

# Tabernacle Evangelical Lutheran Church

In the city since 1906

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

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## “We Dare to Dream “

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., it appears that there will be some difficult days ahead. But, now that 2024 is a memory, it's time for us to get to work as we look to the future with hope. Despite of all that is happening, I have great hopes for TLC in 2025. I am still dreaming of what we can be, and what we will be able to achieve together, trusting that “we can do all things through Christ, who strengthens us.”

Because my hope remains in Christ, I have dared to share my hopes and dreams for this congregation in the form of a “wish list” for 2025. Although the list is long, I want you to know that the following 3 items are at the top of my list of things to accomplish during the remaining months of this year:

First, I dream of visiting the Resurrection Lutheran Church, in Yardley Pa. this year so that I can thank them personally for the generous contributions that they have made to our church during the past year. They have been a God send.

Secondly, I have a dream that the Holy Spirit will enable 20 members (including myself) to accept the challenge of donating \$5000 each, toward the roof repairs in 2025!

Finally, I continue to dream that several congregations will work together and organize a community-based music ministry program for children and youth of the West Philadelphia / Cobbs Creek area, using talented local artists to serve as musical instructors. It is also my hope that Tabernacle will host a musical concert featuring choirs from the Boys Latin High School and the Alexander Hamilton Middle School during the year!

Now, what are your dreams for 2025? -- *Pastor Rodgers*



## February March 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** Nov 20 &  
Dec 18 9:30am to  
12noon

**Church Council** 2<sup>nd</sup>  
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 116<sup>th</sup> 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!

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Dennis Abraham      | Paula Everett       |
| Tony Arjona         | Joan Gamble         |
| Brenda Armstead     | Grace Gerace        |
| Patricia Armstead-  | Tom Huey            |
| Coleman             | Pastor Rosa Key     |
| Helen Beypu         | Diane Medley        |
| Ann Brown           | Gabrielle Moy       |
| Anita Burrell       | Neil & Mara         |
| Sandra Brown-Wright | Blanche Riggs       |
| Grisel Cartagena    | Lucille Rodgers     |
| Johnny Cochran      | Beatrice Scott      |
| Mary Davies         | Jose & Vanlee Tapia |
| Patrick Elcock      | Leslie Turnage      |
| Corrie Ellis, Sr.   |                     |

For Peace in the World

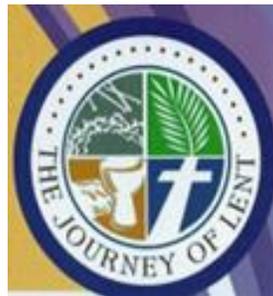
Would someone you know like a home visit? TELC's team of Eucharistic Deacons are ready to visit and administer Holy Communion. Please contact Pastor Rodgers. Also, please send your prayer requests to Pastor Rodgers.



**February 19, 26**  
**March 19, 26**  
**Wednesday 9:30 -12 noon**



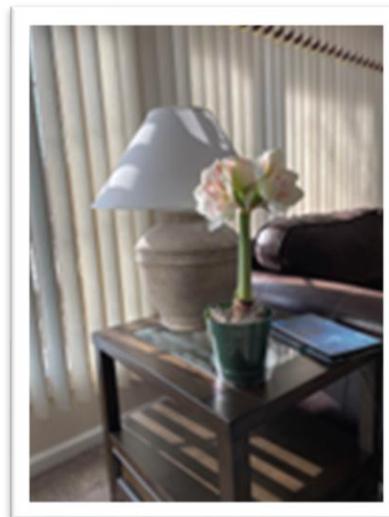
**To everyone born in**  
**January and**  
**February and**  
**March**



## ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5

**ASH WEDNESDAY, March 5, begins the season of LENT.** Tabernacle will join Grace, New Life, and Faith-Immanuel for joint worship and fellowship meal at Faith-Immanuel Lutheran Church, 65 Penn Blvd., East Lansdowne, PA 19050. The fellowship meal begins at 6pm followed by the worship service at 7pm. The Rev. Derric Jackson, pastor of New Life, will be the preacher. If you are interested in singing in a combined choir, and for more information, contact Beverly Gaines.

### Prize-winning Amaryllis



I am happy to report that the prize-winning bulb that the Rev. Janet Peterman gave me for Christmas has blossomed into a beautiful plant with four separate flowers. According to Rev. Peterman, the bulb is actually an "Elvas" edition of an Amaryllis plant. Now, Lucille and I will need to follow the instructions that came with the bulb, so that it will bloom again next year, Lord willing. – Pastor Rodgers

## Highlights from the Annual Meeting

Pastor Rodgers completed 20 years of ministry at Tabernacle! He had the honor of preaching in his home church (United Methodist) and at the Cobbs Creek Coalition's New Year's Eve service.

. Tabernacle continued to hold Sunday morning worship both in-person and on Facebook. Al Hunter has led Sunday worship on a volunteer basis playing his flute. Most recently, Michael Ireland, a violist has accompanied Al, as well as Pastor Rodgers on the keyboard. Tabernacle hosted the Ash Wednesday service which included Grace and New Life Lutheran Churches.

. Tabernacle continued its Christian education emphases online through the Wednesday evening Bible studies and Saturday morning Kids Club. Ideas expressed to further Christian education included offering confirmation class (Pastor Hagedorn) and Vacation Bible School (Carlo Arjona). Pastor Rodgers hopes that the 2023 Youth Choir project can return in 2025.

. Tabernacle's Food Bank continued to be our most visible outreach program, providing sustenance to 10 to 12 families twice a month. Thanksgiving and Christmas turkeys were distributed to the community. Drexel University donated 40 turkey dinners for Christmas.

. The upkeep of the interior and exterior of Tabernacle included regular trash removal, snow removal, and upkeep of bushes and flowers. Leaks into the office and hallways, are ongoing. A major challenge remains – **repairing the roof**. Proposals continue to be sought. (Other repairs need to be done. To review and contribute to other needed repairs, see [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XcN4L76BOJAZj\\_S1X-eIBSxRf-2ChYFc/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XcN4L76BOJAZj_S1X-eIBSxRf-2ChYFc/view?usp=sharing) and contact Annie Armstrong [aarmstrong1509@gmail.com](mailto:aarmstrong1509@gmail.com)).

. Tabernacle's limited financial resources were diligently used under the coordination of the Finance Committee. Paying the monthly bills was done on a timely basis throughout the year. Members have been faithful with their tithes.

. Pastor Rodgers accepted a reduction in his salary to help Tabernacle meet its budget.

. "Holy Conversations," a process to help Tabernacle plan its future, was begun. Bishop Bryan Penman came to Tabernacle for a discussion.

. The Remedy Band, led by Craig Taylor, presented a Jazz Concert this summer, with ticket proceeds going to Tabernacle's ministries.

. Liberian Sunday was celebrated during the worship and meal following the service.

. Carlo Arjona, Council President, will be stepping down. The congregation gave thanks for his years of faithful dedication, leadership, and hard work!

*The congregation passed a resolution authorizing the church council to utilize up to \$35,000 toward the repair of the roof.*

### **Tabernacle Church Council**

**President:** Al Hunter

**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

# Black Lutheran History Moment ...

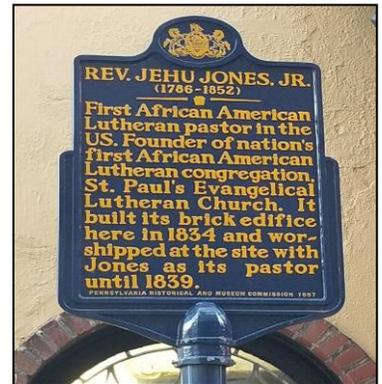
## Rev. Jehu Jones



**Jehu Jones, Jr. (1786-1852)**, the first African American Lutheran pastor, was born in Charleston, South Carolina on September 4, 1786, to slave parents, Jehu Sr. and Abigail Jones. Originally affiliated with the Episcopal Church, around 1820 Jones became a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Charleston. With the encouragement of his pastor, the Reverend John Bachman, Jones traveled to New York to be ordained by the New York Synod in 1832. Jones then became missionary to Liberia to help the freed slaves in that country. Jones came back to Charleston after his ordination and was jailed briefly for violating South Carolina's law prohibiting the immigration of free Blacks. After his release, Jones moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in June 1833 the Pennsylvania ministry decided that he should be appointed "to labor as a Missionary...among the colored people in Philadelphia ...". On February 16, 1834, the St. Paul's congregation that Jones founded decided to build a church

with the help of other Lutheran congregations. In June of that year, he purchased two lots on Quince Street in Philadelphia for the church. Jones also founded Lutheran churches in Gettysburg and Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, but those were not exclusively black congregations.

The first congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church was composed of twenty impoverished black Philadelphians. Assisted by Pastors Philip Mayer of Philadelphia and Benjamin Keller of St. Michael's Church in Germantown, Jones laid the cornerstone for the building (only recently identified to be still standing at 310 South Quince Street). The congregation paid nearly 40 percent of the costs by the time the building was dedicated in 1836. Because the rest of the funding (about \$1,300) was not obtained, the building was sold at a sheriff's auction in 1839. Jones continued to serve the congregation until 1851. Jones tried to start a Lutheran church in New York City in 1849, but the New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church barred him from doing so because of what they charged as the mismanagement of finances at St. Paul's Church. Jones responded in a pamphlet arguing that the unpaid debts were beyond his control because of racial prejudice against the congregation. Reverend Jehu Jones Jr. died at age 66 in 1852. St. Paul's Church survived only a few years after his death.



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