

WEEK 1: PRE-CIVIL WAR ERA

JEHU JONES

Scripture – Philemon 1: 15-19

Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good. No longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but dearer to you both as a man and is a brother in the Lord. So, if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self.

Summary



Jehu Jones Jr., **the first African American Ordained Lutheran Pastor**, was born in Charleston, South Carolina on September 4, 1786 to slave parents, Jehu Sr. and Abigail Jones. Jones' parents were freed in 1798.

Jones was originally affiliated with the Episcopal Church but, finding himself increasingly drawn to Lutheranism, around 1820 he 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 as a missionary to Liberia to help freed slaves transition to that country. However, when Jones returned to Charleston after being ordained, he was briefly jailed for violating

a law prohibiting freed blacks from returning to a state they had left.

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 under the direction of our Ministers." On February 16, 1834, the St. Paul's congregation that Jones founded decided to build a church with the help of other Lutheran congregations. Four months later Jones purchased two lots on 150 S. Quince Street for the church to be built. Assisted by Pastors Philip Mayer of Philadelphia and Benjamin Keller of St. Michael's Church in Germantown, Jones laid the cornerstone for the building.



The first congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church was composed of twenty impoverished black Philadelphians.

Song Recommendations

- Lift Every Voice and Sing – Hymn #295 (Appropriate Anytime)

Pre-Civil War Era (Slavery)

- Wade in The Water – Hymn#114
- Swing Low – Sweet Chariot – Hymn#171
- Go Down Moses – Hymn#87
- Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

Petition for prayers of the people

Weekly Prayer (for individuals, small groups or the prayer of the day. Write yourself or use this one)

Heavenly Father,

Gratitude should be our constant companion. Release my limiting beliefs and I will claim the power of God, a strength beyond mere human strength. I will live with assurance and positive expectancy of my faith. I am open and receptive to the divine flow of life, love, and possibilities. I say yes to prosperity, healing, harmony, and peace. I say yes to my good and love today and every day. I (We) ask this in your Son's holy name.

Amen

Offering Prayer

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior.

Amen

Blessing

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you today and always.

Amen

Jehu Jones Additional Information:

- **Article:** Fate, M. (2014, April 16). *Jehu Jones Jr. (1786-1852)*. [BlackPast.org](https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/jones-jehu-jr-1786-1852/).
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- **Article:** Johnson, Jr., Karl E. and Joseph A Romeo. "Jehu Jones (1786-1852): The First African American Lutheran Minister." *Lutheran Quarterly* X, no. 4 (Winter 1996)
- **Video:** Jehu Jones and African American Lutherans
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwj37LWnscj8AhUWEFkFHQayBq0Q78AJegQIDBAB&url=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvJPTZSFWxl&usg=AOvVaw3qjv-t9_hkFu_m2dwe-lcU
- **Video:** Remembering Pastor Jehu Jones
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjKnY2Xp8j8AhWxMikFHVpYDEAQFnoECAkQAO&url=https://ne-np.facebook.com/zionlutheranperry/videos/849325956262401/&usg=AOvVaw3m_XfLleiUQLb4zGPMT4GA