



The Voice

of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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September 2019

Jehu Jones, Lenny Duncan, the ELCA and 400 years since the first ship carrying slaves landed in Virginia.



At the end of August the New York Times launched what it calls the "1619 Project." It is a series of articles designed to help readers understand the impact of slavery on the founding of the United States. Slavery in North America existed for 157 years before the founding of our country. Slavery in America was at the heart of the American Civil War. And though slavery was abolished in the midst of that conflict, our country has struggled to come to terms with lingering racism through all the years since. It is an issue that makes people uncomfortable. It's an issue dividing our country to this day. And it is an issue that we, as Evangelical Lutherans have some unique resources to help us engage in the topic, and to work toward a more inclusive vision of America.

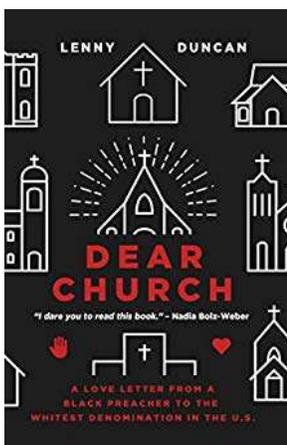
Jehu Jones was the first African pastor of the Lutheran Church here in North America. He was born in 1786, the child of slaves. He was a slave himself. His parents were freed from their slavery in 1798, and his father went on to run a hotel in Charleston, South Carolina. Jehu Jones joined St. John's Lutheran Church in Charleston in 1820, and in 1832 he was ordained and moved to Philadelphia to minister to the African Community there. In 1834 he founded St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1834. And spent the remainder of his life ministering in and around Philadelphia, advocating for better conditions for free Africans, calling for Civil Right to be guaranteed. He died in 1852 at the age of 66. He is remembers on our calendar of saints on November 24th.

Lenny Duncan is the pastor of Jehu's Table, in Brooklyn, NY. It is named for Jehu Jones. He's written a book that is catching a lot of attention at present: "Dear Church: A love letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in America." He calls it a love letter



because he experienced a radical acceptance in our church, a welcome to the Communion table, an accent on the saving grace of Jesus Christ, which made room for him as he emerged from a difficult period of his life including drugs and incarceration. These same strengths are what enables many to feel a welcome when they come to us, and not judgment. In his book he offers a vision for the future of our church that is more diverse, full of life, and he outlines the hard work that must be done, if we are going to be able to offer to others a way forward out of the racial animus that continues to be so destructive to our country. We encourage you to use some of the resources available to us over this sobering anniversary. To give yourselves room to think and grow.

Pastors Wendy and Tim



MISSION MESSAGE

MIGRANT SOLUTIONS

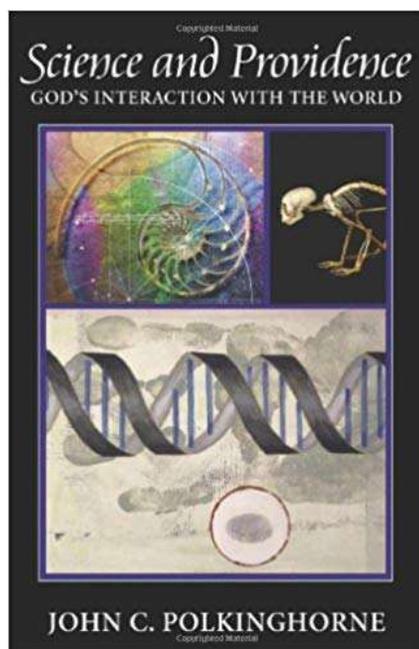
Perhaps you heard that the ELCA pronounced itself a sanctuary denomination at the recent churchwide assembly. That means that we are committed to walk with migrants and assist them in any way we can. However, what if life weren't so cruel back in their home countries? What if they had a secure job and steady income? Maybe they wouldn't have to leave home at all. And what about the many who are being sent back to the place from which they tried to escape gang violence, domestic abuse, poverty?

Though the migration crisis is daunting, there is hope. In Honduras, the ELCA supports the Lutheran World Federation and the Mennonite Social Action Committee to assist returned migrants with vocational support. A kiosk at a bus terminal where many migrants arrive provides them with humanitarian aid, hygiene kits, and other essential resources. The Mennonite organization gives mental health care, educational training and life-skills workshops, such as business plans, investments, and human rights. Over 900 people have been helped through this program. A few examples: One man who was unsuccessful in reuniting with his family in the US was given seed money and education to start a pig farm; a young woman was trained in cosmetology and given resources to start a home business; another man was able to expand his woodworking business, obtaining new equipment and registering his home business so he could sell goods beyond Honduras.

Your mission support to the ELCA helps programs like this to walk with the migrants and provide sanctuary, right in their own home towns. **Thank you!**

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:



Conversations on Faith and Science Returns in the Fall: September 23rd 7:30-9:00pm

A dictionary definition of “Providence” would be something like: a manifestation of divine care or direction over the universe. John Polkinghorne, nuclear physicist turned Anglican priest says that the God of Christians “is a God believed to be in continual interaction with all creation. A God to be addressed in prayer, a God who exercises a providential care.

On September 23rd we'll begin a conversation that will last over several sessions to explore whether and how such a personal, interacting God is possible in this scientific age. Come, join the conversation!

September means Sunday School and rally Day are just around the corner.

Make your plans now to attend the annual Rally Day celebration at St. Paul's on Sunday, September 8th.

Worship begins at 9:00am with the children in attendance. The Sunday School teachers and staff will be blessed and the children will be dismissed to meet their teachers. The

Rally commences after worship with food and fun

galore! Don't miss it the special activities planned for the Anniversary Time Capsule as well as Sno-cones, andthe Firetruck rides!



The last of our "Summer Praise" 10:30 am services in the Friendship Room will be on Sunday, September 8th. Beginning on Sunday, September 15th, worship will be in the church sanctuary each week at 9:00am and 10:30am.

Annual Corn Roast

Come! Bring your Family and Friends! Join us for our fourth annual corn roast on

Saturday, August 24, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

We'll supply corn on the cob, hot dogs, soft drinks/water.

Desserts and/or snacks to share are welcome!

Look for the sign-up sheet on the table by the office.



BOOK CLUB: Book Club will meet Sunday, September 15 at 3:00pm in the Friendship Room to discuss Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. Judy Pasciak will be our hostess. All are welcome! Questions? Please call Ellen Pachioli at 636-9786.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS - All donations go into the Memorial Fund unless otherwise indicated.

FUNERAL: **Arthur “Bud” Keller**, husband of Pat and father of Kathie, died on July 27, 2019. Pastor Wendy officiated at a private funeral service on August 2nd at Beach-Tuyn Funeral Home.

MARRIAGE: **James M. Kuzon & Michelle A. Flynn** were married at St. Paul’s on August 3, 2019.

BAPTISM: **Vallyn Marie Granica**, daughter of Katie and Michael Granica, was baptized at St. Paul’s on August 11, 2019.

PRAYER LIST – AUGUST VOICE

Dick Atkins
Dick Edwards, Bros. of Mercy
Ursula Grau
Beverly Heinricher
Erin Jankowski
Jim Kaepfel
Holly Kolb

Marge Kolb
Zoe Malchow
Jim Murray
Eva Paulson
Rosemary Rizzo
Tony Rizzo

ALTAR GUILD needs subs for our guild members. You would be called upon to help out as needed. Please consider joining us—free training provided! To find out more, please call Arlene Bossert at 697-4848. Thank you.

IN GRATITUDE: *My heartfelt “Thank You” for the prayers and well wishes while I was recuperating from two major surgeries. You are a loving church family. God bless you.*

*Sincerely,
Julia Levy*

LOCKPORT FOOD PANTRY: I have made two deliveries to the food pantry in Lockport and everything is greatly appreciated, especially the cake mixes. Along with the cake mixes, canned meats, canned fruit (except peaches) they could use toothbrushes & toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and hand & body lotion. This is an ongoing project. Thank you for all your support. —Diane Busdiecker

Please remember to save your DASH register tapes. Dash’s super market gives the congregation \$2.50 for each \$100 of purchases. These “rebates” are used for Youth group and incidental expenses such as the women’s retreat. St Paul’s began participating in the program in 2005. We have received over \$12,000 in rebates.

This is an important program for the youth and the women’s retreat. Please save your register tapes. They can be deposited in the cigar box on the table outside of the narthex or in the large manila envelope on the bulletin board in the Social Hall.



You Are Cordially Invited to a:

150th Anniversary Dinner Celebration

Saturday October 19th, 2019

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

5:30 - *Hors d'oeuvres & Social Hour*

6:30 - *Dinner Catered by Living Roots*

With live music by Roaming Strings

Guest Speaker:

Rev. Vernon A. Victorson

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Paid reservations with meal selection will be accepted in the social hall in between services or to the church office until September 22nd.

Please note: Reservations are limited to 100 guests.

Checks can be made out to St. Paul's with 'Anniversary Dinner' in the memo

Your dinner will include salad, dinner rolls, roasted potatoes, green beans and cake for dessert.

Choose between:

-Pork Tenderloin - Roasted Chicken

-Portobello Mushroom

BYOB - coffee, tea and punch provided

Total Number Attending: _____

Name(s) Attending: _____

Dinner Selection:

____ Pork Tenderloin

____ Roasted Chicken

____ Portobello Mushroom

Phone Number: _____

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

ST. PAUL'S in WILLIAMSVILLE

1869 ~ 2019

Calendar of Events

Sons of St. Paul's Preacher Series

- Pastor Bill Seibert (1971-1986)

September 22nd

Time Capsule

September 22nd

Anniversary Dinner

October 19th

Bishop Visit

November 3rd

Olde Fashioned Ice Cream Social

November 17th

Tree Trimming – Anniversary Edition

December 8th

Event Highlight -September: ~

Join us on September 22nd as we celebrate our anniversary with many exciting events. First, step back in time at the 9am service when we welcome back our former pastor, **Bill Seibert (served 1971-1986)** to preach for us. At the conclusion of the service, we will join Pastor Seibert outside as we help the children of the Sunday School dedicate, pack and bury our

150th Anniversary Time Capsule! Following the ceremony, all are invited to a special reception to celebrate our time capsule and the return of Pastor Seibert. Due to the festivities, there will only one service on September 22nd.



SEE YOU AT RALLY DAY - It's time to kick off another Sunday School year with Rally Day on September 8th. Join us at 9am in church before we split into our classes and prepapre some items for the 150th Anniversary Time Capsule! At 10am we will head outisde for our annual SnoCones, firetruck rides and fun!

St. Paul's Giving App and Website

We now have the ability to give electronically to the church via a Giving App called **Tithe.ly**. The instructions are on the St. Paul's website. Please be sure when you are setting up the account that you select St Paul's ELCA Church – Williamsville, 68 Eagle Street, Williamsville, NY 14221 as there are many other churches throughout the country called St. Paul's who take advantage of this service. You can set up on your smart phone or on your computer at: <https://get.tithe.ly/>

Full instructions can be found on the St. Paul's website at: <http://stpaulswilliamsville.org/>

1-5-0 Capital Improvement Fund Drive

We have also set up a GoFundMe page for accepting donations to our 1-5-0 Anniversary Capital Improvement Fund Drive. As outlined in last month's newsletter, we have several major repairs needed for the building. You can find a direct link on our website (<http://stpaulswilliamsville.org>) as well as on our Facebook page.

The website link is: <https://www.gofundme.com/st-paul039s-williamsville-150-anniv-capital-improv>

For those who wish to give with cash or checks, 1-5-0 envelopes will be available in the pews and on the table in the narthex.

ONLINE OPTION FOR RECEIVING THE VOICE

If you have not yet notified us whether you would like the voice emailed to you or sent by regular mail, please fill out the form that's on the table in the foyer and leave it on Sharon's desk, email us at stpaulwilliamsville@roadrunner.com, or call the church office to let us know your preference.