

# Tabernacle Evangelical Lutheran Church

In the city since 1906

5843 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19139, 215.748.5533, [TabernaclePhilly@gmail.com](mailto:TabernaclePhilly@gmail.com)

The Rev. Carlton Rodgers, Pastor, [rodgers1103@comcast.net](mailto:rodgers1103@comcast.net)

**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5323, Yeadon, PA 19050**

## Pastor's Advent Message



Dear Friends,

We are in the season of Advent! The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival.” Advent is a season of reflection, expectation, and preparation as we celebrate the birth of Christ, and await his eventual Second Coming.

Each candle that we light on the Advent wreath tells a story: hope, peace, joy, and love. These aren't just gifts that God longs to give us in our everyday lives. Hope when the world feels uncertain. Peace when our hearts are restless. Joy that bubbles up even in small, ordinary moments. And love that reminds us we are never, ever alone.

During this joyous holiday season, it is easy to get swept up in the busyness of Christmas: reviewing shopping lists, attending holiday parties, and rushing to get everything “just right.” But Advent gently reminds us to slow down and realize that it's not about perfection -- it's about *preparation*. It's about making room in our hearts for Jesus, the Heavenly Father's greatest gift who comes to us not with fanfare, but with everlasting love.

Therefore, I would encourage you to slow down and notice the ways that Christ continues to show up:

- In the laughter of children.
- In the kindness of a neighbor.
- In the stillness of prayer.
- In the beauty of a simple song.

As we count down the days until our Christmas Eve worship celebration (see the countdown chart displayed in our window), my prayer is that Advent will be more than a countdown to Christmas for each of us. May it be a time of deepening faith, of opening our hearts wider, and of remembering that Emmanuel—God with us—is not just a promise for long ago, but a reality for today and always.

With much gratitude for each of you,

**Pastor Rodgers**

**Dec 2025**



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

**Confirmation/Cate-  
chetical Class** 1st Sun-  
days after worship

**Food Bank** January  
dates to be an-  
nounced

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

**TLC Kids' Club 1st &  
3rd Sat @11am** ID:  
867 9733 9075  
Pass:483844

**Church Council** 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Sundays (Facilities  
Committee meets 1<sup>st</sup>  
Sundays)

**\*You can participate**  
without a computer. Call  
267.831.0333. 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. Since 1906, 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.

## Praying Together

Please remember to pray for people who are in any need. Don't forget to thank God too! God hears our prayers!

Dennis Abraham	Joan Gamble
Annie Armstrong	Trinh Hagedorn
Mr. Arjona	Rev. Phyllis Haynes
Helen Beypu	Tom & Gloria Huey
Ann Brown	Rev. Rosa Key
Anita Burrell	Ted Kramer
Grisel Cartagena	Barbara McLaurin
Jan Chase	Diane Medley
Johnny Cochran	Rev. Janet Peterman
Olivia Cureton	Beatrice Scott
Corrie Ellis Sr.	Jose & Vanlee Tapia
Paula Everett	Jonathan Thorne

Please pray for Tabernacle as we seek to find ways to reach out to families and children in the neighborhood.

Please send your prayer requests to Pastor Rodgers. For home visits, please contact Pastor Rodgers. TELC's Eucharistic Deacons are ready to visit and administer Holy Communion.

## Christmas Eve Worship



Tabernacle will celebrate the birth of our Savior on December 24th at 3pm. Following the service, refreshments will be available. All children will receive special goodies!

## CALENDAR 2025-2026

**November 30-December 24** - Season of Advent

**December 21** - Winter begins, the shortest day of the year

**December 24** - Christmas Eve Service, 3pm

Please bring the children - **special goodies** will be given out to children after the service.

**December 25** - Christmas Day, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

**December 25-January 1** - Kwanzaa

**January 1** - New Year's Day

**January 6** - Epiphany/Three Kings Day

**January 11** - Annual Congregational Meeting

**January 15** - The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Birthday (observed January 19)

## Annual Congregational Meeting

January 11, 2026

You are invited to participate as we gather together to hear what has happened in 2025, and to talk about plans for ministry in 2026. Your thoughts and suggestions are valued and needed. Plan on staying after the worship service to participate. Members have voice and vote (if you're not a member, we welcome your voice). See you on January 11th.

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his  
shoulders.

And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

# FOOD BANK IN ACTION



Tabernacle distributed free turkey dinners to community families in time for Thanksgiving. An annual event, this was done through the hard work of Tabernacle's Food Bank committee members. They provided the turkeys and accompanying side dishes and fresh vegetables to 20 families.



Members of Tabernacle purchased, packed, and distributed Thanksgiving turkey dinners to our neighbors. Thank you!

## 🌿 **HELP OUR NEIGHBORS HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!** 🌿

Christmas is a special time to celebrate the birth of our Lord, the newborn king. Christmas is a time where loved ones gather to enjoy a meal together. More than ever, contributions through food and monetary donations enables the Food Bank to continue providing much-needed food for our neighbors. With rising food prices and affordability, the Food Bank is experiencing an increase of people coming to Tabernacle for food. We need your help. The Food Bank invites you to bring non-perishable food items (which have not expired) to the church. Your monetary contributions are also very important as this ministry operates without government subsidies. Send your check to **Tabernacle Lutheran Church** at the address on page 1, and in the memo line, write "Food Bank." You can also contribute online. Sign up for an account on [www.tithely.com](http://www.tithely.com). You will find selections including: manage your personal account; then find a church; then select Tabernacle Lutheran Church; then enter the dollar amount. Indicate "Food Bank." Every donation is important regardless of the amount. Thank you.





## SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

### December

#### NOV 30 | 1st Sunday of Advent

Isa 2:1-5; Ps 122; Rom 13:11-14; Matt 24:36-44

#### DEC 07 | 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12

#### DEC 14 | 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matt 11:2-11

#### DEC 21 | 4th Sunday of Advent

Isa 7:10-16; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19; Rom 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-25

#### DEC 24 | Christmas Eve

Isa 9:2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

#### DEC 25 | Christmas Day

Isa 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

#### DEC 28 | 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Isa 63:7-9; Ps 148; Heb 2:10-18; Matt 2:13-23

### January

#### JAN 04 | Epiphany Sunday

Jer 31:7-14; Ps 147:12-20; Eph 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18

#### JAN 11 | Baptism of the Lord

Isa 42:1-9; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matt 3:13-17

#### JAN 18 | 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Isa 49:1-7; Ps 40:1-11; 1 Cor 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

#### JAN 25 | 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Isa 9:1-4; Ps 27:1, 4-9; 1 Cor 1:10-18; Matt 4:12-23

## DECORATING THE TREE on DECEMBER 21st



Tabernacle members are getting the tree ready for Christmas! If you would like to help hang the ornaments, come to the December 21st service at 10:30am. After the service, we will decorate the tree. It will be lit up at the Christmas Eve Family Service on December 24th at 3pm. Our young people will be involved in the service, including reading the Scriptures and delivering a children's sermon. Silent Night will be sung by candlelight. After the service, there will be refreshments and each child will receive a gift bag.



*And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

Luke 2:7



*Happy Birthday  
to all born in  
December!*

### 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

# *Have you ever heard a whisper?*

ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry speaks to children about Christmas



Can you all whisper back to me?

Whispers are quiet, gentle, almost like a secret. You have to lean in close to hear them. And I wonder if it's possible for the heavens to whisper at Christmas?

One silent night, far away, in a town called Bethlehem, the stars twinkled brighter than ever. And the angels were there, too. It was as if the whole sky was whispering:

“Something wonderful is happening ...”

Let's all look up at the ceiling like we're looking at the stars. Can you twinkle your fingers like stars?

Now let's whisper together, “Something wonderful is happening ...” The heavens weren't shouting. They weren't making a big noise. They were whispering, because whispers make us stop, listen and pay attention.

And what was the whispering about? A baby. A tiny baby lying in a manger.

His name was Jesus.

Can you pretend to rock a baby in your arms?

The night Jesus was born, the shepherds heard the whisper in the sky when the angels sang. The Wise Men sensed the whisper in the star that guided them. And Mary and Joseph felt the whisper in their hearts: “This child is special. This child is God's gift.”

Sometimes we think God only speaks in loud voices or through big miracles. But Christmas reminds us that God often whispers. God whispers love and kindness and peace. Can you think of one kind thing you could whisper to someone this week?

So, this Christmas, listen closely. The heavens are still whispering: “Jesus is here. God loves you. Share that love with the world.”

Let's all whisper together: “Jesus is here.” Now say “God loves us” in a joyful voice! Amen.

*The Rev. Yehiel Curry*

Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

(click the photo to watch Bishop Curry's message on YouTube)



TABERNACLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**DECEMBER 24**  
**@ 3 PM**

We invite you to bring the entire family as we celebrate God's greatest gift!



You can also join us on



5843 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pa 19139 / 215-748-5533



Tabernacle Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 5323  
Yeadon, PA 19050

To:

For  
unto us a  
**CHILD**  
is born  
unto us a **Son**  
is given, and the  
Government shall be  
Upon His shoulders,  
and His Name shall be called,  
Wonderful, Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace!  
Isaiah 9:6