

The Diocese of Springfield

E-NEWSLETTER

October 2025 - The Week of XVI Pentecost

The Communion of Saint Theresa, Juan Martin Cabezalero, 1670, Picryl

148th Annual Synod Keynote Speaker

Bishop Burgess is pleased to announce that The Reverend Canon Lang Lowrey of the Diocese of Atlanta has accepted the invitation to offer the keynote address during this year's 148th Annual Synod. Canon Lowrey and his son are principals of the Lowrey Group of Georgia. After a several-year break to become ordained as an Episcopal priest and lead the start-up of an Atlanta-area parish and school as founding vicar, Lang has returned to the business world with a fresh perspective on moving organizations forward.



The Lowrey Group,
<https://lowreygroup.wordpress.com/about/>

Canon Lowrey serves as canon of Christian enterprises for the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta and helps churches figure out what to do with their real estate, advising them on how to best manage their assets. His focus is on helping churches generate income and plan

UPCOMING:

- 10/01 - Saint Therese of Lisieux
- 10/04 - Saint Francis of Assisi
- 10/07 - Saint Birgitta of Sweden
- 10/11 - Saint Philip
- 10/15 - Saint Teresa of Avila
- 10/17 - Saint Ignatius of Antioch
- 10/18 - Saint Luke the Evangelist
- 10/20 - Saint Cornelius the Centurion
- 10/23 - Saint James of Jerusalem
- 10/28 - Saint Simon and Saint Jude

for the future through long-term leases and other property strategies. Lowrey's foundational premise is this: consider your properties as endowments, not liabilities. They are gifted to us to support and fund current and future ministries. "People say that churches are in decline. I look at it differently. Churches are consolidating and coming out stronger when they do," Lowrey says, "and that leaves a lot of real estate that can be used for mission purposes or income purposes."

Whether large or small property issues, this year's Saturday morning address will certainly invite questions and encourage a vision for development possibilities in interest of mission and ministry. "I tell churches, never ever, ever, sell their property," Lowrey said. "You probably won't do that well. Churches get taken advantage of by developers. They want to buy low and sell high."

All sale of property must also have diocesan approval. This means that real estate listing agreements may not be signed until diocesan approval is received. Within the Diocese of Atlanta, Canon Lowrey works with parishes and organizations to submit a package to the Standing Committee to seek approval, and is asked to recommend or not recommend the project.

Plan now on joining us for this time of discovery and learning. We look forward to sharing in this time with our clergy, Synod delegates, and guests.





Evensong

Starting in October, Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church in Champaign is adding a regular service of Evensong at 5:30 P.M. to its Sunday schedule, to the glory of God and for the sake of proclaiming the good news of Christ. Every first Sunday will feature a Choral Evensong or other special offering by the choir. On other Sundays of the month, the service will be a Congregational Evensong with hymns and chanted service music. On October 5, at the first Choral Evensong of the season, the choir will sing Richard Shepherd's Tryon responses, with a psalm setting by C.V. Stanford, canticles in F by Herbert Brewer, and William H. Harris's Behold the tabernacle of God. Emmanuel Memorial is excited to offer new, more regular services to participate more regularly in the rich traditions of Anglicanism, reach new groups of worshipers, and share more widely the gifts of their talented musicians and choir.

Annual Pilgrimage to the Proto-Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

The Diocese of Springfield is invited to join the Society of Mary's Annual meeting during the Annual Pilgrimage to the American Proto-Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Events will extend from October 16th through the 18th, featuring the daily office, guided tours, led meditations, and the Procession of the Image of Our Lady of Walsingham with Pontifical Mass. Bishop Burgess will be offering a meditation and presiding over Friday's Solemn Evensong. For more information on the pilgrimage, [click here](#). To learn more about the Proto-Shrine, [click here](#).

Mt. Carmel Putnam Grant

The people and vestry of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Mt. Carmel are pleased to announce a grant opportunity for the missions and parishes of our diocese. This grant is funded through the generosity of the Putnam Family Trust—faithful Episcopalians and Mt. Carmelites. This grant is designed to support parishes and missions in one of three ways: through community mission, building and grounds, and evangelism and church growth. Those interested in applying can reach out to Fr. Mike Clark at fathermikesjtb@gmail.com to receive an application.



Episcopal Parish of Alton's 2nd Annual Dawgs 4 Paws

Join the Episcopal Parish of Alton on Sunday October 5th from 2:00 - 4:00pm for an afternoon of pet blessings, food, live music, silent auction, and so much more! Great Rivers Animal Hospital will be offering a limited number of free rabies vaccinations during the events for pets.

The Living Church Liturgy & Arts Conference

The Living Church will be hosting a liturgy and arts conference this coming November at the Episcopal Church of St. Michael and St. George, St. Louis. This three-day event will feature engaging talks, shared meals, and corporate worship, with an optional film screening in the city on Saturday evening. The conference seeks to explore questions like, “how do beauty and liturgy shape us for life with

God?” and “what does the beauty of the liturgy have to do with “real” life?” The Diocese of Springfield is invited to join in learning how the sacraments and sacred rhythms, illuminated by the riches of art, literature, music, and history, draw us into the transforming presence of the One who is true, good, and beautiful.



National Cursillo Conference at Toddhall Retreat & Conference Center

The Cursillo Ministry in the Diocese of Springfield will host the national conference of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry in late October. Cursillo leaders from all over the country will gather at Toddhall Retreat and Conference Center (<https://www.toddhallretreat.org/>) Wednesday evening through Saturday noon, October 29th through November 1st. The theme of the conference will be *A Homecoming of the Episcopal Cursillo Family* – a time to celebrate, connect, share, and look ahead in God’s wonderful tapestry of Cursillo. This is a wonderful opportunity for members of our diocese to interact with Cursillo leaders and enjoy a wide range of interesting topics. It is also a chance for us to showcase what God is doing in the Cursillo ministry in Springfield. Workshops include:

- *Great Ideas to Keep the 4th Day Energized*
- *Two Day Cursillo Weekends*
- *Sacred Cows and Colorful Programs – A Framework to Review Weekends*
- *Endowment Support to Local Cursillo*
- *Thinking Outside the Box – How to Creatively Fill Needs*
- *Spiritual Direction – What It Can Do For You*

This may be the last time in the next many years this conference will be in the Midwest, making it an opportune time to attend the conference without significant travel expenses. Local Cursillistas that serve on the team do not pay a conference fee. To volunteer for the local support team, contact Bob Vaughn (bobvaughn8@gmail.com). For more details about the conference itself, visit <https://episcopalcursilloministry.org/2025-conference/>.



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.



Vision of Cornelius the Centurion, Gerbrand van den Eeckhout, 1664, Picryl



The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

