  
Len Harris, Postulant, Church of the Redeemer, Cairo

You can visit our website to check out the most up-to-date prayer calendar ([click here](#)) or our diocesan calendar ([click here](#)) with feasts and other events listed for around the Diocese.



*Saint Joseph and the Christ Child*



# DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

