Spokane County Sheriff Chaplaincy

November 2026 Newsletter

Lead Chaplain
Robert Kinnune

Assistant Lead Chaplain
Ryan Stemkoski

Senior Chaplains
Jake Burkholder
Rochelle Renninger
Garry Losey

Chaplains
Joe Fruci
Jaylynn Lawrence
Marilyn Howard
Cliff Foster
Cade Clarke
Anthony Rogers
JR Stanley
Cory Claymon *
Andrea Utera *

Reserve Chaplains
Steven Beck
TJ Gaia

Support Staff
Yvonne Losey
Renee Townsley
Marilyn Van Tassel
Kyle Knutsen *
Karen Foster *

* 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

Chaplain Robert Kinnune

A Heart of Thanksgiving in Every Season of Life

A Thanksgiving Message from Your Sheriff Chaplaincy
November 26, 2026

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
— Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the importance of taking time to reflect upon the blessings in our lives. Yet, for each of us, Thanksgiving may look and feel a little different.

For some, it is a time of joyful celebration, family gatherings, laughter, and cherished traditions. For others, it may be a time of reflection, loneliness, financial uncertainty, health challenges, or remembering loved ones who are no longer seated at the family table.

Some are celebrating answered prayers, while others are still waiting for answers. Some are experiencing new beginnings, while others are struggling to find the strength to face another day.

Wherever you find yourself this Thanksgiving, I want to offer you a word of encouragement.

Thanksgiving in the Midst of Life's Challenges

Several years ago, during one of our Sheriff Chaplaincy training meetings, Chaplain David Losey shared a devotional concerning peace and right thinking as defined by God's Word. His message, based upon Philippians 4:6–9, contains a timeless truth that applies to each of us, regardless of our present circumstances.

Through our chaplaincy ministry, we are continually reminded that life does not always unfold as we would hope, plan, or expect. Life can change in a single moment, and circumstances beyond our control can leave us searching for peace, understanding, and hope.

Yet, the Apostle Paul reminds us that thanksgiving is not dependent upon having perfect circumstances. Rather, it is an expression of our faith and confidence in the One who remains faithful through every circumstance.

Paul does not tell us that we will never encounter difficulties. Instead, he encourages us to bring our concerns, fears, burdens, and requests before God through prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving.**

Thanksgiving is not a denial of life's difficulties; it is an acknowledgment of God's faithfulness in the midst of them.

We do not have to be thankful for every circumstance to be thankful for God's presence in every circumstance.

We can be grieving and still be grateful. We can be facing uncertainty and still have hope. We can acknowledge our struggles while recognizing the blessings that remain.

God's peace does not always come through a change in our circumstances. Sometimes, it comes through the assurance that we do not have to face those circumstances alone.

Choosing What Occupies Our Hearts and Minds

In Philippians 4:8, Paul encourages us to focus our thoughts on those things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and worthy of praise.

In a world where we are continually surrounded by troubling news, uncertainty, conflict, and negativity, it can become easy to lose sight of the good that still exists around us.

The challenges of life are real, but so are its blessings.

Sometimes, the greatest blessings are found in the simplest things: a friend's encouraging words, the kindness of a stranger, the laughter of a child, a shared meal, a beautiful sunrise, an unexpected answer to prayer, or simply the gift of another day.

When we intentionally take time to recognize these blessings, we begin to see that even in difficult seasons, there are still reasons to give thanks.

Gratitude may not change everything that is happening around us, but it can change how we experience what is happening within us.

Becoming a Reason for Someone Else's Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is not only an opportunity to recognize the blessings we have received; it is also an opportunity to become a blessing to someone else.

Perhaps one of the greatest gifts we can offer another person is our presence.

A phone call to someone who is lonely, a word of encouragement to someone who is struggling, an act of kindness toward a stranger, a listening ear, or a simple reminder that someone is loved and valued can make a greater difference than we may ever realize.

We may not be able to solve another person's problems, remove their pain, or change their circumstances, but we can help remind them that they do not have to walk through those circumstances alone.

This is at the very heart of our chaplaincy ministry—the ministry of presence.

And it is a ministry in which each of us can participate.

As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving, may we also look for opportunities to become one of the blessings someone else is counting.

Remembering Those Who Serve

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us also remember our Sheriff's deputies, law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, dispatchers, military personnel, healthcare workers, and all those who continue to serve and protect our communities while others gather with their loved ones.

Let us remember their families, who share in the sacrifices that accompany their service.

I am also especially thankful for our Sheriff Chaplains, Chaplain Support Staff, Chaplaincy Board Members, volunteers, and all those whose encouragement, prayers, and generosity help make our chaplaincy ministry possible.

Whether serving on the front lines or quietly working behind the scenes, every act of service matters.

A Thanksgiving Encouragement

Whatever season of life you may be experiencing today, I encourage you to take a few moments to reflect upon the blessings in your life, remember the challenges you have already overcome, and look forward with hope to the possibilities that lie ahead.

If this has been a wonderful year, celebrate it with a grateful heart.

If this has been a difficult year, give yourself permission to acknowledge the difficulties while remaining open to the hope of a better tomorrow.

If you are grieving, may the memories of those you love bring comfort to your heart.

If you are struggling, may you find renewed strength and encouragement.

And if you are blessed with an abundance of joy, may you find opportunities to share that joy with others.

May we never become so focused on what is missing from our lives that we overlook the blessings that are still present.

Above all, may we remember that God's love, grace, and faithfulness are not limited to the good seasons of our lives. He remains present through the valleys as well as the mountaintops.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of life, for Your unfailing love, and for the countless blessings we so often overlook.

Help us to develop grateful hearts, not only when life is going well, but also when we find ourselves walking through difficult and uncertain seasons.

Comfort those who are grieving, strengthen those who are weary, encourage those who are discouraged, and bring hope to those who are struggling.

Be especially near to those who are alone, those who are facing difficult circumstances, and those whose hearts are burdened this Thanksgiving.

Watch over our deputies, first responders, military personnel, and all those who are serving others today. Protect them, strengthen them, and bless their families.

Help us to recognize opportunities to extend kindness, compassion, encouragement, and love to those around us.

May our lives reflect hearts of gratitude, and may we become instruments of Your peace and blessings in the lives of others.

In Jesus Holy Name, Amen.

From our Sheriff Chaplaincy family to you and yours, may your Thanksgiving be filled with gratitude, hope, love, and the peace of God that surpasses all understanding.

Have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!

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/

Previous Month's Action Report

15	5	12	1296	3
Chaplains	Support Staff	Callouts	Volunteer Hours	Ride-Alongs

Emergency Management ~ Appreciation Award ~



Chandra Fox, Deputy Director of the Spokane County Emergency Management office, was recently recognized with an appreciation award from Michael Baumgartner. Her commitment and leadership in coordinating and facilitating resources to respond to emergencies and disasters in Spokane County are evident.

This summer was no exception when the tragic fires occurred in Spokane on August 1st. Chandra and her department jumped into action and worked tirelessly to answer the call. Meeting the needs of our citizens is exactly what she and her department did. Congratulations, Chandra and your team, on this well-deserved recognition!

Heritage Funeral Home Annual Chaplain's Breakfast

Spokane County Sheriff's Office Chaplaincy is working with and coordinating with other local agencies for the benefit of our Spokane County community as a whole.



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

The chaplaincy would like to thank some generous retired deputies who made a substantial anonymous donation to help support the chaplaincy and aid our ministry to the deputies impacted by the recent Spangle event.

SCSO Chaplaincy Supporting our local community …

TRUNK -OR- TREAT





Chaplain Andrea & Chaplain Cory giving out candy

Spokane's Veterans Stand Down

7th annual event bringing 80 display tables and speakers from the VA and partnering organizations to help veterans. The SCSO Chaplaincy opened the event with the Innovation.

