



The Diocese of Springfield

E-NEWSLETTER

September 2026 - The Week of XIV Pentecost

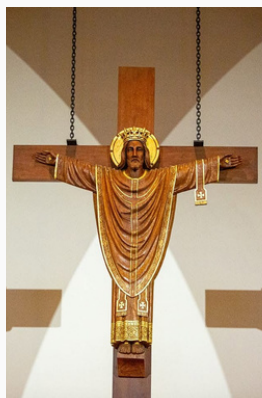
Capital Improvement Grants

The Diocese of Springfield has awarded six capital improvement grants from the 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Appeal. As announced during the 148th Annual Synod last October, 40 cents of every dollar raised will be set aside for the immediate capital improvement needs of our diocesan parishes, missions and chapels. Six well-prepared and thoroughly documented applications were received by August 3rd for this first series of grant applications totaling \$25,860.

While working with our Chair of the Diocesan Finance Committee, the Bishop has approved the following grant awards:

Trinity Chapel in Alton - \$3,360
Fr. Garron Daniels, Rector

Replace the 30-40-year-old plexiglass protective covers over the stained-glass windows at Trinity Chapel. The proposal includes replacing the existing aluminum, wrapping and plexiglass with new aluminum trim and tempered glass covers.



UPCOMING:

- 9/08 - The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 9/14 - Holy Cross Day
- 9/16 - The Feast of Saint Ninian
- 9/17 - The Feast of Saint Hildegard of Bingen
- 9/18 - The Feast of Saint Edward Bouverie Pusey
- 9/21 - The Feast of Saint Matthew the Apostle
- 9/23 - The Feast of Saint Thecla of Iconium
- 9/29 - The Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels
- 9/30 - The Feast of Saint Jerome

St. Thomas' Church in Salem - \$5,000

Deacon Dan Shuler

Power washing, priming and painting the wood trim and window frames on the exterior of the church. Repairs to and painting of the gutters and downspouts, with a repaint of the red front (principal) doors. The goal is the protection of the wooden areas of the church which hold the doors and stained-glass windows to the limestone walls. This funding also covers the outlining of five outdoor garden areas with poured concrete curd and the removal of expired mulch in favor of landscaping rock.



St. John's in Centralia - \$5,000

Dean Matthew Kemp, Priest in Charge

Replacing an expired air-conditioner unit and upgrading all lighting with LED fixtures/bulbs. The AC unit is one of two that cool the building. It is over 30 years old and is now broken beyond repair. The lighting is in need of upgrading, both in the Nave and the basement of the church. Due to the nature, age and position of the light fixtures, this priority will be accomplished professionally.

Trinity Church in Lincoln - \$5,000

Mrs. Anne Morris, Senior Warden

This parish seeks assistance with urgent masonry stabilization, tuckpointing, and water-management in interest of preserving their 1871 historic church. The exterior brickwork, mortar joints, and areas surrounding several of the church's historic stained-glass windows have deteriorated significantly. Open and crumbling mortar joints, failing window surrounds, and gaps between masonry and architectural stonework are contributing to continued water infiltration. The base bid to address the two most urgent areas of need is \$55,340.





All Saints' in Morton - \$5,000

Fr. Jonathan Butcher, Priest in Charge

This project is in the interest of addressing delayed maintenance (now repair) of a 5-foot-stained glass window in the east side of the Nave. Included in the bid as an option is repainting the wing and head details of the dove, which will contribute to the beauty of their liturgical space. The windows are original to the 1943 building, and it is doubtful that they have ever been cleaned or restored.

St. Paul's in Pekin - \$2,500

Fr. Jonathan Butcher, Priest in Charge

This grant will serve the repair of the plaster ceiling in the Nave and the tile ceiling in the sacristy. The Nave damage includes repairing plaster and repainting the interior ceiling design. The damage was due to a storm late last year. There is a leak in the sacristy roof that needs to be mediated beyond a simple repair. This award covers the extent of repair that the insurance claim does not cover.



There will be another series of grant applications invited once we get through our 149th Annual Synod in October. Diocesan leadership is remaining true to the promise of getting needed capital improvement funds to the parishes and missions of our diocese as soon as possible without severely impacting our investment funds. Within an attitude of thanksgiving, please consider making a financial gift to the Diocesan Appeal. We are in the closing months and have set aside discretionary funds for a dollar to dollar match of every gift received from July 1st through November 1st up to \$40,000.

Keynote Speaker for 149th Annual Synod

*Jeremiah Ratliff -
Camp Coordinator for ECCI 2026*

Bishop Burgess is pleased to announce that Mr. Jeremiah Ratliff has agreed to address the 149th Annual Synod as Keynote Speaker. Jeremiah is our recently contracted Camp Coordinator and he has a great deal to share about our most recent successes as well as his vision for our summer camp program moving forward. Jeremiah is enthusiastic about all that this ministry has to offer our youth and he looks forward to engaging our parishes and missions throughout the fall and winter in order to gain support for this Diocesan ministry and surpass registration expectations for our summer 2027 offering.



A Southern Illinois native from the town of Red Bud on Route 3, Jeremiah attended Lincoln Christian University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spiritual Formation & Ministry and first became involved in church camp. In 2016, he married his wonderful wife, Caitlin and they happily celebrated their 10-year anniversary this past May. Jeremiah worked in the field of College Admissions for LCU where he became the Director of Camp Teams - a summer camp focused recruitment and ministry strategy. He continued in that role for 4 years while also providing Sunday Sermons for Scottville Christian Church.

In 2020, Jeremiah and Caitlin moved to Moberly, Missouri where they both worked for Central Christian College of the Bible; Jeremiah as Director of Admissions and Caitlin as an administrative assistant in the Academic Office. At this time, Jeremiah continued to work in the field of camp ministry while also earning a Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership. After spending 3 years in Missouri, the Ratliff's decided to move back to the Bloomington-Normal area to be closer to family and friends.

Upon returning to Bloomington-Normal, Jeremiah continued his ministerial work as a Chaplain Resident at Carle BroMenn Medical Center where he earned 4 credits of Clinical Pastoral Education. After completing the residency, Jeremiah went on to become the full-time Chaplain at Luther Oaks Retirement Community while Caitlin continued her work in Social Work as the Administrative Assistant to the Foster Care Office at The Baby Fold.

Today, he and Caitlin enjoy being members of Christ the King in Normal, IL, and spending time with their cats Theo and Luna, as well as engaging with their larger community of friends and loved ones. Jeremiah has been honored to fill the role of Camp Coordinator for ECC 2026 and looks forward to continuing in the role for ECC 2027.

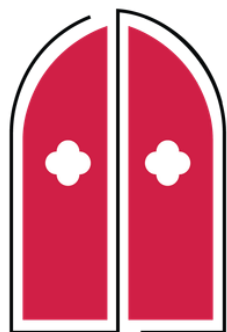
The keynote address will be given on Saturday, October 24th shortly after calling the Synod to order.

Open Doors: Capital Campaign Update

Emmanuel Memorial - Champaign, IL

The Open Doors capital campaign at Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church (Champaign) now has over \$1 million in pledges, and we are beginning major projects at the church.

We finished installing new air conditioning units in the Great Hall, a much-needed improvement so we can gather safely and comfortably for fellowship throughout the summer. We have accepted a bid for upgrading the lighting, sound, and video system in the church and expect that work to be completed next spring. Kitchen renovation plans are also proceeding. We are in the midst of seeking bids for a new columbarium to go in the garden, and are planning a first phase of repairs and modifications to our Schlicker Organ.



These and other improvements will make immediate and tangible differences to our life together, not least as we seek to grow – in faith, in members, and in impact.

Emmanuel Memorial
Episcopal Church

Our Lady of Walsingham

Church of the Holy Trinity - Danville, IL

Church of the Holy Trinity in Danville will honor Our Lady of Walsingham with devotions on Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Prior to the liturgy, a Rosary will be recited at 2:40 p.m.

The original shrine at Walsingham was destroyed at the time of the Reformation. At the beginning of the twentieth century it was rebuilt, due to the inspired leadership of the Anglican vicar of Walsingham, Fr. Hope Patten. He revived devotion there to Mary under the title of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Today it is where Anglican, Roman Catholic, and other Christian pilgrims from around the world continue to find inspiration and guidance at the Shrine Church, Holy House, and Slipper Chapel.

All faithful of the Diocese are invited to join us and make this spiritual pilgrimage.



3rd Annual Dawgs 4 PAWS

The Episcopal Parish of Alton - Alton, IL

The Episcopal Parish of Alton will be hosting their third annual Dawgs 4 Paws fundraising event on Sunday, October 4th from 2:00-4:00 PM. Folks are invited to come and enjoy live music, food vendors, pet blessings, and more.



Noel/Herbst Scholarship Recipients

Emmanuel Memorial - Champaign, IL

The trustees of Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church selected three recipients for the 2026-27 Noel/Herbst Scholarships: William A. Murphy, choirmaster at Emmanuel received a gift for completing his doctorate in music at the University of Illinois; Samantha Wells, parishioner at Emmanuel, completed a RSCM course in Scotland; and Zachary Buscher, a seminarian of the Diocese of Springfield, received a scholarship to help with his final year fees at Nashotah House.

All Donations Now Matched Dollar for Dollar

Diocesan Appeal for the Restoration of St. James Chapel in Marion and Capital Improvements

Endorsed by Diocesan Council and Trustees, Bishop Burgess will be matching all donations made to the Diocesan Appeal from now and November 1 (up to \$40,000) from funds left to his discretion by previous generations of faithful giving. All donations received during this time will receive a one-to-one match. It is his hope that this will motivate a final wave of sacrificial giving that will push the project to its completion and the total \$250,000 goal. To read more about the progress on the Appeal and how you can double the impact of your generosity, click the [here](#).

Putnam Family Trust Grant

St. John the Baptist - Mt. Carmel, IL

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, funded through the generosity of the Putnam Family Trust. These grants are designed to provide support in either Community Mission, Buildings & Grounds, or Evangelism & Church Growth. The deadline is September 8, 2026. For an application packet, email [click here](#).



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.



Juan de Flandes, Saints Michael and Francis, ca. 1505–1509. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Public domain.



The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

