

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Eblast

January 8, 2026



**WORSHIP WITH US ON EITHER SATURDAY AT 5:15 P.M. OR SUNDAY
AT 11 A.M.**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held **SUNDAY January 18, 2026** (Snow date: Jan. 25) immediately following the 11:00 Worship Service. Brunch will be served consisting of Breakfast Pizza and Deli Sandwiches. We will receive reports and elect new members for the Vestry. Your participation is valued and needed. Please attend.

God Moments

While we know that God through the Holy Spirit is with us all the time, not just when we worship, it is helpful to be reminded of that. We're hopeful you will share how God has been active in your life, whether anonymously or for attribution. Watch this space for what we're calling "**God Moments.**"

Here's an example of a God Moment. Back in the late 1960s, before seat belts were required but installed in some cars as an option, most of my family was in our parked station wagon outside our local candy store while my mother was inside with my then 3 year old sister, purchasing our Easter baskets. I suggested that we all buckle up and we all did, even my Dad. Moments later a drunk driver hit our car. Only our car got hurt. Why did I make this suggestion? Must have been a **God Moment.** ~Canon Melinda+

By-laws of the Church of the Redeemer

The Canons of the Diocese of the Susquehanna eliminated the requirement for ALL parishes to have the same by-laws. To prevent chaos in the former Diocese of Bethlehem parishes, there is a provision to keep the uniform by-laws in effect until such time as they are amended or replaced. Our Vestry adopted by-laws at its December meeting. To effectuate the implementation of the by-laws, Annual Meeting must ratify them without amendment. Consequently, the first order of business will be to ratify the by-laws. You can read the provisions of the applicable Canon here:

[Constitution-and-Canons-of-the-Episcopal-Diocese-of-the-Susquehanna-10.18.25.pdf](#) You'll find it on page 43.

The provisions of the Church of the Redeemer's By-Laws are very similar to what was in effect. The most significant change was removing the prohibition of family members from serving on the Vestry and prohibiting members of the same household instead. The By-Laws also increase the number of terms a Vestry member may serve from two consecutive terms to three consecutive terms. The By-Laws are reproduced here in full so that you have an opportunity to read them before the Annual Meeting a week from Sunday.

By-laws of the Church of the Redeemer
Sayre PA
December 2025

PARISH GOVERNANCE

A. Annual Meeting

1. The Annual Meeting shall be held in January at a time and place designated by the Vestry. Public notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given to the congregation at least two weeks prior to the Meeting via eBlast, (or similar email communication,) notice in the bulletin and at all worship services prior to the Meeting.
2. The purpose of the Annual Meeting shall be to elect members to the Vestry; receive reports from the Vestry, parish officers, and organizations; including any reports about the budget approved by the Vestry for the new year; and to transact such other business as may properly come before it.
3. At the Annual Meeting, a report of the Parish finances shall be given. This report shall include, but not be limited to: 1) a report of the finances of the preceding year, 2) reports of all assets and liabilities and all income and expenditures of any subsidiary or related organization or entity, including (but not limited to) all trusts, endowments or other accounts, and 3) a budget for the year in which the Annual Meeting is held.
4. The Annual Meeting shall be presided over by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or if the office be vacant, or if the Rector or Priest-in-Charge be absent, by the Senior Warden.
5. Lay Members in good standing of the Parish who are physically present, who are at least 18 years of age, who are regular attendants at the services of the parish, and are consistent contributors to the support of the Parish, shall be entitled to vote at all Parish Meetings. A quorum for the transaction of business in the Annual Meeting shall consist of 25% of the persons entitled to vote if they were present or 25 persons entitled to vote, whichever is less. The Vestry may by resolution permit one or more members to participate in a Parish Meeting by means of conference telephone or other electronic technology by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other in a manner that is substantially simultaneous and continuous. Participation in a meeting by conference telephone or other electronic technology shall constitute presence.
6. The Vestry shall consist of not fewer than three or more than nine Lay Members, at least 18 years of age in good standing, elected at the Annual Meeting.
7. The qualifications of persons to serve on the vestry shall be the same as the qualifications to vote at the Annual Meeting as set out above except that the person to be elected need not be present at the Meeting.

8. No cleric or member of a cleric's family shall be eligible for election as a member of the Vestry. No employee of the Parish or member of the employee's family shall be eligible for election to Vestry. No more than one member of a household may serve on Vestry at the same time.
9. The Vestry may by resolution designate a Nominating Committee, otherwise the Rector or Priest-in-Charge together with either Warden shall be the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall publish to the parish two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting a ballot with sufficient qualified nominees to fill the vacancies on the Vestry for the coming year.
10. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting. The nominator shall first obtain the consent of the nominee. Any question of the nominee's qualification to serve shall be resolved by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge prior to the election of Vestry members. In the absence of a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Senior Warden shall have the responsibility for determining the qualifications of any person nominated from the floor.
11. Each Annual Meeting shall elect persons to serve on the vestry replacing those members whose term in office has ended. If there are insufficient nominees to fill all vacancies, the Annual Meeting may reduce the number of persons to serve on the Vestry, subject to the limitations in #6 above. If the nominees are insufficient to fill slots for three members, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, together with the remaining Vestry members may appoint a member in good standing to a one-year term.
12. The length of one term of office for members of the vestry shall be three years, with one third of the members, or as near as may be, elected each year at the Annual Meeting. A Vestry member shall not be eligible for re-election until one year after his or her third term has ended.

Special Parish Meetings

1. A Special Parish Meeting may be held at any time on the written order of the Ecclesiastical Authority or of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or by resolution of the Vestry, or on a petition to the Ecclesiastical Authority if such petition be signed by not less than 25% of the number entitled to vote at the last Annual Meeting.
2. All such orders, resolutions, or petitions shall specify the time and place of such meeting and the business to be considered.
3. At such meeting, no business shall be considered other than that specified in the call.
4. Notice of such meeting shall be given to all members of the congregation at least two calendar weeks prior to the meeting. This notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting (or provide the appropriate links to an electronic meeting), the business to be considered, and by whose order the meeting is called.
5. Such a meeting may be presided over by the Bishop. If the Bishop does not preside, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall preside. If there is no Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Ecclesiastical Authority may request the Senior Warden to preside.

B. The Vestry

1. Duties of the Vestry
 - a. In accordance with the Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of this Diocese, the Vestry shall govern the parish and shall manage and be responsible for

its property and material affairs; shall further the temporal and spiritual welfare of the Parish; provide a suitable place of worship and see that it is provided with all things necessary to the worship of Almighty God; shall select and call a Rector and provide for the renumeration of the Rector; and shall comply with all other requirements of the Canons of the church.

- b. As to civil matters, the Vestry shall be the corporate Board of Directors. The Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall be a member of and preside over the Vestry and is the President of the corporation. If there is no Rector or Priest-in-Charge then the Senior Warden shall be the President of the Corporation.
- c. In consultation with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge all staff positions are created and funded by the Vestry. Personnel filling those positions are hired by and serve at the discretion of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge and are accountable to the Rector or Priest-in-Charge. The Rector or Priest-in-Charge may work collaboratively with a nominating or personnel committee in the selection of personnel.
- d. A financial report shall be given at each regular meeting of the Vestry, which shall include current income and expenditures. Following approval, the report shall be made available to members of the congregation by request.
- e. The Manual of Business Methods, as issued from time to time by the Episcopal Church, shall be used as a guide for the conduct of business.

2. Officers of the Vestry and Parish

- a. The Lay Officers of the Church of the Redeemer shall consist of the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Clerk and Treasurer who shall all be adult Lay Members in good standing of the parish and at least 18 years of age. No cleric or member of a cleric's family shall be eligible for election as an Officer of the parish. No employee of the Parish or member of the employee's family shall be eligible for election as an Officer. No household member of a Vestry member may serve as an Officer of the Parish.
- b. The Senior Warden shall be nominated by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge from among the members of the Vestry. The nomination is affirmed by majority vote of the members of the Vestry. If there is no Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Vestry shall ask the Ecclesiastical Authority to make the nomination.
- c. It is the duty of the Senior Warden to work closely with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, to advise the Rector or Priest-in-Charge on all matters pertaining to the parish upon which the Rector or Priest-in-Charge may wish to consult the Senior Warden, and to inform the Rector or Priest-in-Charge of all matters which the Senior Warden feels the Rector needs to know. If there is no Rector or Priest-in-Charge, it shall be the duty of the Senior Warden to assume all the temporal duties of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge including, but not limited to, presiding at Vestry meetings, signing documents, filing reports, and maintaining the Parish Register. In addition, it shall be the duty of the Senior Warden to provide for the continuation of Divine worship.
- d. The Junior Warden shall be elected annually from among their number by the Vestry. In the absence of the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden is to assume the duties of the Senior Warden. It is the duty of the Junior Warden to oversee the care and maintenance of the building and grounds of the Church of the Redeemer.

- e. The Wardens shall see that the financial obligations of the Parish are met and that the building is kept in good repair and is adequately insured. Under the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, they shall see that all things needed for the orderly worship of God and for the proper administration of the sacraments are provided. In the absence of a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, they shall, with the advice of the Ecclesiastical Authority, procure suitable supply for the continuance of the services, to include but not limited to supply clergy or appropriately licensed/trained lay worship leaders.
- f. A Clerk shall be elected annually by the Vestry. The Clerk may, but does not have to be a member of the Vestry. When not a member of the Vestry, the Clerk has seat, but not voice and vote on matters coming before the Vestry. The Vestry may at its discretion allow the Clerk to have voice on any matter the Vestry deems appropriate. The Clerk shall be responsible for seeing that minutes are taken of all Annual and Special Parish Meetings and of all meetings of the Vestry and ensure that copies of said minutes and related reports are maintained in the electronic records of the parish as well as a hard copy kept in parish files as recommended by the *Manual of Business Methods*. The Clerk, on behalf of the Vestry, shall also be responsible for sending thank you notes or other acknowledgements as the need arises. The Clerk shall turn over to his or her successor all books and documents in his/her possession that belong to the Parish.
- g. A Treasurer shall be elected annually by the Vestry. The Treasurer may, but does not have to be a member of the Vestry. When not a member of the Vestry, the Treasurer has seat and voice. Under the authority of the Vestry, the Treasurer is responsible to collect, receive, disburse, and account for the funds of the Parish. Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Treasurer shall present to the Vestry a full and accurate statement of the financial condition of the Parish. At every meeting of the vestry, the Treasurer shall report the total assets and liabilities of the Parish and the income and expenses of the general operating funds. As directed, the Treasurer shall report the income and expenses of any other funds. The Treasurer shall be bonded at the expense of the Parish. The Treasurer shall turn over to his or her successor all books, documents, and funds in his or her possession that belong to the Parish.
- h. The Vestry may fill any mid-term vacancies in their number or among the officers of the Parish by majority vote.

3. Meetings of the Vestry

- a. Regular meetings of the Vestry shall be held at least quarterly, and are anticipated to meet monthly September through June. All Vestry members are expected to be present at Vestry meetings. If any member of the Vestry is absent from three consecutive meetings without due cause, as determined by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge and the Wardens, that seat shall be declared vacant. The Vestry may permit one or more Vestry members to participate in a Vestry meeting by telephone or other electronic technology.
- b. The Vestry shall not transact any business without the presence of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or in the event that the office of Rector or Priest-in-Charge be vacant, without the presence of one of the Wardens. A quorum consisting of a majority of the elected members of the Vestry must be present for the Vestry to

transact business. No action affecting the rights of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall be taken at any meeting at which the Rector or Priest-in-Charge has not been given the opportunity to attend.

c. Special Meetings of the Vestry may be called at any time at the request of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or any two Vestry members. Notice of such meeting shall be given to the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Wardens, and the members of the Vestry. This notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the business to be considered. No other business shall come before such special meeting except with the unanimous consent of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge and all members of the Vestry.

4. Indemnification

- a. No member of the vestry shall be personally liable for monetary damages for any action taken, or any failure to take any action, unless said person has breached or failed to perform the duties of the office prescribed by the By-Laws, and the breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness. The provisions of the section shall not apply to the responsibility or liability of said person pursuant to any criminal statute, or for the payment of taxes pursuant to local, commonwealth or federal law.
- b. The Church of the Redeemer shall indemnify any Vestry member who was or is a party to, or is threatened to be made a party to or who is called as a witness in connection with any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, including any action by or on behalf of the Parish by reason of the fact that he is or was a member of Vestry against expenses, including attorney's fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding unless the act or failure to act giving rise to the claim for indemnification is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to have constituted willful misconduct or recklessness. With respect to any such action, the Parish may participate, at its own expense, and the Parish shall be entitled to assume the defense thereof, with Counsel selected by the Parish to the reasonable satisfaction of the party being indemnified. After notice from the Parish to such person of its election to assume the defense thereof, the Parish shall not be liable to such person for any legal or other expenses subsequently incurred by such person in connection with the defense thereof. Such person shall have the right to employ separate Counsel in such action, but the fees and expenses of such Counsel incurred after a notice from the Parish of its assumption of the defense thereof, shall be at the expense of such person.

C. AMENDMENTS

The Vestry shall have the power to make, alter, amend and repeal the By-laws. Any amendment shall be proposed in writing to at least one regular meeting of the Vestry previous to final action and be adopted at the next regular meeting or any adjournment thereof, by a majority vote of the Vestry members present. After adoption, the amendment takes immediate effect.

DECEMBER COMMUNITY SUPPER

Thank you on behalf of the community supper team for Vestry's attendance and help at the 12/30 meal.. We weren't busy, but we had fun! Below are pictures of those who helped.



Above we have from left to right: Bruce Carpenter, Doreen Marshall. Diane Siebecker, Scott Johnson, and Sophia Storelli. To the right is Linda Murrelle.



Here we have Margaret Cole and Rev. Melinda Artman



Here we have Nina Seebeck, Steve Novak and Marina Young,

JANUARY 11 LESSONS

First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm: 29

Second Lesson: Acts 10:34-43

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

BIRTHDAYS



Phoebe Marshall	1/12
Heather Romano	1/12
Cory Williams	1/15

Charles & Kay Lattimer	1/11
Dwayne & Janet Lewis	1/12
Andrew & Katelyn Lewis	1/15



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



Baptism of Our Lord

In his letter to the Romans (8:29) Paul wrote that God meant for Jesus to be "the firstborn within a large family." What does that mean to you? What might your baptism have to do with it?

JANUARY FOOD ITEM

The food item for the month of January is cereal. The items collected are distributed between the Valley food Pantry and the Feed My Sheep Program. Your donation are always greatly appreciated by both of the much-needed ministries.





On behalf of the Sayre American Legion, a **BIG THANK YOU**, for the many items donated. These items will be dropped off at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center; they will then, distribute them to 8-15 VA clinics in the surrounding areas. These items will help many Veterans that have served our country, past and present.

We also made up several bags with various items from the many donations people in our community have made; to give to our local Veterans at the VA Clinic in Sayre, PA.

Thanks again,

Elizabeth Wagner (American Legion Post #283 Commander)

Connie Roberts (Manager)

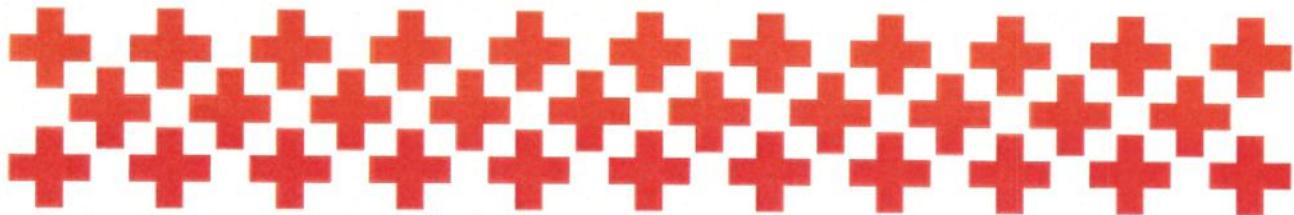


GAME NIGHT RETURNS

You are invited to join us on Friday, January 16th from 6-8 p.m. for fun and games in the South Wing. Invite your friends and feel free to bring your favorite game along with you to share.

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Community Blood Drive

St John Lutheran Church

South Wing
207 South Hopkins Street
Sayre PA 18840

Monday, January 19, 2026

12:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Come to give Jan. 1-25 for chance to win trip for 2 to Super Bowl LX in Cali! rcblood.org/SuperBowl

2025-APL-0675

For an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org

Enter Sponsor Code: **StJohnSayre**

Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

To Schedule your appointment, scan the QR code below and enter sponsor code: **StJohnSayre**



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John [...] As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¶And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:13-17)

The Baptism of Jesus

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:17 (NIV)



Complete the activity.

1. *A number of words have been removed from the text and placed in a word bank. Use the words from the word bank to fill in the blanks in the text. Write the words in the blanks provided.*

The Baptism of Jesus

Jesus came from Galilee to the _____ river to be baptized by _____ . At first, John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be _____ by you," he said.

But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize _____ .

After his baptism, Jesus came up out of the _____. The _____ opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a _____ and settling on him. A _____ from heaven said, "This is my _____, whom I love; with him I am _____."

Matthew 3:13-17 (Paraphrased)

Son Jesus	heavens baptized	voice Jordan	well-pleased water	John dove
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The Baptism of Jesus

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



C	U	A	K	I	E	V	G	W	B	Z	F	X	Q	S	R	O	L	P	H	T	D	M	Y	J	N
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 10-3-19-21-5-11-6 _____

2. 9-3-21-6-16 _____

3. 22-17-7-6 _____

4. 7-17-5-1-6 _____

5. 20-6-3-7-6-26 _____

6. 20-17-18-24 _____

7. 15-17-26 _____

8. 18-17-7-6 _____

SON	DOVE	BAPTIZE	HEAVEN
HOLY	LOVE	VOICE	WATER