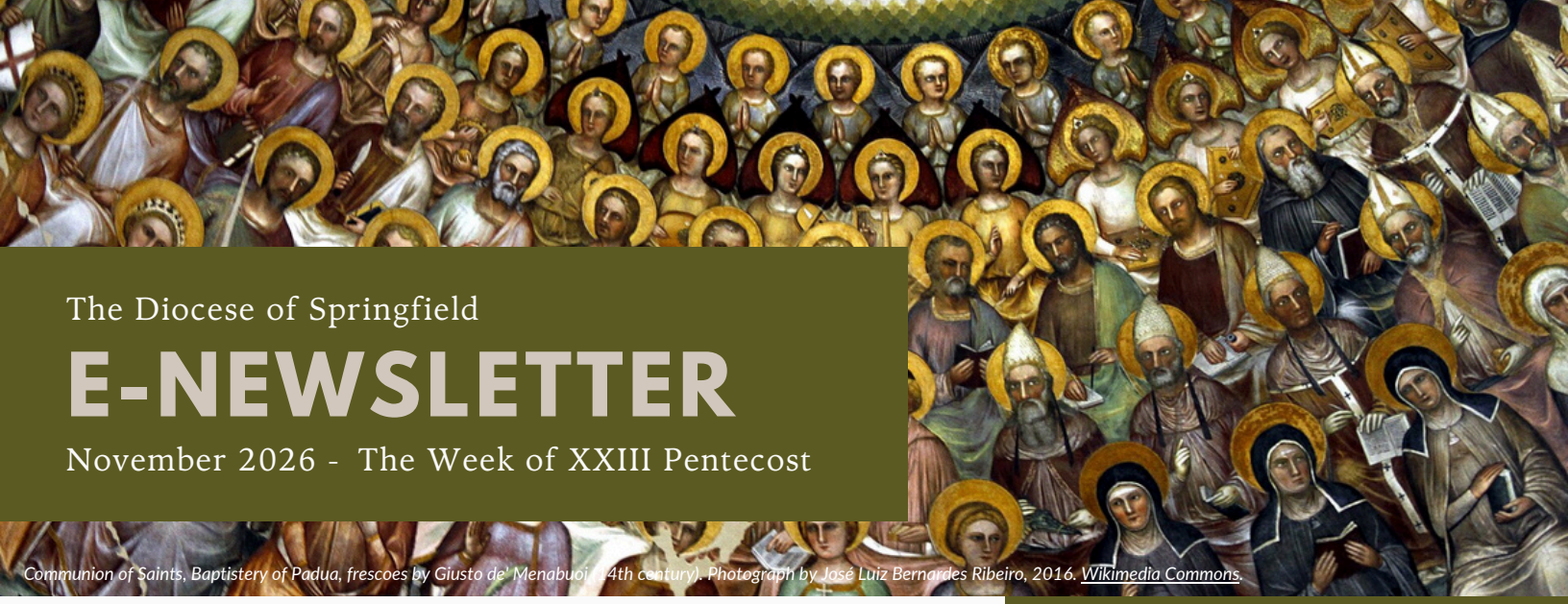


Communion of Saints, Baptistery of Padua, frescoes by Giusto de' Menabuoi (14th century). Photograph by José Luiz Bernardes Ribeiro, 2016. Wikimedia Commons.

The Diocese of Springfield

E-NEWSLETTER

November 2026 - The Week of XXIII Pentecost

Capital Improvement Grant Applications Now Open

Applications for Capital Improvement Grants are open once again. These funds are being made available by the generosity of communicants and friends of the Diocese of Springfield who have been assured that .40 of every dollar given to the Diocesan Appeal will be designated for Capital Improvement matching grants throughout our Diocese. The other 60% will be directed to renovations at St. James Chapel in Marion. 40% of the collected funds are available for matching grants.

The maximum matching grant amount is $5,000. Highest priority will be given to first-time applicants. To apply, please complete the grant application (click here) by December 11, 2026.



UPCOMING:

11/01 - All Saints' Day

11/07 - The Feast of Saint Willibrord

11/09 - The Feast of Saint Ammonius

11/10 - The Feast of Saint Leo of Rome

11/11 - The Feast of Saint Martin of Tours

11/14 - The Consecration of Samuel Seabury

11/18 - The Feast of Saint Hilda of Whitby

11/20 - The Feast of Saint Edmund

11/23 - Clement of Rome

11/26 - Thanksgiving Day

11/30 - St. Andrew the Apostle

The Gift of Camp for Christmas

From Jeremiah Ratliff, Camp Coordinator

As Camp Coordinator for the Diocese, I was offered the distinct privilege to give the keynote address to the 149th Annual Synod. In true "Camp Coordinator" fashion, I had our leadership laughing, singing a silly song, and pausing to deeply consider the mission that God had presented to us.

In my address, I was able to give a moving review of ECC 2026 and cast a vision for ECC 2027. And while this Camp Coordinator walked away from Synod feeling more than supported by our diocesan leaders, I know we will need far more support than that to make our goals.

For ECC 2027 (which is occurring on June 27- July 2) I challenged our leadership to send 50 kids to camp. While I know it is an ambitious goal, should our diocese succeed in doing so, I will do the most embarrassing and humiliating thing I can think of: shave off my beard in front of everyone on the first night of camp.

"How can we help make Jeremiah shave off his 11 year old beard (which is old enough to be a camper itself) in front of a live studio audience?" You can start by giving the Gift of Camp for Christmas!



Instead of giving your child the latest electronic, newest fashion trend, or toy that they'll eventually tire of, why not give them a week of unforgettable, life-changing experiences where the true "reason for the season" is the center of it all?

For those who purchase a camper registration as a gift for Christmas, your recipient will receive a special certificate to unwrap that tells them they're going to camp. For more information, please contact our Communications Coordinator at communicator@episcopalspringfield.org.

I look forward to seeing you as I tour for ECC 2027 and I ho-ho-hope you'll consider the gift of camp!

Blessings,
Jeremiah Ratliff





Fugues & Fancies:
An Evening of Celebration, Reflection and Joy

On November 21st at 4:30 PM the Episcopal Parish of Alton with be hosting a special evening of music played by Wesley Hall on St. Paul's remarkable 38 rank (3 manual) Dial organ. Wesley will be playing music from Bruhns, Chee, Bach, Zimmer and more. This concert is a free will offering with a reception to follow after the performance.



149th Annual Synod Election Results

Thank you to the Episcopal Parish of Alton for hosting an excellent 149th Annual Synod of the Diocese of Springfield, and thank you to the team of volunteers that worked together to make the weekend possible. This year's Synod was filled with good discussion, good food, good fellowship, and great worship. To read the Bishop's Annual report or view the Synod slideshow, click here.



Election Results

- The Rev. Mark Klamer - *Secretary*
- Gerry Smith - *Treasurer*
- The Rev. James K. Muriuki - *Standing Committee Officer, President*
- Mr. Martin Rowe - *Trustee*
- The Rev. John Conner - *Diocesan Council*
- Stephen Chadwick, M.D. - *Disciplinary Board*
- Mrs. Sally Duncan - *Diocesan Council*
- Mr. Michael Hopkins - *Commission on Ministry*
- The Rev. Garron Daniels - *Disciplinary Board*
- The Very Rev. Sheryl Black - *Provincial Synod Delegate*
- The Rev. Mark W. Ohlemeier - *Standing Committee Officer, Secretary*
- Susan Beard - *Standing Committee*
- The Rev. Benjamin D. Hankinson - *Camp Board*
- Jennifer Emery - *Camp Board*
- Mrs. Janet Stormer - *Commission on Ministry*
- The Reverend Geoffrey Scanlon - *Commission on Ministry*
- The Very Reverend Greg Wilde - *Diocesan Council*
- Mrs. Ellen Burbage - *Department of Audit, Chair*



Thanksgiving Eve Mass

Bishop Burgess is pleased to announce that the Diocese of Springfield will be hosting the people of the Central and Southern Illinois Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) for a new annual tradition of a combined Thanksgiving Eve service. This year, the service will hosted at the Cathedral of St. Paul the Apostle at 6:00 PM on November 25th, 2026. Please consider joining with the diocese in this excellent ecumenical opportunity.

EDSC Cursillo Logo

After years of borrowing the logo from the national organization (ECMC), EDSC now has its own logo! The Secretariat reviewed several entries and selected this "mosaic" design. The logo concept depicts the Cross at the center of the design. The 4 circles indicate 4 people working together to grow spiritually (from an overhead view of a table group, or a reunion group). The many colors indicate the creativeness of God's interaction with each of us.

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

Andrew Mead, Postulant, Trinity, Lincoln
Zach Buscher, Postulant, Trinity, Lincoln
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.



St. Martin of Tours, icon by Father Silouan, Monastery of Our Lady of Mercy, New York City. Photograph courtesy of Jim Forest, via Flickr.

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois