

From: Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod synod@gulfcoastsynod.org
Subject: News from Around the Synod for the week of August 24, 2026
Date: August 24, 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 24, 2026



Bayou Conference Spiritual Care Training

Join this two-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 closes on **September 17**.*

Register



Willie Langdji, ELCA Rep to the Central African Republic, Visits the Gulf Coast Synod

Willie Langdji's visit to the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod was a success in all the ways we hoped it would be!

First and foremost, the visit broadened awareness of our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic (ELC-CAR) and its successes and on-going ministries, such as the life-changing fistula surgery camps having now repaired this issue for 80+ women and the establishment of

the first ever protestant private high school in CAR. In prior visits, Willie might have presented at only one synod congregation. This year, Willie gave companion synod presentations at four congregations: Faith in Bellaire, St. Paul Lutheran in Columbus, Our Saviour's in College Station, and Christ the King in Houston. At each location, he received a warm reception, and his presentation was met with much interest and enthusiasm. Thank you to each of the congregations, families, and individuals who welcomed Willie, hosted him, and facilitated his transportation from one church to another. His visit also helped our committee formalize plans for assisting the ELC-CAR to meet its objectives in 2026-27. We look forward to the possibility of another visit from Willie next year during Synod Assembly.

Those unable to attend any of the four gatherings can [watch the August 16 presentation at Christ the King-Houston on YouTube](#). If you wish to make a monetary donation to the ELC-CAR's vital ministry work, you can give to your congregation with the designation "CAR Fund" or [give online](#) and choose the Fund titled "Central African Republic Companion Synod."

With gratitude,
The Gulf Coast Synod CAR Committee

Watch Presentation

Give Online



Fall 2026
RELIGIOUS & CIVIC LEADER
GATHERINGS

THE FUTURE OF FAITHS

*Connect with peers.
Learn from research.
Lead your community.*



September 14, 2026

ENGAGING THE FUTURE FAITHFUL GENERATION

with guest
Josh Packard

5:30-7:00 pm

Assembly HTX
2015 Berry St., Houston, TX 77004 ([map](#))



ABOUT OUR GUEST

Dr. Josh Packard is the co-founder of Future of Faith and one of the foremost experts in the spiritual lives of American youth and religious trends in the United States. He is an accomplished researcher in the sociology of religion and new forms of religious expression.

Youth Ministry Speaker at Rice University

Todd Furguson, Director of Religion and Public Life Center at Rice University are hosting Josh Packard, the director of Future of Faith, to talk about engaging Gen Z/Gen Alpha and his new book "Faithful Futures" as part of their Religious and Civic Leaders Gathering. The meeting is on **Monday, September 14, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm** at Assembly HTX (there will be food).

[Register](#)



Admin, LEADconnects

LEAD is looking for a part-time admin who is mostly remote and living in the greater Houston area. The work is fast paced and requires a sharp eye for detail, experience in the Lutheran world, and experience in multiple online platforms. **Questions? [Contact Deacon Jessica Noonan.](#)**

[Job Description](#)



[More information and registration](#)



for Church Music Institute (CMI)
2026 Fall Events at
churchmusicinstitute.org/events.

**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."



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.

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.



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Join this three-session cohort in spiritual care, equipping lay leaders to accompany others with Christ's

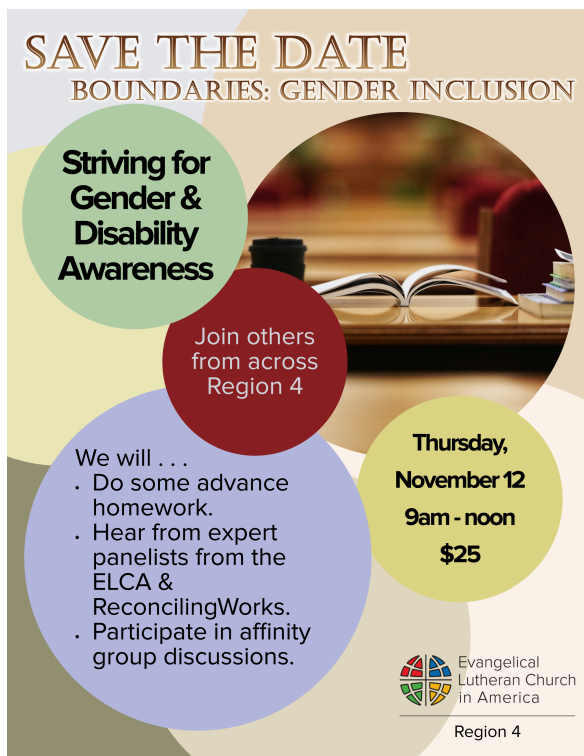


compassion and presence. Grounded in our shared baptismal call, we will grow together over three sessions—participants are asked to be present for each one on **Saturday, September 19, October 24, and November 21, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM** at Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Carmine, TX. Registration opens August 1, 2026 and is free. Lunch will be provided. *Registration closes on September 15.*

Register Online

Contact Deacon
Aimee Elles

Download Flyer



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 29, 2026

[Bayou Conference-Louisiana
Mission Event](#)

September 4, 2026

[Love Our Neighbors Cohort
registration deadline](#)

September 12, 2026

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

September 13, 2026

[Coastal Bay / Southwest Houston
Mission Event](#)

September 14, 2026

[Engaging the Future Faithful
Generation](#)

September 15, 2026

[Intentional Interim Ministry
Discernment Event](#)

September 19, 2026

[Spiritual Care Training begins](#)

September 19-20, 2026

[Faith Lutheran Church Celebration](#)

September 24, 2026

[Bayou Conference Spiritual Care
Training begins](#)

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](#), 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

News

Resources

Our Work

Our Work

Job Openings

Monthly Mission Support Memo



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