

**From:** Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod [synod@gulfcoastsynod.org](mailto:synod@gulfcoastsynod.org)  
**Subject:** News from Around the Synod for the week of April 13, 2026  
**Date:** April 13, 2026 at 3:45 PM  
**To:** Warren and Penny [theschicks839@gmail.com](mailto:theschicks839@gmail.com)



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*A Network of Christ-Centered, Outwardly-Focused, Faith-Growing  
 Communities for the Sake of the World*

# Weekly News & Announcements

## April 13, 2026

*How Can We Keep From Singing?*  
**Synod Assembly 2026**  
**May 15-16, 2026**

| <u>WE KINDLY ASK THAT YOU<br/>COVER THE COST OF THE<br/>PROCESSING FEE</u> | Voting<br>Member           | Visitor                    | Exhibitor                                     | Retired/OLFC               |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Regular</b><br>March 16 - April 26                                      | \$325 <small>+fees</small> | \$175 <small>+fees</small> | \$375 <small>+fees</small><br><b>SOLD OUT</b> | \$215 <small>+fees</small> |
| <b>Late</b><br>April 27 - May 9  | \$350 <small>+fees</small> | \$200 <small>+fees</small> | \$400 <small>+fees</small><br><b>SOLD OUT</b> | \$225 <small>+fees</small> |

**Exhibitor registration is sold out!** Regular registration deadline is April 26.

Register Now



Learn More

The Faithful Preaching Project (FPP) at Austin Seminary has just opened applications for a clergy learning opportunity. FPP is seeking clergy members at small mainline Christian churches in TX, LA, OK, NM, and AR to join a two-year cohort of 15-20 peers. The two years together feature preaching coaching, peer support, and four cohort retreats — all with the goal of cultivating more faith-full preaching. The online meetings are slated for twice a month on Tuesday afternoons, with the exact schedule released after the cohort is announced. There is no cost.



ELCA's [March 2026 Mission Support memo](#) takes us into a two-day training on *Facilitation Fundamentals* by our ELCA innovation team. Read to hear how valuable folks are finding this approach. Also a tool for our synods is included in the memo, the *Thank You Certificate*, to celebrate our congregations generosity.



Read the Memo

**PORTICO**<sup>®</sup>

Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

ELCA Health Plan members have until April 30 to submit 2025 claims for reimbursement from your health and/or dependent care flexible spending accounts (FSA). Submit 2025 claims to [Further](#) (and 2026 claims to HealthEquity). Not sure what qualifies as an eligible health care expense? [This guide can help.](#)

Starting April 1, ELCA Health Plan members may notice a refreshed experience on the Quantum Health Care Coordinators website and app — including an [enhanced provider search](#) designed to make finding high-quality care easier.

ELCA-Primary health benefit members can explore Burnalong classes designed to help your wellness goals bloom. Check out the [April calendar](#).

Take Survey

All Gulf Coast pastors, deacons, seminarians, and full-time lay ministry leaders are invited to fill out a survey on clergy spirituality. Questions can be directed to Pastor Mindy Roll at [pastor@zionhouston.org](mailto:pastor@zionhouston.org). Please submit responses by **April 15**. Thank you to all who have already

titled it out, and thank you in advance to those who might! Names are optional.



## **Installation of Deacon Michelle Mote**

You are invited to worship and celebrate with Zion Lutheran Church as

**Deacon Michelle Mote** is installed to the Ministry of Word and Service

**Sunday, April 19, 2026**  
at 11:00 a.m.

3606 Beauchamp  
Houston, TX 77009

Deacon Aimee Elles, preaching  
The Rev. Cassandra Nagle, presiding

*A potluck celebration will follow.*

Clergy are invited to vest and process. The liturgical color of the day is white.



**Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



[Registration](#) for Synod Assembly 2026 is open! Join us on **May 15-16, 2026** at St. Martin's Lutheran



Church, 1123 Burney Rd, Sugar Land, TX 77498.

Register for a room at Hilton Garden Inn Houston/Sugar Land [online](#) or call the hotel for reservations at 281-491-7777 or 1-866-577-1278 and mention the group name or group code TXLA26.

*All reservations must be completed by May 01, 2026.*

[Register](#)

[Book a Room](#)

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## Upcoming Events

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**April 17-19**  
[Spring Family Retreat at Lutherhill](#)

**April 18**  
[Ordination of Linda Davies](#)

**April 18-19**  
[Christ Lutheran Church 75th Anniversary](#)

**April 19**  
[Installation of Deacon Michelle Mote](#)

**April 25**  
[St. James Houston Silent Auction](#)

**May 1-3**  
[Explore Retreat at Lutherhill](#)

**May 7**  
[Youth Ministry Network Meeting](#)

**May 15-16**  
[Synod Assembly](#)

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## Synod Partners



LEAD: Living Every Day As Disciples  
[LEAD](#) is a Christian leadership development organization that is nurtured by this synod to be a gift to the whole church.



Lutheran Men In Mission Opportunities  
For more information on [LMM](#), contact [Randy Bratsven](#), [Ambassador-Grams](#) (right side)



Lutherans Restoring Creation  
For more information on [LRC](#), contact the [Lisa Brenskelle](#). The team is seeking additional members.



Creation Care  
For more information on [Creation Care](#), contact [Lisa Brenskelle](#).



Lutherhill Ministries  
Lutherhill Ministries is a Summer Camp and year-round Retreat Center at two locations – [Lutherhill in La Grange, TX](#) and [Lutherhill in Galveston, TX](#).



Live On  
[Live On](#) is the endowment fund of the Gulf Coast Synod. Together with the synod, we are developing Lutheran leadership through a culture of generosity.

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# ELCA

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News

Resources

Our Work

Job Openings

Monthly Mission Support Memo

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