

Tabernacle Evangelical Lutheran Church

In the city since 1906

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The Rev. Carlton Rodgers, Pastor, rodgers1103@comcast.net

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News From Pastor Rodgers

Summer Breezes 2025: Winds of Change

The Holy Spirit has been powerfully present across all three expressions of the church during these warm summer days of 2025, stirring hearts and ushering in historic transformation.

A Historic Churchwide Assembly

From July 28 to August 2, the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly convened in Phoenix, Arizona. In a landmark moment, the Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected as the new presiding bishop, and the Rev. Lucille "CeCee" Mills was elected as secretary of the church.

Rev. Curry, raised in the Catholic tradition and drawn to the ELCA through a ministry program for young Black men, becomes the first Black leader of a denomination often described as America's whitest. Despite a steady decline in membership, the ELCA remains the largest Protestant denomination in several Upper Midwestern states, including Minnesota.

Equally groundbreaking was the election of Rev. Mills, also African American. She currently serves as assistant to the bishop in the ELCA North Carolina Synod and brings a rich history of ministry, including roles as interim pastor, program associate for African Descent Ministries in Chicago, and pastor of Rejoice Lutheran Church in Chesapeake, Virginia. She earned her TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) certification from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 2002.

Tabernacle's Vision for the Future

While history was being made in Phoenix, exciting developments are unfolding right here at Tabernacle. Under the leadership of our new Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM), Rev. Linda Manson, we are engaged in serious conversations about constructing a new church building that will also include affordable housing.

We're currently working with consultants Robert Peters and Ken Staley, as well as Andrew Goodman, Director of Development in Councilwoman Jamie Gauthier's office. This marks the first time in recent memory that both our synod and city officials have offered support for such a transformative project, which is expected to take 4-5 years to complete.

Remedy Band Returns!

As summer winds down, we're capping off the season with a soulful celebration. The Remedy will be back on stage in the parish hall on **August 16** for an afternoon of smooth jazz. Tickets are just **\$20** and are **on sale now**—don't miss this chance to enjoy great music and community spirit!

Aug-Sept

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 on vacation**

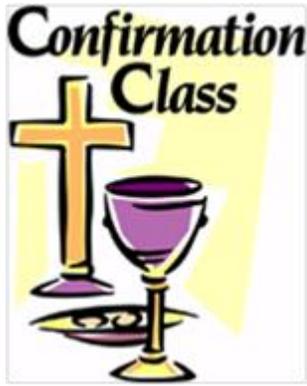
**Food Bank Sept. 17 &
24, 9:30am-11:00am**

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

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**

**Remedy Band will be
in concert on
August 16
4-7pm here at
Tabernacle. See
attached flyer. Tickets
are \$20.**



Pastor Paul Hagedorn has begun teaching about the basics of our faith. Lutheran Christians believe that we are saved not by our own acts, but by what Jesus did for us. The class is open to teens as they prepare for Confirmation. Adults are also invited to take a "refresher" course on *Luther's Small Catechism* which includes the 10 Commandments, Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Holy Communion. Class will be held after worship on the first Sundays of each month. The next one will be held on September 7th. If you have or know of a child in middle to high school, please bring them! Spread the word! For more information, email pahag@verizon.net

Joining God's Family

Is your child baptized? Baptism is a special ceremony where water and God's promises come together. It's a powerful moment that connects a person to Jesus's death and resurrection. It's a visible sign of God's amazing forgiveness and the new life we have through Jesus.

Lutherans call baptism a "sacrament." That means that God is present in a tangible way -- through water -- and offers the forgiveness of sins. Baptism is the way we officially become part of the Church family. Baptism is for everyone, no matter their age.

Lutherans baptize infants because we believe that baptism is a gift from God. It's not something we earn or something we have to be old enough to understand and choose for ourselves. It's all about God's grace—His unconditional love.

This means that even a baby can receive God's amazing gift of new life and forgiveness. It's a sign that God loves us from the very beginning, long before we can even ask for it.

Baptism occurs during a worship service. The family will be invited to come forward. The parents and godparents will promise to bring up the child in the Christian faith. The congregation also promises to help the child grow in faith. Pastor will pour a little water onto the child's forehead three times, each time saying "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Would you like your child, yourself or someone you know, to be baptized? Please contact Pastor Rodgers.



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.



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!

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|------------------|-----------------------|
| Dennis Abraham | Joan Gamble |
| Annie Armstrong | Grace Gerace |
| Mr. Arjona | Trinh Hagedorn |
| Helen Beypu | Tom & Gloria Huey |
| Ann Brown | Pastor Rosa Key |
| Anita Burrell | Diane Medley |
| Grisel Cartagena | Pastor Janet Peterman |
| Johnny Cochran | Lucille Rodgers |
| Barbara Eddings | Beatrice Scott |
| Corrie Ellis Sr. | Jose & Vanlee Tapia |
| Paula Everett | |

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.



September 17 & 24
9:30am – 11:00am

The Food Bank is inviting your contributions of non-perishable food items which have not passed the expiration date. Your contributions, including monetary, are very important. Some of our area programs which were dependent on government sources are now not able to handle the needs of our communities. The Food Bank has experienced an increase of people coming to Tabernacle for food. Our Lord said "For I was hungry and you gave me food." (Matthew 25:35) Please give generously.



Happy Birthday to
all who were born
in August &
September

From Councilmember Jamie Gautier's Office

Tabernacle is situated in the 3rd District

Senior SEPTA KeyCard Days – Seniors 65+ can stop by our District Office (606 S. 52nd Street) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 AM-4 PM, to renew or apply for their SEPTA KeyCard. Seniors ride free on SEPTA.

3rd District Produce Day – Join us to receive fresh produce and resources at our 3rd District Produce Day on every Thursday until August 28th, from 12-2 PM at 606 S. 52nd Street. Please bring a bag! Interested in volunteering? Email us here: alexis.wright-whitley@phila.gov.

Coffee with the Councilmember – Stop by 534 S. 52nd St (52nd & Cedar Ave) on August 13 from 10AM – 1PM or October 15 from 5PM – 8PM for coffee, tea, and conversation with Councilmember Gauthier.

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

The Rev. Yehiel Curry Elected Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

(excerpted from *Living Lutheran*)

PHOENIX — The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Church-wide Assembly held July 28–Aug. 2 at the Phoenix (Ariz.) Convention Center.

Curry was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 799 votes cast, with 400 votes needed for an election. Curry received 562 votes, and the Rev. Kevin Strickland, bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, received 237 votes. Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., where he eventually became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

“Perhaps I’m out there in one of you,” Curry said. “I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church’s support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment.”

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah.

He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. LSTC is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

Watch Presiding Bishop-Elect as he speaks to the Assembly: [Rev. Yehiel Curry](#)



WE'RE DOING IT AGAIN

AN EVENING OF

JAZZ

THE REMEDY BAND

AND SPECIAL GUESTS

FEATURING



SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025

4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

TICKETS: \$20 PER PERSON

REFRESHMENTS SERVED

TABERNACLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

59TH & SPRUCE STREETS

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19139

CONTACT: 215.748.5533

