

**From:** Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod [synod@gulfcoastsynod.org](mailto:synod@gulfcoastsynod.org)  
**Subject:** News from Around the Synod for the week of July 20, 2026  
**Date:** July 20, 2026 at 3:45 PM  
**To:** Warren and Penny [theschicks839@gmail.com](mailto:theschicks839@gmail.com)

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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 20, 2026**

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### Meeting Design Online Course for Rostered Women

Do you struggle with how to plan effective meetings?  
Are you often stuck in meetings that don't seem to  
accomplish anything? This course is for you!

**Meetings Re-imagined Course:  
August/September 2026**

Do you struggle with how to plan effective meetings? Are you often stuck in meetings that don't seem to accomplish anything? Do you feel like you plan meetings and then the meeting doesn't go to plan? This course is for you!

Meetings Re-imagined, an online course from Global Learning Partners, focuses on how to plan effective meetings with clear goals and teaches tools to accomplish those goals during your meeting. Instead of staying in the theoretical, each person will come with a real meeting they're planning. By the end of the course, you will have a fully fleshed-out meeting plan vetted by experts!

This course offering is intended for women who are deacons or pastors in the ELCA. Ideally, each woman will have a partner she usually plans meeting with to take the course with her. This partner does not need to be a rostered woman. If you don't have a partner, you are still welcome to sign up!

The course has room for 10 pairs. It will take place over Zoom using the online whiteboard platform Miro.

Sessions will take place on Thursday mornings in August/September. The course dates are:

- **Tech Session** Aug. 20th, 9:00-10:00 CT
- **Session 1** Aug. 27th, 9:00-12:00 CT
- **Session 2** Sept. 3rd, 9:00-12:00 CT
- **Session 3** Sept. 10th, 9:00-12:00 CT
- **Coaching Session** Sept. 17, 9:00-11:00 CT

The cost of the course is \$50, which is heavily discounted from the standard rate, thanks to the generosity of ELCA member and course co-teacher Sylvia Saenger and ELCA Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Heather.Dean@elca.org](mailto:Heather.Dean@elca.org).

**Please apply below by July 31.** Spaces may fill before then.

*When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.*

Apply

Flyer

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## Church Music Institute Summer Workshop

Join other leaders of music to plan and finesse music programs for 2026-27, share ideas and use CMI's abundant resources, with one-on-one access to CMI staff and clinicians.

- **Cost:** \$75/members; \$100/non-members; \$15/optional Saturday lunch

Schedule, registration, and complete information available at [churchmusicinstitute.org](https://churchmusicinstitute.org).

Learn More

Download Flyer

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## Minister of Worship & Music at Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church in Kingwood, Texas is seeking a gifted and faith-filled Minister of Worship & Music to help shape vibrant, Christ-centered worship rooted in Word and Sacrament. We are a welcoming and growing congregation of approximately 400 members whose mission is to Go and Make Disciples by helping people Discover their Faith, develop relationships as they Grow in Community, and Live God's Mission in service to the world. Worship stands at the heart of our congregational life, and we seek a collaborative leader who understands that music serves the Gospel, congregational singing is central to worship, and the gathered assembly is the primary choir of the church.

The Minister of Worship & Music will work closely with the Senior Pastor to plan and lead worship that is theologically grounded, musically engaging, and deeply participatory. This individual will cultivate congregational song, support and develop musicians of all ages, and help create worship experiences that are both deeply rooted in the Lutheran tradition and meaningfully connected to people today. Full-time or part-time arrangements will be considered based on the gifts of the candidate and the needs of the congregation. We invite candidates who are passionate about worship, discipleship, collaboration, and helping God's people go deeper with Christ.

[Job Description](#)



## Missed LSM This Summer? Watch on Demand

The LSM 2026 season may be over, but the inspiring music continues online.

Watch more than 40 concerts, worship services, recitals, and special events from this summer whenever it's convenient for you. Catch up on the performances you missed or experience your favorite moments again with LSM On Demand.

Enjoy the Bach Cantata Eucharist, Festival of Hymns, plus performances by the Festival Band, Choir, and Orchestra, and many more joyful moments from this summer's season.

Visit [LSMacademy.org/on-demand](https://LSMacademy.org/on-demand) to browse the replays and start watching today!

Watch Now

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# bridges

Every fall, Bridges brings together faith communities across Houston for Competing in Goodness, a

  
[More Info](#)

friendly food-drive competition to see which congregation can collect the most non-perishable items for its local faith-based food pantry. 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.

[Job Description](#)

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.



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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[Call Process](#) | [Resources](#) | [Job Openings](#)



**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

The CASTLE Project

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](#)



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**BOUNDARIES: GENDER INCLUSION**

**Striving for Gender & Disability Awareness**

Join others from across Region 4

We will . . .  
• Do some advance homework.

**Thursday,  
November 12  
9am - noon**

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 FI CA &

- Hear from expert panelists from the ELCA & ReconcilingWorks.
- Participate in affinity group discussions.

**\$25**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Region 4

FROM THE ELCA &  
ReconcilingWorks.

- Participate in affinity group discussions.

Cost is \$25. More information coming soon!

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## Upcoming Events

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**July 31, 2026**

[Deadline to apply for Meetings Re-imagined](#)

**August 8, 2026**

[Ordination of Angela Fleeger](#)

**August 9, 2026**

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

**August 13, 2026**

[Intentional Interim Ministry Discernment Event](#)

**September 12, 2026**

[Lutherhill Ministries 20th Annual S'mores & Champagne Gala](#)

**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](#)

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## Synod Partners

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LEAD: Living Every Day As Disciples



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.



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

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



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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