

Tabernacle Evangelical Lutheran Church

In the city since 1906

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The Forgiving Father

In the 15th chapter of his gospel, Luke tells us that on a particular occasion some tax collectors and sinners were gathered around Jesus, listening to what he had to say about the kingdom of Heaven.

The gospel writer tells us that some scribes and the Pharisees, who were observing the interaction between Jesus and these “unholy folks” began to murmur and complain to each other about Jesus, saying; "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

But refusing to be bound by human traditions, or to be limited by the arbitrary laws of men, Jesus responded to the criticism by telling three parables, all of which speak of a merciful God who welcomes sinners, regardless of who they are or what they have done.

According to Luke, Jesus began by telling the “parable of the lost sheep,” and followed it with a second parable, the “parable of the lost coin”. And finally, to really drive home the point that the Heavenly Father is a forgiving God who always welcomes sinners back to himself, Jesus tells the third and perhaps the most important parable of the three, the one that is frequently referred to as the “parable of the prodigal son.”

This parable is perhaps the most well-known of all the parables that Jesus told because of the relatability of the main characters in the story. Because this parable is most often referred to as the “parable of the prodigal son,” I had always assumed that the story is all about an ungrateful, wayward son who goes off to do his own thing, gets himself into trouble, and then decides to come home again. That is a compelling story.

But the good news for us is that this parable is about much more. By telling this parable, Jesus is lifting up the importance of confession and repentance, and showing us the blessings of forgiveness and reconciliation. But most importantly, with this story Jesus is helping us to begin to understand the great love that our heavenly Father has for all his children, helping us to see that “love covers a multitude of sins.”

Surely, the beloved John said it best when he writes in 1 John 3; “Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are.”

Be well and stay blessed in this Lenten season. – *Pastor Rodgers*

**April-May
2025**



Sunday Worship
@10:30 a.m. both in
the sanctuary and on
[Facebook: Tabernacle
Lutheran Church](https://www.facebook.com/TabernacleLutheranChurch)

Saturday TLC Kids'
Club @11am ID:867
9733 9075
Pass:483844

***Wednesday Bible
Study @ 7 p.m.** ID:
827 6385 3651 Pass:
661701

Food Bank April 23,30
May 21, 28

Church Council 2nd
Sundays (Facilities
Committee meets 1st
Sundays)

***You can participate
without a computer. Call
267.831.0333. You will be
prompted for Meeting ID:
827 6385 3651 & Passcode:
661701**

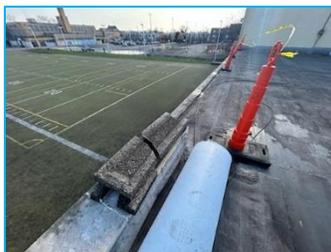
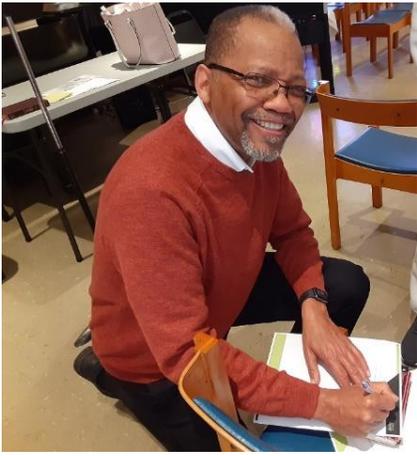
About Tabernacle...

Tabernacle is a member of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Entering our 116th year, we have served in the heart of West Philadelphia – and with God’s help, we will remain in the city for good! As Lutheran Christians, we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Our mission is to love our neighbors through our words and actions. We work to be an inclusive congregation, welcoming peoples of all racial and gender identities. We are a community-oriented congregation providing a safe space for worship, community planning and local celebrations. Sunday morning worship at 10:30am (in-person and on Facebook), Wednesday evening Bible Study at 7pm (Zoom), Saturday morning children’s ministry at 11am, and Tabernacle’s Food Bank are the central parts of our life together.

RAISING A NEW ROOF

Thanks to Members and Friends, Tabernacle received sufficient donations to proceed with a new roof! Council President Al Hunter Jr., on behalf of the congregation, happily signs the contract enabling RHI Construction, Inc., to begin work. Roof work progress photos will be posted on Tabernacle's Facebook page. Plans are that a new roof will be ready before Palm Sunday! Praise God!

(Thanks to Carlo Arjona and RHI for these photos!)



Remembering The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Dr. King was in Memphis, TN, to support the striking sanitation workers. On April 3, Dr. King delivered his last speech at Mason Temple in Memphis, TN — the day before he was assassinated. April 4th marked the 57th anniversary of Dr. King’s death. These are his closing words in what has become known as the “Mountaintop” speech:

Well, I don't know what will happen now; we've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life—longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. And so I'm happy tonight; I'm not worried about anything; I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.”



April 23, 30
May 21, 28
Wednesday 9:30 -12 noon

From Council Representative Jamie Gauthier

 **Senior SEPTA KeyCard Days** – Seniors 65+ can stop by Philadelphia Council Representative Jamie Gauthier’s District Office (**606 S. 52nd Street**) on **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 AM-4 PM**, to renew or apply for their SEPTA KeyCard.



May 20th 2025 Primary Election
Polls open 7AM - 8 PM
Last day to register May 5, 2025
Request a mail-in or absentee ballot by
May 13, 2025

A Pioneer in Health Care FRED CAREY



The former Executive Director of Sayre Health Center, Fred Carey, passed in February 2025. He was instrumental in establishing a federal qualified health center in our community. Fred was one of the minority pioneer health care administrators in the Delaware Valley. Fred worked to establish a relationship with Tabernacle. He approved many of our contracts with the center. Fred was a humble giant, who built relationships throughout the area. To God Be the Glory! – Garry Brown

Happy Mother's Day

May 11

Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gates.

Proverbs 31:31

PRIZE WINNERS



Gardening keeps Pastor Janet Peterman's mind clear for the work of ministry she does in interim ministry. At this year's Philadelphia Flower Show, two of her amaryllis plants ribboned: Chico (left) and Double Amadeus Candy (right). Congratulations!



Please remember to pray for people who are in any need: sickness, loneliness, violence, grief; as well as prayers of thanks for new life, healing, family, and church. God hears our prayers!

For the Family and Friends of Blanche Riggs

Dennis Abraham	Corrie Ellis Sr.
Tony Arjona	Paula Everett
Brenda Armstead	Joan Gamble
Patricia Armstead-	Grace Gerace
Coleman	Tom & Gloria Huey
Helen Beypu	Pastor Rosa Key
Ann Brown	Diane Medley
Anita Burrell	Lucille Rodgers
Grisel Cartagena	Beatrice Scott
Johnny Cochran	Jose & Vanlee Tapia

Thanksgiving for birth of grandson Dorian
(Rev. Janet and Kent Peterman)

Would someone you know like a home visit? TELC's team of Eucharistic Deacons is ready to visit and administer Holy Communion. Please contact Pastor Rodgers. Also, please send your prayer requests to Pastor Rodgers.



Happy Birthday to
all who were born
in April and May!

COUNCIL MEMBERS INSTALLED



Tabernacle Church Council

President: Al Hunter Jr.

Vice President: Barbara Eddings

Recording Secretary: Mary Stewart

Members: Pastor Rodgers (ex-officio), Annie Armstrong, Valary Callender, Fern Lee Hagedorn, Veronica Smokes, Craig Taylor

Financial Secretary: Patricia Hunter-Moore

Treasurer: Beverly Gaines



April 13
10:30am

Good Friday
April 18, 3pm

Spirit & Truth Worship
Center, 1000 Church
Lane, Yeadon, PA
Pastor Rodgers will be
the preacher.
For more information, contact
Beverly Gaines



Easter Sunday
April 20
10:30am

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