

From: Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod synod@gulfcoastsynod.org
Subject: News from Around the Synod for the week of July 27, 2026
Date: July 27, 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 27, 2026

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.

Registration for Spiritual Care Training

Registration for Spiritual Care Training Opens August 1

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 1, 2026 and is free. Lunch will be provided. *Registration closes on September 15.*

[Register \(opens Aug 1\)](#)

[Download Flyer](#)

[Contact Deacon Aimee Elles](#)



**LAY PREACHER COHORT
APPLICATIONS OPEN**

DUE JULY 31 • ANNOUNCED AUGUST 5

 **Faithful Preaching** PROJECT
AT AUSTIN SEMINARY

Lay Preacher Cohorts

Are you a lay preacher interested in connecting with other lay preachers?

Join a one-year cohort to learn more about faith-full preaching with your peers! Through discussion and sermon-sharing twice a month over Zoom, lay preachers in this group gain a community of peer-coaches who can encourage and support one another, all with the goal of cultivating more faith-full preaching.

[Learn more](#) about this opportunity and how to apply.

Applications are due by **July 31, 2026**, with the cohort announced by August 5, 2026. *The cohort will meet online on Tuesday afternoons from September 2026-May 2027.*

Learn More

Apply



Operations Director, Cross Trails Ministry

Have you ever wanted to work in a position that combines hands-on-work caring for the upkeep and beauty of a camp with administrative and hospitality leadership? This is your opportunity to live in the Texas Hill Country and be an integral part of providing the setting for the summer camp and retreat experiences at Lutheran Camp Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch Camp! The Cross Trails Operations Director ensures quality building maintenance and improvements, grounds care and hospitality services. They will work with and oversee maintenance help and volunteers, coordinate site cleaning, and supervise the Food Services Director. Join our camp leadership with a small

team dedicated to providing faith experiences for all ages, year-round!

Job Description



Updated Schedule for Willie Langdji's Visit

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. He will visit St. Paul Lutheran Church, 201 Veterans Dr., Columbus, TX 78934, on **Wednesday, Aug. 12**, afternoon and evening. On **August 13**, he will visit Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1001 Woodcreek Dr., College Station, TX 77845. On **Sunday, August 16 at 9:45 a.m.**, he will give a companion synod presentation at Christ the King, 2353 Rice Blvd, Houston, TX 77005.

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!

Apply

Flyer

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. 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!

Sessions will take place on Thursday mornings in August/September. 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.

Please apply by July 31.



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.



Learn More

Download Flyer

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

Schedule, registration, and complete information available at churchmusicinstitute.org.



Job Description

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. 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 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

LSM on Demand Brings
Joyful Music Right to You!

Watch Now

Demand.

Visit LSMacademy.org/on-demand
to browse the replays and start
watching today!



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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SAVE THE DATE
BOUNDARIES: GENDER INCLUSION

**Striving for
Gender &
Disability
Awareness**

Join others
from across
Region 4

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

**Thursday,
November 12
9am - noon
\$25**

 Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America
Region 4

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

July 31, 2026

[Deadline for Meetings Re-imagined](#)

July 31, 2026

[Deadline for Lay Preacher Cohorts](#)

August 8, 2026

[Ordination of Angela Fleege](#)

August 9, 2026

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

August 13, 2026

[Intentional Interim Ministry
Discernment Event](#)

August 16, 2026

[Willie Langdji \(CAR\) Presentation](#)

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](#)

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

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Our Work

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Job Openings

Monthly Mission Support Memo



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