



Spokane County Sheriff Chaplaincy February 2026 Newsletter

Lead Chaplain

Robert Kinnune

Assistant Lead Chaplain

Ryan Stemkoski

Senior Chaplains

Jake Burkholder

Rochelle Renninger

Garry Losey

Chaplains

Joe Fruci

Jaylynn Lawrence

Steve Beck

Anthony Rogers *

Cade Clarke *

JR Stanley *

Cliff Foster *

Reserve Chaplains

TJ Gaia

Kyle Knutsen *

Support Team

Yvonne Losey

Renee Townsley

Marilyn Van Tassel

* Currently Probationary staff in training

Support Your Chaplains

Because of generous supporters like you we're able to care for our law enforcement family and community.

How you can give:

- On Our Website

- Venmo

- By Check

- Payroll Deductions

- Visit us at our

Chaplain Office in the

DEM Building



Sheriff Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain TJ Gaia

Called to Serve

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" — Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

In Isaiah chapter 6, the prophet Isaiah experiences a powerful moment of calling. Before he ever volunteers, he becomes aware of God's presence and his own limitations. Then God asks a simple question: *"Whom shall I send?"* Isaiah's response is immediate and willing—*"Here am I. Send me."* He stepped forward not because the mission would be easy, but because it was necessary. Because he was called.

Isaiah's response reflects the heart of public service.

Those who serve in law enforcement, corrections, dispatch, emergency services, and other public safety roles have already answered a similar call. At some point, each of you said yes—to responsibility, to risk, to service beyond yourself. You stepped into a role that requires courage, integrity, discipline, and compassion, often without knowing what the next shift or call would bring.

Public service is not just a job; it is a calling lived out day by day. It means showing up when others are overwhelmed or afraid. It means standing in difficult spaces, making hard decisions, and carrying weight that most people never see. Like Isaiah, you do not always get to choose the assignment, but you choose to be present.



2/11/2026 Chaplain TJ Gaia's Oath ceremony & training complete

Isaiah's calling did not come with promises of recognition or ease. His mission would be challenging and, at times, discouraging. That reality resonates with many who serve today. The work can be exhausting. The stress is real. The sacrifices affect not only you but also your families. Yet you continue to serve because you understand that what you do matters. It matters more than you know.

Isaiah 6 reminds us that service begins with presence—being grounded in purpose and willing to respond. It also reminds us that none of us serves perfectly. Isaiah recognized and acknowledged his own shortcomings before stepping forward. In the same way, strength in public service is not found in denying struggle, but in recognizing our humanity and leaning on support, faith, and trusted relationships.

If you are feeling weary or questioning whether your work makes a difference, hear this clearly: it does. Every call answered, every situation handled with professionalism, every moment of restraint, courage, and compassion reflects that same response—*“Here am I.”*

Please know, your service is seen. Your sacrifices matter. And your willingness to step forward continues to bring stability, safety, and hope to Spokane County and the communities you serve. The Chaplain team stands shoulder to shoulder with you and is standing by to provide support, however we're needed.

Prayer: *Lord, strengthen our SCSO brothers and sisters who serve. Renew their courage, guard their hearts, and remind them that their presence makes a difference. When the road is heavy, give them peace. When the call is hard, give them strength. When they feel they've fallen short, let them feel your abundant grace. In your mighty name, Amen.*



Support the Chaplaincy with Payroll Deductions

Are you a Spokane County employee? Did you know you can support the chaplaincy and our mission? Learn more and sign-up online:

<https://scsochaplains.org/payroll-deduction/>



Welcome Chaplain TJ

Chaplain TJ Gaia has been a member of the team since September 2024. Having served 10 years in the US Army, including multiple combat deployments, TJ returned home bearing the invisible wounds of war, most notably PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). After accepting Jesus as his Lord and Savior in February 2019, he began to see dramatic and miraculous healing in his life and has been set free from PTSD, anger, and alcohol addiction, to name a few. Having experienced healing from trauma himself, he is called to step into others' pain to serve, love, and provide comfort and encouragement whenever possible. In all things, he aims to bring glory to his Heavenly Father.

TJ and his wife, Meghan, have been married for 13 years, and they have been blessed with two incredible boys, Jameson (10) and Maverick (7). They live in Suncrest and are very involved with their church and community. When not serving, his family enjoys the outdoors by being on the water, going on family mountain bike rides, shooting, and riding motorcycles. As a day job, TJ works on Fairchild AFB at the 92nd Medical Group, serving those who serve. TJ is currently pursuing a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, with the goal of becoming a certified Christian Counselor after graduation.



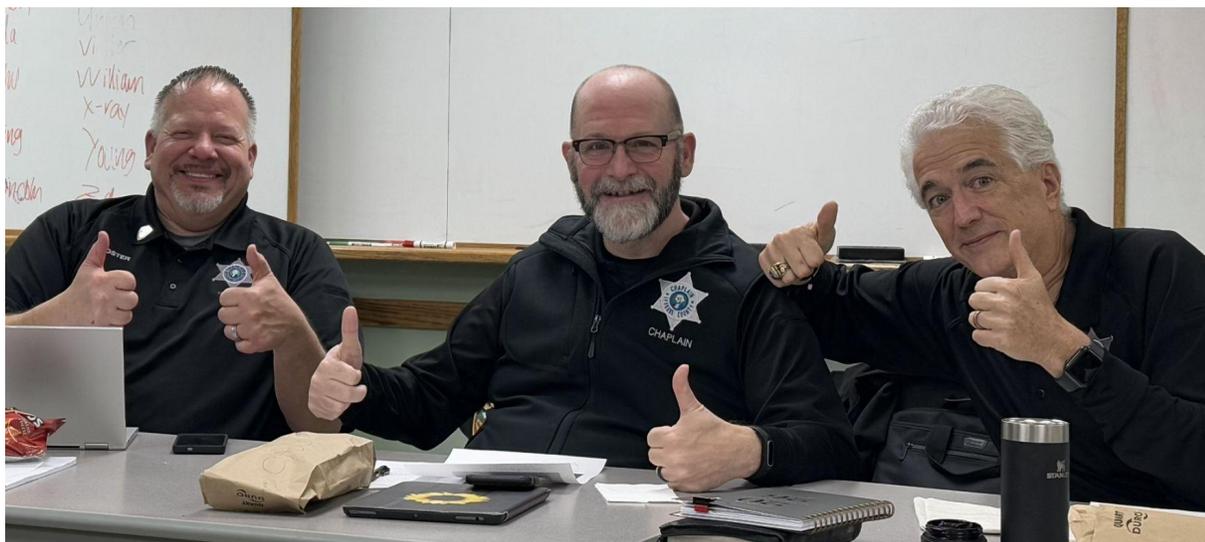
SCSO Chaplain Mission Statement

“The Spokane County Chaplaincy Services will provide chaplains to meet the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of the law enforcement family and the community when needed or requested. Our chaplains will bring comfort, crisis-oriented counseling, and a consoling nature to those who may be experiencing a crisis. We will not proselytize or otherwise attempt to force a particular religious faith on anyone. We will share our faith with those who seek or ask for spiritual counsel during these times. We will provide these services to all regardless of race, religion, gender, or national origin.”



Detention Services Chaplain

Spokane County Sheriff's Office Chaplains was expanded to include the Spokane County Detention Services, and Senior Chaplain Garry Losey was issued the first Detention Services Chaplain Shield.



SCSO Chaplain Trainees

Chaplain Cliff Foster, Chaplain Cade Clarke & Chaplain JR Stanley were promoted to Training Phase 2.

Where's the Chaplain?



Spokane County Sheriff's Chaplaincy visiting the Spokane County Detention Services



Spokane County Sheriff's Office Chaplaincy visiting the Spokane County Real-Time Crime Center.

Previous Month's Action Report

13
Chaplains

3
Support Staff

13
Callouts

1,346
Volunteer Hours

2
Ride-Alongs



Chaplain of the Year Award

Assistant Lead Chaplain Ryan Stemkoski was awarded the Chaplain of the Year in the Spokane County Sheriff's Chaplaincy for serving as an exemplary example of ministry to others.



Support Staff of the Year Award

Marilyn Van Tassel was awarded the Support Staff of the Year in the Spokane County Sheriff's Chaplaincy for serving as an exemplary example of ministry to others.

Talk to a Chaplain

Whether you're an officer, county employee, community member, or just need someone to talk to, our chaplain team is here for you.

- 24x7 Support Spiritual
- Guidance & Referrals
- Pastoral Counseling
- Conversation
- Crisis Intervention
- Weddings & Funerals

Supporters of the Month

Wesslen Construction

Thank you to our friends at Wesslen Construction for their support!

Visit them online:

<https://wesslen.com/>

