

From: Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod synod@gulfcoastsynod.org
Subject: News from Around the Synod for the week of August 31, 2026
Date: August 31, 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 31, 2026

PORTICO®

Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

Portico Benefits 2027 Increase: Informational Zoom Session

By now, you have likely seen the news from Portico Benefits about 2027 health insurance rates. Because of an unprecedented rise in claims in 2025, next year's healthcare premiums will increase approximately 15%. I share your concerns about what this means for our congregations and ministries with already-tight budgets.

You may have questions, as will your church councils. **We have scheduled an informational Zoom meeting with our Portico representative, Pastor Tim Schroeder, at 6:30 p.m. CDT on Tuesday, September 10th.** Rostered ministers, congregational presidents, and congregational treasurers are especially encouraged to attend.

See the information below to register for this Zoom meeting. (Honoring Portico's policies, we are not able to record this session.)

Although I wish we did not have to navigate this unexpected change, I am glad we can do so together.

Prayerfully,

Bishop Tracey

Zoom



Community Fair Event 2026

Location:
St. James Lutheran Church
1602 W 43rd St, Houston, TX 77018

St. James Family Life Center Community Fair

St. James Family Life Center will be hosting a community fair event on **Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 10am-2pm**. Information sessions on eviction advocacy, immigration law, voter registration and mental health will be offered, and community members who attend will receive a bag of produce and household items. Zion, Salem, and Christ the King congregations are assisting St. James with volunteers and financial support.

Download Flyer



By the grace of God
and the call of the Church
Daniel Lewis Sigmon

will be ordained to the
Ministry of Word and Sacrament
and installed as Associate Pastor
at New Hope Lutheran Church
on October 4, 2026 at 4:00 PM

New Hope Lutheran Church
1424 FM 1092 Rd
Missouri City, TX 77459
www.NewHopeLC.org

Bishop Tracey Breashears Schultz, presiding
The Rev. Rich Wolf, preaching

Your prayers and presence are requested.
Clergy are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red.
A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Ordination & Installation of Daniel Sigmon

By the grace of God and by the call of the Church,

Daniel Sigmon

will be ordained and installed to the

Ministry of Word and Sacrament

on **Sunday, October 4, 2026, 4:00 p.m.** at

New Hope Lutheran Church

1424 FM 1092 Rd

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Bishop Tracey Breashears Schultz, presiding

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Clergy are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.



Faith Bellaire is Hiring: Next Gen Ministry Coordinator

Faith Bellaire is searching for candidates to fill our vacant part-time position for Next Gen Ministry Coordinator. The Next Gen Ministry Coordinator will support the Pastor for Faith Formation in our congregational efforts to form consequential faith in the lives of people - especially parents, caregivers, and the young people they are raising. We partner with families so that young people are affirmed in their gifts, encouraged in their Christian identity, valued

people are affirmed in their gifts, encouraged in their Christian identity, valued in the life of the congregation, supported in questioning and discernment, and engaged in meaningful mission.

Good candidates for Next Gen Ministry Coordinator are energetic, have prior experience of successful leadership in children, youth, and family or next generation ministry, are comfortable working with ages from 3 years old to young adults, and can work independently with direction.

Please email Pastor Amber Harbolt at aharbolt@faithbellaire.org for more information.



Register

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**.*



Watch Presentation

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

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

Give Online

Companion Synod.”

Religion and Public Life
RELIGIOUS & CIVIC LEADERS
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.

Register

Todd Furguson, Director of Religion and Public Life Center at Rice University are hosting 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).

LEAD 

Job Description

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.](#)



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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



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](#)

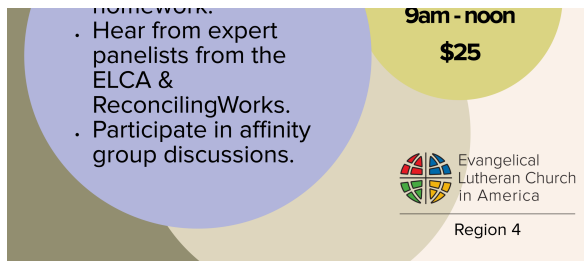
[Contact Deacon Aimee Elles](#)

[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

September 4, 2026

[Love Our Neighbors Cohort registration deadline](#)

September 10, 2026

[Portico Benefits 2027 Increase: Informational Zoom Session](#)

September 12, 2026

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

September 12, 2026

[St. James Family Life Center Community Fair](#)

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

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Monthly Mission Support Memo



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