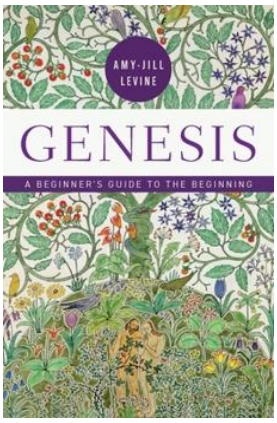
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Eblast

October 22, 2026



FALL BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

Join Canon Melinda October 26th at 6:30 p.m. ***(note there is not a morning session on this day)*** as we continue to explore six foundational stories in the Book of Genesis. Amy-Jill Levine, a professor of New Testament AND an orthodox Jew, writes accessibly and humorously, providing both Jewish and Christian perspectives on: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, the binding of Isaac (the Akedah), Jacob's dream, and Joseph, Potiphar & Potiphar's wife.

Monday Mornings: Nov 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 10:15 to 11:45 at St. John Lutheran Church, South Wing.

Monday Evenings: October 26, Nov 2, 9, 16 and 30th from 6:30 until 8:00 pm, also at St. John, South Wing.

Please read chapter 2 and Genesis chapter 4 (from the actual Bible) prior to coming to our second session together!

Welcome Jim Ford

This Sunday we welcome back Jim Ford as our substitute organist while Marcella is away.

Reformation Sunday

Throughout the Lutheran world, October 31 (or the Sunday nearest) is a day to celebrate the Reformation and Martin Luther's part in the schism from the Catholic Church. Luther introduced important theological insights (such as we are saved by grace alone) and sparked theological conversation throughout Europe. Why October 31st? Tradition has it that the day before All Saints Day, when the church would be full, Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the church in Wittenburg, Germany. Literate members of the congregation would be sure to see it. Over time, his conversation partners included such religious luminaries as John Calvin (theological ancestor to Presbyterians) and Heinrich Zwingli (theological ancestor to the Anabaptists such as the Amish, Mennonites, and Brethren). These men ultimately lead to a practice of Christianity that came to be called Protestant.

Luther's theology was not unknown in Great Britian, however, the rift with Rome was both political and theological and as such, the reformation in Britian was neither Catholic nor Protestant – it thought of itself as finding the middle way (via media). On October 16, the Episcopal Church celebrates the English reformers Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley and Thomas Cranmer all of whom were martyred in 1555 or 1556, about 10 years after Luther himself died of a natural death. You can read more about them here: Hugh Latimer & Nicholas Ridley

Cranmer was the guiding author of the *Book of Common Prayer* (1549), translating Latin prayers into English and simplifying the Roman liturgies. We are still using his prayers five hundred plus years later, even as the *BCP* has evolved and changed over the years. (Fun fact: The *BCP* in America has been revised at least four times: 1789, 1892, 1928 and 1979. At the last General Convention, the *BCP* includes more than a bound book, with authorized versions being available in electronic format only.)

Of course, reforms are not static, and several denominations have come into existence reforming the Anglican Church, including the Methodist Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Salvation Army in the 18th and 19th Centuries. More recently we have seen groups move away from the Anglican/Episcopal Church with the ordination of women, the 1979 Prayer Book, and acceptance of persons in the LGBTQI+ community.

This Sunday, both St. John and the Church of the Redeemer will welcome the Rev. Anne Canfield as its preacher. We will be using Biblical texts chosen for celebrating the Reformation. Let us give thanks for our theological forebears!

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE
Susquehanna

Diocesan Convention 2026

Our Diocesan Convention met online on October 3 to debate and discuss business matters and then in person on October 16 and 17th with the Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe. There were over 40 exhibitors displaying the work of ministry throughout the Diocese. The convention celebrated our first year as a reunified diocese and heard the Presiding Bishop's strategic vision for the Episcopal Church. The entire event was hope filled and joyful. Our delegates include the rector along with Margaret Cole and Linda Murrelle. A wonderful thing about technology is that the hope and joy can be shared ~ YOU can see and hear what Margaret, Linda and Melinda+ heard and experienced with the click of your mouse and spending some of your time.

Watch the Presiding Bishop's sermon here: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UlytEZZ7UGo

Learn how the Diocese is discerning mission priorities here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sH9UkKuEV6w

See how we are working with the Spanish speaking community here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0sSqix0LQs

Learn about formation opportunities here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLPdG0RIO5Q

Panel Discussion with Bishops Scanlan, Nichols and Rowe:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4ds_x2U4o8

Joint Bible Study in Sayre: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KC96SEDY9_I

Strategic Vision for the Episcopal Church: (copy and paste into your browser)
https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2026/10/19/executive-council-backs-presiding-bishops-strategic-vision-for-the-episcopal-church/?utm_source=ENS+English&utm_campaign=adfd271eb0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_10_19_07_21&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-adfd271eb0-576146914

Plenty Good Room

Making Room for Plenty Good Harvest

The harvest is great, but the workers are few. Matthew 9:37 (NLT)

When I was a teenager, my grandmother loved her garden. She still does. Her garden required the kind of care that kept her hands in the soil and her attention fixed on the rhythms of the season. On warm afternoons she would call me outside to help her prepare the dirt, loosening the earth, pulling weeds, and clearing space for new seeds. I remember standing there sometimes, puzzled and very impatient. To me, the garden already looked fine.

After the winter season, I had grown accustomed to what it always looked like. To me, it was good enough. Why disturb what was already there? Why dig up soil that seemed just fine? The work felt slow and unnecessary, but my grandmother understood something I was still learning.

A healthy garden needs tending. She moved through those rows and buckets with patience, gently removing what did not belong, the stubborn weeds, the tangled stems, the crowded patches of soil that had no room left to breathe. She knew that if new life was going to grow, something first had to be cleared away. The garden would overflow with life, all because we made room.

Season after season, I was, and still am, amazed. Looking back now, I realize something I did not understand then: if the garden had stayed the way I wanted it, untouched, crowded, unpruned, we would never have seen that abundance at all. The garden required room, and a willingness to yield.

Sometimes that work feels uncomfortable. Sometimes it feels unnecessary. Sometimes we cannot yet see what God is preparing to grow. But the invitation remains the same: make room for new life, make room for deeper faith, make room for the Spirit to move in ways we may not yet understand. And when the seasons of harvest come, we may discover what my grandmother knew all along: when space is made in the garden, there is always plenty good room for the harvest. TENS.org

Questions for Reflection:

What might God be inviting you to release or clear away in your life so that something new can grow?

Shannon Whittaker is a member of St. David's Episcopal Church in Cambria Heights, New York.

THE EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR STEWARDSHIP

Meeting Date & Time Change

The November meeting for St. Mary's Guild has been changed from November 3rd to **November 5th at 1:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS OCTOBER 24 & 25	**Serving in Worship for October 25**
Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36	**Worship Assistant:** Rose Carpenter **Greeter:** Rose Carpenter **Usher:** Bruce Carpenter **AV Operator:** Paul Romano

James Nobles 10/24
Michael Wayman 10/26
Harold Anderson 10/31

Joseph & Sherry Gabauer 10/23
Glenn & Amy Murrelle 10/27

All Saints Day

All Saints Day is Sunday, November 1st. If you have a loved one that has died in the past year and we are not aware of it and would like them remembered on this day, please call or email the church office with their names by no later than 11:00 a.m. on October 28th. **Thank you!**

Daylight Savings Times

Don't forget that next Sunday we "fall back" one hour as daylight savings time ends. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep.

OUTREACH AT REDEEMER

For the month of October we will be collecting for canned fruit our local food pantries.

This Sunday, October 25th during Sunday school from 9:30 – 10:45 the Sunday school will be having a Halloween Party. The children might be in costumes. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy games, crafts, prizes, and food. We hope to see you then.

Save the Date

For St. Mary's Fall Fair on Thursday, November 12th

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Show the love of Jesus to others.

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d

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your mind.

n

Love your neighbor as yourself.

o

c

b p

a q

The Greatest Commandment

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" Matthew 22:37

Choose the word that best matches the definition. Answers can be found in Matthew 23:34-40 (NIV)

___1. A rule or law; direction or instruction to do something
A. teacher B. second C. commandment D. love

___2. The most important; better than all others of the same kind
A. commandment B. greatest C. teacher D. answer

___3. To have a deep feeling of affection or attraction for someone
A. love B. neighbor C. teacher D. commandment

___4. A person who lives near or next to another
A. answer B. neighbor C. love D. commandment

___5. The creator of heaven and earth; The One we worship
A. God B. love C. greatest D. answer

___6. Someone who educates or trains others
A. teacher B. heart C. second D. God

___7. A system of rules or principles
A. neighbor B. God C. heart D. law

___8. The center and source of a person's emotions or feelings
A. law B. love C. commandment D. heart

___9. Coming next in order after the first one
A. neighbor B. law C. second D. teacher

___10. A spoken or written reply to a question
A. God B. greatest C. answer D. second

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