



# THE ADVENTURE

SEPTEMBER 2025

## GHOST RANCH PREACHING RETREAT (PART 2)

by Rev. Dr. Gabriele Schroeder

Last month, I wrote about my plans of travelling to Northern Central New Mexico and attending a preaching retreat. Let me now tell you how it went and what I learned.

To my surprise, almost 90 people had made the journey to remote Abiquiu ... a bit intimidating for an introvert like me. Participants came from all over the US and from over half a dozen different denominations (Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Methodist, Baptist, Mennonite, United Church of Christ, and Christian Church/ Disciples). There were pastors of small congregations and large ones, younger and older, men and women, first-call and seasoned pastors. The retreat began on Monday evening (August 11) and ended on Friday morning (August 15). Each day was filled with devotions, worship service, plenary presentations, workshop, unstructured conversations, and some free time. Thanks to the car I had rented in Albuquerque, I was able to go off-campus to visit a site that Carol and Tom Kent had

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# COUNCIL CONNECTION

BY KARYL CIMINI

## FAITH

2025 has been quite the year for me. Lots of ups and downs - recognizing the journey of aging. My latest adventure is with my eyes. The challenge of not being able to see clearly has really tested me.

Having worn glasses since 4th grade, I'm used to some struggles with my eyesight. Now, after retinal repairs on both eyes, the bigger issue is that due to my surgeries, my cataracts have grown. Unfortunately, this has caused me to lose my ability to see things clearly - especially up close. Needless to say, frustration has been rather high the past few weeks. I know many of you have experienced similar issues, so you can relate to what I'm going through. The biggest challenges I've faced over the past few weeks - not being able to drive, having to enlarge the print on my computer to 1/4 the height of the screen to be able to read words, not being able to see people's faces clearly, not being able to chop vegetables safely...the list goes on and on.

Rest assured, I'm not sharing this with you to seek sympathy, but more to share with you that even with

these challenges, I have faith that things will work out just the way God has planned. Yes, I feel the frustration, but I know there's a reason for these trying times in my life. As is par for the course - I can't understand the reason for this right now, but eventually it will become clear to me.

We all face challenges in our lives - in many different ways. We need to remember, there is a reason for everything - we may not agree with it, we may lash out in anger or frustration, we may withdraw from things - we all respond differently. But, one thing we all need to do is have faith. God gifts us the strength and ability to deal with our adversities in life. How do we do it? One day at a time. Yes, I lose faith (and patience) periodically - I'm human...I also know that God is there beside me every step of the way - I just need to pay attention and listen.



## COUNCIL CONNECTION (CONTINUED)

To everyone who's healing, whatever your challenge may be, I wish you strength and courage in your journey. Remember God is with you every step of the way - no matter how overwhelmed you may feel. Open your heart, your mind, your soul and let him guide

you through your healing.

May God's peace encompass all of us as we travel onward.

*Karyl*

## HART HAPPENINGS

BY BARBARA OLSON

On October 24 HART will be hosting their annual Spaghetti Fest fundraiser for 2025. We will have 3 tables available for Advent members and friends who would like to show their support for HART and enjoy a fun evening together. During September there will be sign up sheets in the narthex for the seats available. There is no request for payment, but if you want to contribute for your meal or want to bid on items at the silent auction and the raffle, your contribution will be much appreciated. In addition to the fundraising there will be live music and dancing.



If you would prefer to purchase your own table and invite your family and friends to join you, contact Barbara Olson at 916-765-3147 for information.

HART has been concentrating on its rental assistance funds to support people at risk of being homeless. They also are involved in free meal distribution and referral to available services for those already homeless. Winter Sanctuary is another way we support the homeless community. Anything you can contribute will be used wisely and judiciously to provide services where needed.

# YEHIEL CURRY ELECTED AS ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

On July 30, 2025, during our denomination's Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ, voting members elected Yehiel Curry, 53, to serve a six-year term as ELCA Presiding Bishop. Curry was elected on the fifth ballot during voting on the floor of the Phoenix Convention Center. He was in third place on the first two ballots, when many candidates had single-digit votes. The election was open to any ordained pastor within the ELCA. By the third ballot Curry broke into a decisive lead of 41.45 percent. The closest runner-up was Bishop Kevin Strickland of the Southeastern Synod in Atlanta, at 13.86 percent. By the fourth ballot, the only remaining candidates were Curry, Strickland, and Bishop Tracie Bartholomew of the New Jersey Synod. On the fifth ballot, when the choice was between Curry and Strickland, Curry sealed his victory with 70.34 percent of the vote. Presiding-Bishop-elect Curry's trajectory to this new role has been profoundly different from the trajectories of his predecessors. Growing up Roman Catholic on the South Side of Chicago as one of 11 children, Curry attended a Catholic College, Lewis University in Romeo, Illinois, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Subsequently, he became a seventh-grade teacher and later a social worker in the Chicago Public School system.



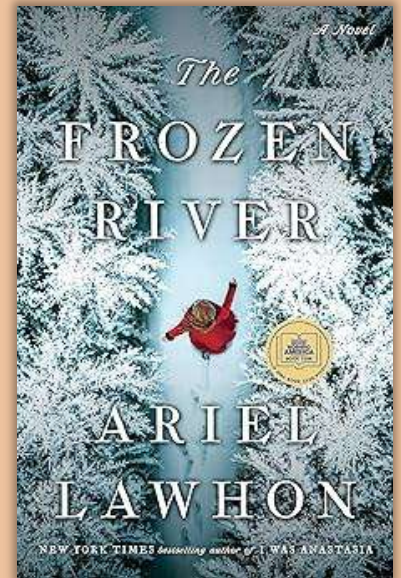
Curry's journey to leadership in the ELCA began in 1996 at a potluck on Chicago's South Side. There, he was invited by a friend to a program named SIMBA Circle (Safe in My Brothers' Arms). SIMBA Circle was an ELCA camping ministry that began in the early 1990s as a response to racial tensions in the country after the police beating and arrest of Rodney King in Los Angeles. The camp, which paired Black teenage boys with mentors, ran a summer session, follow-up programs, and a worship service during the year. Initially, the program operated out of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Curry remembers, "I had these unique students. And I was interested in services for them. ... There was a worship service I stayed for. And I loved it."

*(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)*



# ZOOM BOOK CLUB

Our book club meets monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm via Zoom. The next meeting is on September 15. The book club has selected "*The Frozen River*" for September's discussion:



Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Months earlier, Martha documented the details of an alleged rape committed by two of the town's most respected gentlemen—one of whom has now been found dead in the ice. But when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own.

Over the course of one winter, as the trial nears, and whispers and prejudices mount, Martha doggedly pursues the truth. Her diary soon lands at the center of the scandal, implicating those she loves, and compelling Martha to decide where her own loyalties lie.

• New York Times Bestseller • GMA Book Club Pick • An NPR Book of the Year •



*All are welcome to join the discussion. Contact Beth Mora at [emorab@comcast.net](mailto:emorab@comcast.net) for the Zoom link. We'll look forward to seeing you!*

# ELCA – CONGREGATIONS, SYNODS, CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION

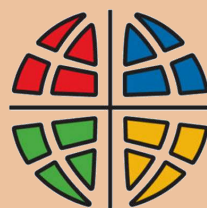
Advent is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The ELCA denomination was created on January 1, 1988 from a merger of three Lutheran church bodies – the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC), and the Lutheran Church in America (LCA).

Since its beginning, the ELCA has been one church body organized in three “expressions” – congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. This “three-fold” understanding of the church is foundational to our life together as the body of Christ: each expression has its particular functions but all three together share a common mission of doing God’s work in the world and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.” Together, these three expressions ensure a solid foundation of leadership, active involvement in communities, opportunities for dialogue and diverse perspectives, creative partnerships, and support for members and ministries of the ELCA.

The churchwide organization operates out of the Lutheran Center in Chicago and functions in collaboration with the ELCA’s 65 synods (organized into 8 regions) and nearly 9,000 congregations across the 50 states, Caribbean, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

The structure of governance is similar at each level. The highest decision-making body for each of the three expressions is the “assembly,” an elected body comprised of lay and ordained leaders (annual congregational meeting, synod assembly, churchwide assembly).

Congregations have annual meetings. Synod assemblies are convened either annually or every other year. The churchwide assembly (CWA) meets once every three years (in years where there is no youth gathering or national pastors meeting). In-between those assembly gatherings, elected councils make decisions for the church (church council, synod council, churchwide council).



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

## ELCA STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)

In addition, all ELCA bishops meet twice a year as Conference of Bishops to support each other in ministry and coordinate their work.

At each level, four elected officers oversee the ongoing business of the church (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary). Within synods, the synodical bishop functions as the synod president. Within the churchwide organization, the Presiding Bishop serves as its president. The Vice President at each level is a lay person.

Advent belongs to the Sierra Pacific Synod (Synod 2-A). Together with four other synods in the Southwest (SW California, Pacifica, Grand Canyon, and Rocky Mountain Synods), we belong to ELCA Region 2.

Each synod is subdivided into conferences, each headed by a dean (a pastor who is elected for a three-year term). Sierra Pacific Synod currently is divided into nine conferences. Our conference, the Capitol Valley Conference (Conference 3), consists of 19

congregations (from Fairfield in the South to Woodland in the North and Roseville in the East). Pastor Gabi was elected for a second term as conference dean in May.

The ELCA also nurtures important connections with Lutheran organizations and ecumenical/interfaith partners, working alongside 27 colleges and universities related to the ELCA, 7 seminaries, more than 2,000 schools and early childhood education centers, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social service agencies, and other agencies and institutions across the country and throughout the world.

The work God calls us to do in the world is never done alone or in isolation, and the churchwide organization plays a key role in developing and supporting a culture of interdependence, diversity, and common mission across all expressions of the ELCA and its partners.

*(Please see the ELCA illustrations on page 23)*

# SEPTEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

DATE	9/7	9/14	9/21	9/28
<b>GREETER</b>	Debbie & Ernie Leporini	Nancy King	Ron & Cheryl Adams	Jenny Stern
<b>PASTOR</b>	Rev. Dr. Gabi Schroeder			
<b>ASSISTING MINISTERS</b>	Pat Johnson	Ernie Leporini	Luke Patterson	Dean Henricks
<b>LECTORS</b>	Bruce Hansen	Phil Davidson	Keith Montag	Qalliu Family
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>	Leslie Scheurer	Available	Sally Smith	Available
<b>AV TECH</b>	Nolana Mymka	Bruce Hansen	Noah Qalliu	Joyce Montag
<b>LIVESTREAM TECHIE</b>	Adam Pollock			
<b>USHERS</b>	** Ken Johnson, Bill Bevier			
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	<b>TEAM E:</b> **Leslie Scheurer, Dorothy Michaelis			



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Willa Mae Clore ..... Sept. 1  
Rolf Zschoernig ..... Sept. 6  
Derald Simmons ..... Sept. 8  
Melinda Malaspino ..... Sept. 11  
Will Gariano ..... Sept. 11  
Todd Franz ..... Sept. 12  
Bruce Hansen ..... Sept. 15  
Ravinder Kumar ..... Sept. 15

David Wammer ..... Sept. 19  
Judy Zimmerman ..... Sept. 20  
Tom Werth ..... Sept. 21  
Lawrence Presto ..... Sept. 22  
Marley Jones ..... Sept. 24  
Bill Bevier ..... Sept. 25  
Mary Toutonghi ..... Sept. 29  
Mary Grivna ..... Sept. 30

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy & David King ..... Sept. 7



### Quotables:

**“The real fear is not death—it is  
the fear of wasting life”**

**Jackie Gleason**

## HERITAGE POTLUCK 2025

All are invited to participate in Advent's Fall Heritage Potluck Dinner on Saturday, September 27 at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a potluck dish related to your family's heritage. A note describing the



ingredients and background would also be helpful. Let's share our family stories with good food!

- Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee

**PROTECT  
YOURSELF  
FROM SCAMS**



**SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 14  
10:45 AM**



Please join us after worship on Sunday, September 14, for an informative workshop sponsored by the Sacramento Sheriff's Department. From Identity Theft to phone scams, there are so many things we can learn to do to protect ourselves. Please invite a friend or neighbor to join you—this is for ALL ages!



**NOTE:** Some of us have met the facilitator for this group, Cynthia Hannem. She is the accompanist who filled in for Jamal while he was on vacation in August! The group is open to everyone, not just members of Ascension.

**THERE IS AN  
APPOINTED TIME  
FOR  
EVERYTHING.  
AND THERE  
IS A TIME FOR  
EVERY EVENT UNDER  
HEAVEN.**

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

*As the season of autumn approaches, we remember that some of us are also in a season of grief. Whether your grief is fresh or haunting you after many years, there is a time and place to talk about it in a safe, non-judgmental, confidential way with others who are traveling a similar journey.*

*You are invited to be a part of an eight week grief support group ministry.*

### ***Grief Support Group***

***Ascension Lutheran Church Room C-3***

***10am-11:30am Saturdays beginning September 20th***

***facilitated by Cynthia Hannem***

***"Remembering is an act of resurrection.***

***Each repetition is a vital layer of mourning,***

***In memory of those we are sure to meet again." Nancy Cobb***

**ASCENSION**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

7607 Garden Gate Drive  
Citrus Heights CA 95621  
916.723.5223  
luthchurch.org





# ADVENT CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Labor Day Church Office Closed 11:00am Jon Espegren's Memorial Service at St. John's Lutheran 6:00pm AA Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:30am Offering Counters 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 5:30pm CPR Classes 7:00pm Christian Education Committee (ZOOM)	<b>3</b> 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group 3:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 5:30pm - 8:30pm Knitters Guild	<b>5</b> 9:00am - 3:00pm Council Retreat (location: St. Luke's Lutheran Church) 1:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm CPR Classes
<b>7</b> 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@Advent_Citrus_Highlights/streams">www.youtube.com/@Advent_Citrus_Highlights/streams</a> 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	<b>8</b> 9:30am Offering Counters 6:00pm AA Meeting	<b>9</b> 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 3:00pm Finance Committee ZOOM Meeting 5:30pm CPR Classes 6:00pm HART Meeting	<b>10</b> 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group 3:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 10:00am Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 1:00pm Ways to Wellness 1:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 8:30am Stern-Johnson Bike Club 10:00am - 2:00pm CPR Classes
<b>14</b> 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:45am Fraud Presentation by Sac Sheriff 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	<b>15</b> 9:30am Offering Counters 6:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Zoom Book Club	<b>16</b> 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 3:30pm Fellowship Committee Meeting 5:30pm CPR Classes	<b>17</b> 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group 3:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Park Oaks Neighborhood Association Meeting (Area 5, PONA)	<b>19</b> 1:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 3:00pm Advent North - Worship & Fellowship	<b>20</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm CPR Classes 5:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 
<b>21</b> 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	<b>22</b> 9:30am Offering Counters 10:00am Serve Lunch @ St John's Program for Real Change 6:00pm AA Meeting	<b>23</b> 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 5:30pm CPR Classes	<b>24</b> 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group 3:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 1:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 8:30am Stern-Johnson Bike Club 10:00am - 2:00pm CPR Classes 5:00pm Heritage Potluck
<b>28</b> 9:30am OUTDOOR Worship Service with Holy Communion 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	<b>29</b> 9:30am Offering Counters 6:00pm AA Meeting	<b>30</b> 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 5:30pm CPR Classes				

## CONFERENCE DEANS RETREAT



In August the Deans of the Sierra Pacific Synod met for a day of sharing and support at Offices of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California in Sacramento. Please hold all of our Deans in your prayers as they work together and with congregations to support God's ministry throughout the Synod.

## THANK YOU FROM JENNY

To my Advent Family—

God has blessed me in so many ways—Advent has been a very special Blessing. Many thanks to all “my family” that joined in my birthday celebration.

Love & Blessings,

Jenny Stern





## PRAYER CHAIN INTERCESSIONS & THANKSGIVING

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**The family of Pastor Ken Bancroft**, who passed into life eternal on Saturday, 8/16. Please pray that Ken's wife, Sharon, and their entire family will feel the comfort of God's peace in the days to come.

**Patty Barnes**, sister of Russell Beeck and Carol Whyte, who was diagnosed with kidney cancer in mid-2024. Prayers for the success of her cancer treatment in stopping the progress of the disease.

**Marcia Becwar**, a close friend of Jenny Stern, who is undergoing treatment for recurring cancer. Please pray for Marcia's comfort and successful treatment.

**Russell Beeck**, who will be undergoing surgery on Thursday, 9/4. Please pray that the surgery is successful and that Russell has a smooth recovery.

**Kerry Briggs**, Leslie Scheurer's cousin, who has moved to a memory care unit. Let us pray that the transition will go smoothly for Kerry and offer her and her family peace of mind.

**Karyl Cimini**, facing a second eye surgery on Friday, 9/5. The surgery will required Karyl to keep her head down for a week. Please pray for the success of the surgery and for patience for Karyl—and her caregiver, daughter Kayla.

**The family of Dave Curtright, Jr.**, Melinda Malaspino's brother-in-law, following his death this past weekend. Let us pray for strength and peace for his wife, Kathleen, and their two sons, Brendon and Nicholas, as they navigate the difficult days ahead.

**The family of Luke DeMott**, the son of Melanie Chancellor's friend Chris, who passed away 8/26 following a head injury. Let us pray that Luke's family is able to find peace and know God's comfort.

## PRAYERS CONTINUED...

**Mary Grivna**, recovering from knee surgery on 8/19. Please pray for a smooth and complete recovery for Mary.

**Jeff Henry**, Kathy and Ken Johnson's son-in-law, following pancreatic cancer surgery. Jeff has begun chemotherapy treatments that will last for the next 6 months. Please pray that the treatments are effective and that Jeff is able to adjust to his new lifestyle without a pancreas and spleen.

**Tom Kent**, prayers for increased physical strength and mobility, and the optimal functioning of his main medical devices.

**Jann Knutson**, who has returned home from the rehab facility she was at. Her Parkinson's Disease has worsened to the degree that she is now eligible for hospice care at home. Let us pray that Jann will feel the love of God and those around her.

**Betty Rockwell**, as she lives with the long-term effects of a stroke. Please pray for comfort and patience for Betty.

**Joy Rowland**, who has begun radiation treatments for uterine cancer. Let us pray that Joy's discomfort will ease, and that the treatments will be successful in removing the cancer entirely.

**Audrey Werth**, who has been suffering from polymyalgia rheumatica since December, causing headaches and pain. Please pray that Audrey's treatments will bring her relief from the pain and enable her to resume her normal activities.

**Tom Werth**, who is doing well following back surgery. Let us pray that Tom's recovery continues to go smoothly and that his body will produce new bone growth swiftly.

**Carol Whyte**, who is experiencing debilitating pain due to osteoarthritis in her shoulder. Please pray for peace and patience for Carol as she waits for treatment options, and a relief from pain.

# YEHIEL CURRY ELECTED AS ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP (CONTINUED)

Curry went home and told his wife, LaShonda, about the great experience he had had there, and they returned together the following weekend. "We came back and joined," he said. "And we didn't understand the organizations of the Lutheran church. We just saw a home, we saw a community."

When the program outgrew the St. Stephen's facilities, it moved to Riverdale, to a building that had previously housed Our Savior's Lutheran Church. There, Curry and others started a new church, Shekinah Chapel.

Eventually, the community, and the synod staff, asked Curry to consider being a lay mission developer. He was unsure. After his election as ELCA Presiding Bishop, he told the assembly, "I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church's support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me. And I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment." As a church planter on the Far South Side, Curry never took home a reliable or lucrative paycheck. He and his wife, an

assistant principal at a Chicago public school, made ends meet with ingenuity, frugality and prayer as they raised their three daughters.

After agreeing to serve as lay mission developer, Curry enrolled in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and received his ordination certification in 2009. In 2012, when Shekinah became an official ELCA congregation, it called Curry to be its pastor. In 2013, Curry earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

At Shekinah Chapel, Curry learned about the long, slow process of starting a new congregation. As a startup church, Shekinah had many of the assets that new congregations need, such as a core group of young families, a building, vibrant youth outreach and a young, energetic pastor. But that was not enough to gain members, Curry recalled. "We moved to Riverdale, and I quickly learned that they weren't impressed with the young families. They weren't impressed with our mentoring program. People in Riverdale initially weren't coming to the church, and I

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# YEHIEL CURRY ELECTED AS ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP (CONTINUED)

couldn't figure out why."

While serving coffee and doughnuts at a community event, Curry started talking to neighbors and asking if they'd be open to meeting to get know each other. During those meetings, he learned that the sewers in the community had been backing up and flooding homes. That led the church to get involved with local efforts to get the sewers fixed — a process that took years.

"That's really what I learned as a mission developer — it is not about what you think you're bringing into the community. It's who you are in the community. The minute we showed that we cared is really when the community adopted us," he said.

"People don't care about what you know till they know that you care, and that was the biggest learning for me."

Curry continued to serve as pastor of Shekinah Chapel until he was elected bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod in 2019 (reelected for a second term in 2025). In 2024, he was elected chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops.

Bishop Curry his wife LaShonda have been married for 30 years and are the proud parents of three adult daughters. The

couple's daughter Shemiah currently is a student at the Lutheran School of Theology and is expected to graduate at the end of this academic year.

Taking on the new role of ELCA Presiding Bishop is bittersweet, Curry says. He had just been elected to a second term as bishop of the Chicago synod in May and had been busy working with leaders to develop a plan for its future. Now, he has to say goodbye to staff and churches that he has come to love. He hopes to take some of the plans from Chicago to the larger church, in particular the idea that the ministry of the church includes being part of the broader community, he said. As presiding bishop, he hopes to spotlight outwardly focused ministries that serve their communities. He said that churches of all kinds, at times, focus so much on



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# YEHIEL CURRY ELECTED AS ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP (CONTINUED)

what's happening in their buildings, they don't recognize what is happening out in the community.

When asked about what he believes should be among the ELCA's top priorities, he said, "I think there's this unique opportunity around lay equipping and lay education," he said. "The ethos and the structures of many of our

congregations are changing. In some cases, they've gone from full-time pastors to part-time pastors; we have leaders who are serving two- and three-point congregations.

Curry will be installed Oct. 4 at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, beginning at 2 PM.

## ADVENT 'S DOIN' A NEW THING



As you all know, a growing group of our members lives in the Roseville, Rocklin, Lincoln, and Rio Linda areas. To better

serve these members, we are launching a new program – Advent North House Church. On a 6-month trial basis, we will gather once a month for worship and fellowship in the home of one of our members.

Here are some of the details:

- We will gather on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month.**

- We will **begin at 3 PM**, so that participants have time to eat lunch and take an afternoon nap.
- The program will include an **abridged worship service**, with hymns, prayers Scripture readings, a short homily, and Holy Communion.
- There will be time for **conversation** about the topic of the day as well as unstructured conversation.
- **All are welcome** – members, friends, guests, neighbors, those living further South, etc.

Other details will evolve over time and depend on the needs and input of those who participate.

**Our first gathering is scheduled for Friday, September 19, 3 PM, at the home of Bob and Linda Mathews** (see the Advent church directory for their address).



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## PROFIT & LOSSES JULY 2025



	TOTAL
Revenue	
4000 Budgeted Offering	23,822.06
Total 4030 Facility Use	199.00
4035 Interest Earned	567.92
4050 SCFM Rent	2,400.00
4057 Other Income - Maintenance	300.00
Total Revenue	\$27,288.98
GROSS INCOME	\$27,288.98
Expenditures	
Total 6000 Personnel	17,272.66
Total 6220 Payroll Taxes and Benefits	1,746.26
Total 7030 Finance	134.70
Total 7080 Worship & Music	171.23
Total 8190 Office Expense	370.22
8260 Church & Casualty Insurance	939.34
Total 8280 Service Contracts	5,163.09
Total 8330 Utilities	1,865.86
8345 Bank Charges	7.30
Total 8350 Benevolences	1,628.19
Total Expenditures	\$29,298.85
NET OPERATING REVENUE	-\$ 2,009.87



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## PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONTINUED...

(continued from page 1)

passionately recommended (Santuario de Chimayo).

The two main organizers of the event – Karoline Lewis and Matt Skinner—both have been teaching for many years at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, with Prof. Lewis serving as Professor of Biblical Preaching and Prof. Matt Skinner teaching New Testament Studies. Since 2007, both have been instrumental in founding the popular [www.workingpreacher.com](http://www.workingpreacher.com) resource that Luther Seminary is hosting. Both professors (with the help of a small staff) also produce the weekly “Sermon Brainwave” podcast, which discusses the texts of the Revised Common Lectionary. While the travel to Abiquiu was a bit exhausting, that journey was well worth the effort. I found the lectures and conversations inspiring and met lots of new people serving in churches near and far (including two Methodist pastors serving in Dixon and Roseville, and a German ELCA pastor serving in Walnut Creek). It is safe to assume that all who attended the retreat enjoy preaching and put considerable efforts in their weekly sermon preparation.

At the same time, it was surprising to me

how much many of them are affected by the cultural and demographic changes in US Christianity. Regardless of whether they serve ELCA congregations in the California diaspora or in Iowa, the pastors told stories of declining membership and worship attendance. Regardless the geographic context of their ministry, pastors seem stressed by the political tensions and divisions in their congregation and by how those factors make their work more difficult. Regardless their denominational affiliation, mainline Protestant pastors are burdened by the tremendous cultural impact of fundamentalist Christian preaching and beliefs.

*So, how does one preach in such a tense climate of anxiety over decline and political rifts?* While this question was not the theme of the retreat, it bubbled up time and again over the five days we spent together. The most important answer that the presenters gave was “stay close to the text,” let the text speak for itself. To me personally, this was reassuring, for that is what I have been trying to do for most of my ministry. I am firmly convinced that there is deep power and clear current relevance in biblical

(Continued on next page)

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONTINUED...

texts, and that it is my responsibility as a preacher to help unleash that power and help my listeners hear how texts speak to them and their concerns.

I am grateful for this continuing education opportunity that this retreat offered and hope that this second article (Part 1: August Newsletter) was interesting to you.

*Pastor Gabi*



(See more photos on next page)

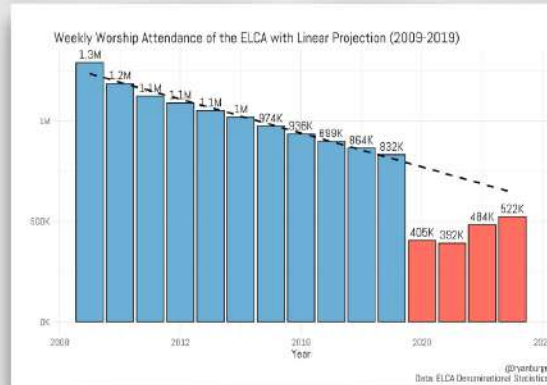
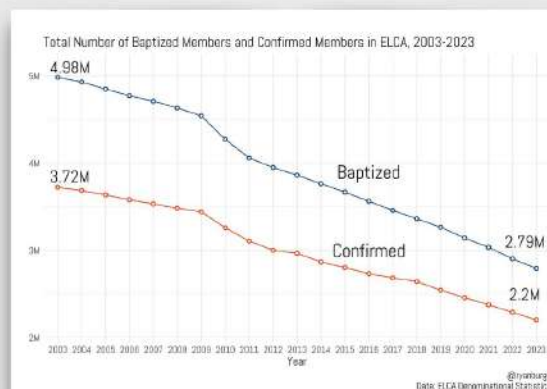
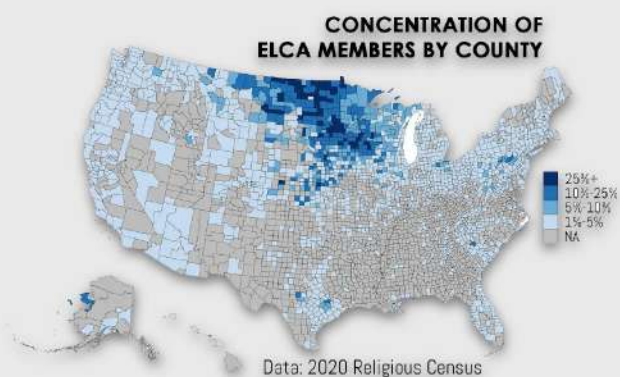
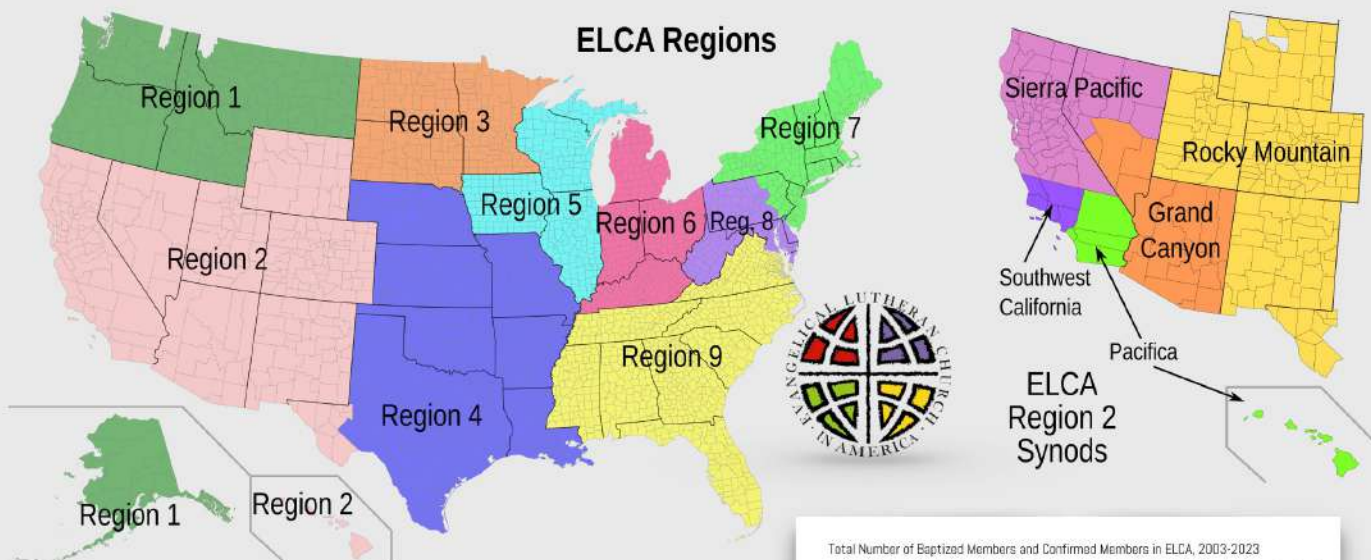




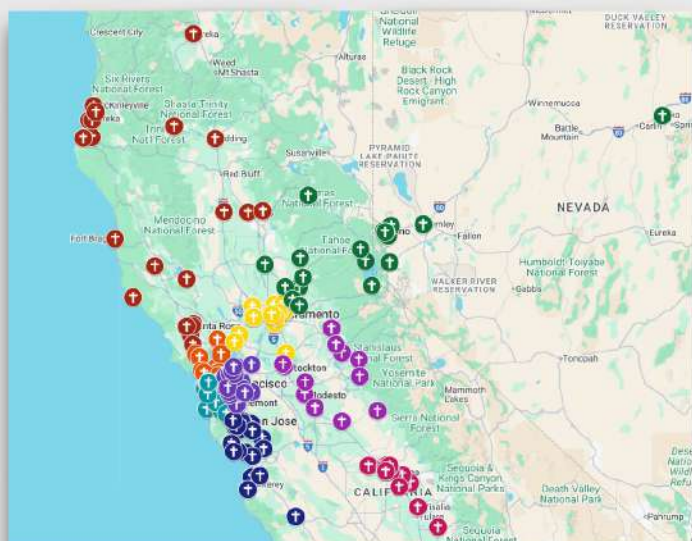
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## BACKPACK BLESSING

On Sunday, August 10, students/teachers/administrators/tutors and school volunteers joined in a Backpack Blessing during worship to start off the new educational year.  
Here's to a great year of learning!



## GIVE PLUS<sup>+</sup>

Please do not forget to send in your offerings or sign up for GIVE PLUS+, a service of VANCO, Advent's online giving service provider. A new GIVE PLUS MOBILE app for both iPhone and other smart phones allow you to donate from your mobile device. The app is available on the Apple App Store or From Google Play.

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