

THE MESSENGER – AUGUST 4, 2025



SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

YEHIEL CURRY ELECTED PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE ELCA

The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

To learn more concerning Bishop Curry, see the two following links:

1. <https://www.elca.org/news-and-events/yehiel-curry-elected-presiding-bishop-of-the-elca>
2. <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2025/07/casting-a-vision-for-the-church/>



INVITATIONAL CHRISTIAN STUDY

We continue our study together of “The Invitational Christian”. It is **very important** that everyone in the congregation be involved in this study since it will help us to determine the future of this congregation. Meeting Sunday in the sanctuary, following worship.

MID-WEEK ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wed. Morning - 10:00 am and Thur. Night - 6:30 pm. Both meet in the Music Room.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS - SHEPHERD'S FOLD STAFF AND STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY

On September 27th, from 11am to 2pm

there will be a Shepherd's Fold Appreciation Day picnic in the church parking lot

This will be an opportunity for our congregation to not only show appreciation for our childcare center, but also a chance for build relationships by getting to know the staff and the families of the children.

I'm currently looking for individuals to be part of our planning committee. If you're interested, please email Leslie McCourt at mccourtleslie@gmail.com, or talk to me at church.

Don't worry If you are unable to help on the committee, there will be plenty of opportunities for the entire congregation to be involved.

Your servant in Christ, Leslie

WIDOWS OF SELC LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21 - 12 NOON

Lunch will be at La Casita Mexican Restaurant. Payment for lunch will be “Dutch.” Join us for this fun get together. Please RSVP 8/19. For more information or would like to attend, contact Carol Jordahl at 520-227-2796 (please leave a message).

VIA DE CRISTO RENEWAL AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Oct. 9-12, 2025

"A SELC invitation to all to receive a wonderful gift from God"



What is VIA de CRISTO? – It is a highly structured three-day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people. There is no cost to participants to attend the weekend.

Dates for 2025 – Thursday Oct 9 – Sunday Oct 12. This weekend is open to married couples and single men and women.

What happens at a VIA de Cristo weekend? – Participants live, study, worship, and commune together daily. Talks are given by lay people as well as clergy, which present the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. Following each talk the main points of the talk are discussed. There is also music and singing, food and fellowship, a time for laughter and a time for prayer. And the food is really great. It is a powerful and unique weekend where one can truly experience God's love in action.

Who should consider attending? – Those who desire to strengthen their relationship with Christ, attain a new closeness to Christ, attaining a better knowledge of Christ and become better servants of Christ. Attending also provides the opportunity to renew and grow in their faith and learn more about prayer, Bible study, and sharing their faith with others. Participants should be at least 18 years old, a baptized Christian, an active adult member of a Christian congregation, with a desire for God's love, and a passion to do God's work in the Church.

Where to find more info – Go to www.soazviadecristo.org then click on "VIA DE CRISTO" to read about the history of Via de Cristo. You may contact Jim Clevon, SELC parish representative for Via de Cristo at 520-678-0414, or eaglelope@cox.net for more information. Brochures and registration packets are available in the narthex and outside the church office. All registration packages should be submitted to Jim Clevon by September 1, 2025, but please don't wait that long as other church's applications could fill up the class.

August 4-10, 2025

MON 8/4		
TUE 8/5	9:00 AM	MOA Meeting – Music Room
	6:30 PM	Shepherd's Fold Board Meeting – Music Room
WED 8/6	10:00 AM	Bible Study – Music Room
	4:30 PM	Grace Group – Meeting Room
THURS 8/7	9:00 AM	Shepherd's Fold Chapel
	10:30 AM	Fellowship Team – Meeting Room
	6:30 PM	Bible Study – Music Room
	6:30 PM	Plus Square Dancing – Fellowship Hall
FRI 8/8		Church office closed on Friday's
	6:30 PM	Plus Square Dancing – Fellowship Hall
SAT 8/9		
SUN 8/10	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service
	10:30 AM	Faith Formation –Sanctuary-Invitational Christian
	11:15 AM	Hunger Ministry Team – Music Room

SELC FAMILY PORTRAITS

FRANKIE APPELIN

1. *Where were you born or raised?*

I was born at Hachita, New Mexico. Then when I was ten years old, we moved to south of McNeal, AZ. It was a ranch and we rode horses after cattle and pitched hay.

2. *Where did you go to school?*

I went to a one room schoolhouse. I had to ride a horse to school. When it rained, we couldn't get across the creek to go home. We stayed at an elderly couple's house and when the creek went down, we rode home. Later we rode in an old truck on seats in the truck bed. We rode around the foothills.

I went to Douglas High School. During WWII my Dad took me out of school. I worked at an Air Base at Douglas. Eventually, I got a 1946 Chevy green sedan.

3. *What is/was your job or career?*

I got married to John Appelin when I was 21 years old. I used to get the mail at the post office in McNeal. He would go there to get his mail and we met. We were married at the Lutheran Church in Douglas. He worked in the mines in Bisbee and then he was in the Army. He was stationed in Yuma- a hot place. Then he worked at a bank in Phoenix - not long. So, we had moved around. I was cashier on Ft. Huachuca at the Commissary and I also worked at the Food Giant Grocery Store. Altogether, I worked 22 years and raised two children.

4. *When arrived at SELC / what brought you here?*

We moved to Sierra Vista in 1961. I wanted to join the Lutheran Church.

5. *What activities have you been involved with here?*

A church friend comes and picks me up for services. I want to go to church. I am now 100 years old. My family had a party for me and so did my church on my birthday in June.

6. *What are your hobbies or interests?*

I watch the birds as they come to my feeders. I often go to lunch at Culvers with my friends. My meal is shrimp.

7. *What is something you'd like to see the church do?*

I can't see anything wrong with my church.

