

From: Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod synod@gulfcoastsynod.org
Subject: News from Around the Synod for the week of July 13, 2026
Date: July 13, 2026 at 3:45 PM
To: Warren and Penny 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

July 13, 2026

bridges

Competing in Goodness

Every fall, Bridges brings together faith communities across Houston for Competing in Goodness, a friendly food-drive competition to see which congregation can collect the most non-perishable items for its local faith-based food pantry. Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, and more are all competing for the same goal: helping our neighbors. This year's competition runs **October 18th through November 1st**, and wraps up with a potluck celebration on November 15th, where all participating congregations come together for food, dialogue, and a little friendly bragging.

Here's why it's easy: almost every congregation runs a food drive at some point. This just connects yours to something bigger. Our team handles all the logistics, including coordinating pickup, providing collection boxes, and

logistics, including coordinating pickup, providing collection boxes, and supplying ready-made print and digital promotion materials that can be co-branded with your congregation. It's genuinely hands-off on your end.

We also know your time is valuable. Our team is happy to work directly with a volunteer or board member, so this doesn't land on your plate.

The collected food goes to local faith-based pantries, such as East Fort Bend Human Needs, Memorial Assistance Ministries, Fairhaven, and others, that serve our neighborhoods directly.

Last year, 32 congregations came together and collected 19 tons of food. This year, our goal is 40 congregations and 25 tons. I'd love for y'all to be part of that. I always tell people that if you have zero or a dozen multi-faith programs, this is a simple, low-lift way to be in community with neighbors of faith from across the city.

[More Info](#)



Director of Faith in Action, Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Lord of Life is seeking an individual to lead our congregation's social ministry programs in the position, Director of Faith in Action. This 20 hour a week position will work closely with the Community Outreach team and our Music, Meals, and More program to help Lord of Life live out our value to "serve God's world." Please visit our [website](#) for more information and to submit your resume.



Job Description



Donate

You've likely seen the news that two powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela. Entire communities have been shaken to the ground. More than 1,700 lives have been confirmed lost so far, thousands more are injured, and countless families are now without shelter, safety or access to necessities.

Please consider a generous gift today. In Venezuela and around the world, your support makes a difference for families facing unimaginable loss.



The synod CAR Team is pleased to announce the upcoming visit of Willie Langdji, ELCA Regional Representative for West and Central Africa. His portfolio includes extensive work within the Central African Republic (CAR) on the programs of the Lutheran Church of CAR.

On **Sunday, August 9**, Willie will speak during the **9:30 am** worship service at Faith Lutheran in Bellaire (4600 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX 77401) and will lead a presentation with a Q&A session from **10:30 am**. Then, he will be at Christ the King in Houston (2353 Rice Blvd Houston

Houston (2800 Rice Blvd, Houston, TX 77005) for a CAR Companion Synod Presentation from **3:00 pm**. Additional visit locations and events will be announced in the coming weeks.



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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SPIRITUAL Care TRAINING

Join this three-session cohort in spiritual care, equipping lay leaders to accompany others with Christ's compassion and presence. Grounded in our shared baptismal call, we will grow together over three sessions—participants are asked to be present for each one.

SATURDAY
SEPT 19TH, OCT 24TH, NOV 21ST
Martin Luther Lutheran Church,
Carmine, TX
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
FREE | Lunch provided

Registration Opens August 2026

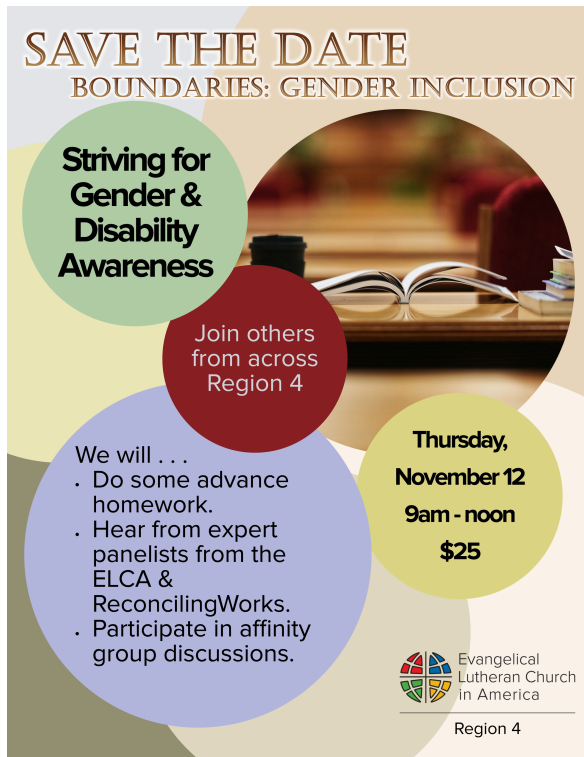
For more Information contact
DEACON AIMEE ELLES
Bishop's Associate for Candidacy & Education



Join this three-session cohort in spiritual care, equipping lay leaders to accompany others with Christ's compassion and presence. Grounded in our shared baptismal call, we will grow together over three sessions—participants are asked to be present for each one on **Saturday, September 19, October 24, and November 21, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM** at Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Carmine, TX. Registration opens August 2026 and is free. Lunch will be provided.

Download Flyer

Contact Deacon Aimee Elles



Join others from across Region 4 on **Thursday, November 12, from 9am-12noon** for a boundaries training on gender inclusion, "Striving for Gender & Disability Awareness." We will:

- Do some homework in advance.
- Hear from expert panelists from the ELCA & ReconcilingWorks.
- Participate in affinity group discussions.

Cost is \$25. More information coming soon!

Upcoming Events

August 8, 2026
[Ordination of Angela Fleege](#)

August 9, 2026
[Willie Langdji \(CAR\) Worship & Q&A, Presentation](#)

August 13, 2026
[Intentional Interim Ministry Discernment Event](#)

September 12, 2026

September 15, 2026
[Intentional Interim Ministry Discernment Event](#)

September 19, 2026
[Spiritual Care Training begins](#)

September 19-20, 2026
[Faith Lutheran Church Celebration](#)

November 12, 2026
[Boundaries: Gender Inclusion](#)

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.

ELCA

News

Resources

Our Work

Job Openings

Monthly Mission Support Memo



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