

From: Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod synod@gulfcoastsynod.org
Subject: News from Around the Synod for the week of August 17, 2026
Date: August 18, 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

August 17, 2026



Church Music Institute (CMI) 2026 Fall Events

- **August 22:** New and New-to-You Choral Music for the Upcoming Seasons with Dr. Don Horisberger & Dr. Robert Mann
- **August 29:** Navigating Church Employment with Dr. Lenora McCroskey
- **September 1:** Dr. Paul Lindsley Thomas Society Application Deadline
- **September 12:** A Psalm Service for Advent/Christmas based on the O

Antiphons with Dr. Lynn Trapp

- **September 26:** Mastering Congregational Song with Dr. Michael Burkhardt
- **October 3:** More than Moving Our Lips: Singing with Confidence and Helping Others to do the Same with Dr. Geoffrey Williams
- **October 10:** Hymn Festival in Littleton, CO. Watch for more information.
- **October 18:** Hymn Festival as part of The Congregation Sings project at 4:00 p.m., First Lutheran Church, Carlisle, PA. Watch for opportunities to join a hymn study prior!
- **November 7:** Our Present and Future: Singing with Children with Dr. Michael Burkhardt
- **November 14:** Spirituals: The Why, When, and How to Use Black Sacred Music in Worship Dr. Jeffrey Murdock

More information and registration at churchmusicinstitute.org/events.

More Info & Registrations

2026 ELEA DISTINGUISHED ROSTERED LEADER OF THE YEAR

REV. MINDY ROLL

"The nominee
faithfully and



intentionally provides for the spiritual needs of administration, faculty, staff, and students through a holistic and relational approach to ministry,” shared Jenny Garcia, Preschool Director. “In times of challenge or crisis, she responds with prayerful leadership, offering comfort, clarity, and hope grounded in Scripture.”



Rev. Mindy Roll of Zion Lutheran Church and Preschool Named 2026 ELEA Distinguished Rostered Leader of the Year

The Evangelical Lutheran Education Association is proud to announce that Rev. Mindy Roll of Zion Lutheran Church and Preschool, Houston, TX, has been selected as the 2026 Distinguished Rostered Leader of the Year.

This annual award recognizes rostered leaders who demonstrate exceptional commitment to Lutheran education through spiritual leadership, faithful partnership with schools and early learning programs, and dedicated service to children, families, educators, and congregations.

Rev. Roll has faithfully supported the ministry of Zion Lutheran Preschool through a deeply relational and Christ-centered approach to leadership. Through regular chapel services, pastoral care, and active involvement in the life of the preschool, she has helped cultivate a strong spiritual foundation for students, families, faculty, and staff.

The Evangelical Lutheran Education Association extends heartfelt congratulations to Rev. Mindy Roll and looks forward to presenting the award before her school and church community and recognizing her at the 2026 ELEA Conference, in collaboration with the NAES Biennial



Register

What does it look like to love the neighbors around our church buildings?

As our neighborhoods, world, and connections to one another continue to change each day, it becomes vital for our congregational leaders to strengthen their roots in the neighborhoods where they are planted. We don't have to do this work alone - we can do this together in community.

You are invited to LEAD's Love Our Neighbors Cohort where you will learn and practice the important tools to get connected to your church neighbors. *Register by Sept 4.*



Ready to set a strong strategic direction for your congregation or judicatory?

ZOOM INFO MTG
08.19.26
11:30AM CT



NOW is the time to consider Strategic Planning process for your congregation! LEAD's unique process starts with deep listening to God in scripture, congregation and the neighbors and ends with an actionable plan with first steps outlined.

Ready to take the next step in your congregational ministry? Consider LEAD to do this important work with your leaders!

Register

[Learn more](#) about how we work with congregations on Wed, Aug 19th at 11:30amCT via Zoom.



Flyer

If you are looking for a service project to host during “God’s Work. Our Hands.”, please consider supporting Upbring. We are in need of two types of kits for the children, families, and individuals in our care:

- Family Connection Kits provide everything a young family needs for a meaningful evening together.
- Care Kits provide vital hygiene supplies for individuals.

[Contact Katie Evans](#) for more information.

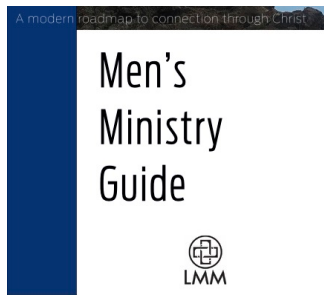


Job Description

Full-time position as parish administrator in Brazos Valley at Peace Lutheran Church, College Station, TX.



Originally found in the front of the [Master Builder Bible](#), this renowned guide to building men's ministry can now be found within the "Men's



Download

can now be found from the [Men's Toolkits](#) link at the bottom of our webpage.



Download Template

In 2026, LMM developed the first of a series of “2×4 Retreats.”

This 2×4 retreat model is designed to help small groups and churches have a half-day retreat for men to learn, grow and have some fun along the way. Created in response to a common request from across the country for an all-in-one retreat that could be done locally with little training or resources.

This experience is meant to be done in person and not virtually. The small group interaction and feedback will be essential to the success of the retreat.

View the initial release of “Jesus' Call for All of Us” as found on LMM webpage under ["Men's Toolkits"](#).



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 **NOW OPEN**

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

Register Online

Contact Deacon
Aimee Elles

Download Flyer

SAVE THE DATE
BOUNDARIES: GENDER INCLUSION

Striving for
Gender &
Disability
Awareness

Join others

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 19, 2026

[LEAD Strategic Planning Info Meeting](#)

September 4, 2026

[Love Our Neighbors Cohort registration deadline](#)

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



Lutheran Men In Mission
Opportunities

development organization that is nurtured by this synod to be a gift to the whole church.

For more information on [LMM](#), contact [Randy Bratsven](#), or read their [Ambassador-Grams](#).



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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Resources

Our Work

Job Openings

Monthly Mission Support Memo



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