

From: Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod synod@gulfcoastsynod.org
Subject: News from Around the Synod for the week of September 8, 2026
Date: September 8, 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

September 8, 2026



Synod Staff News!

Synod Staff News:

On Saturday, August 29, 2026, after an open interview process for which six candidates were initially considered, **Pastor Darnell Fennell** accepted the bishop's offer to become Bishop's Associate for Mission (Director of Evangelical Mission) for the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod!

Bishop Tracey Breashears Schultz is encouraged by Pastor Darnell's gifts for collaboration, creative leadership, and active listening as well as his experience being a mission developer and community organizer, all of which will serve him well as he connects with the redevelopments and redevelopers of our synod.

Pastor Darnell was ordained a Disciples of Christ minister on August 8, 2014. He studied psychology at the University of Houston and is a graduate of Pacific School of Religion (M.Div.). He is currently the Director of Social Entrepreneurship for the National Benevolent Association and will continue in this work while he is part-time on synod staff. (Part-time will be 25 hours/week.)

He will begin after Labor Day, on September 8, 2026 and may be reached at darnell@gulfcoastsynod.org or at [281-873-5665](tel:281-873-5665). Jada Hylton will be his admin (as well as the bishop's).

Bishop Tracey wishes to thank the interview team who joined her in these efforts: Pastor Norma Malfatti (Senior Director for DEM Relationships, ELCA); Kathy Patrick (Synod Council vice president); Pastor Alejandro Mejia (DEM, Delaware-Maryland Synod); Pastor Jadher Abad (Redeveloper, Saint James Santiago Apostol & Principe de Paz, Houston).





Lord of Life Concert Series Kickoff

FREE TO THE PUBLIC! Invite Your Friends & Neighbors!

We are thrilled to launch our [2026–2027 Concert Series](#) with a spectacular evening of music and film. Gather your family, invite your friends, and join us for a unique, crowd-favorite performance!

The 6th Annual Silent Movie Night

Join organist Dan Fenn as he brings the silver screen to life, masterfully blending classical mastery with the comedic brilliance of silent film.

This year's event will feature 3 short silent films featuring the 4 greatest actors of that era with organ accompaniment by Dan Fenn:

- Coney Island (1917) starring Fatty Arbuckle and Buster Keaton
- The Immigrant (1917) starring Charlie Chaplin
- The Finishing Touch (1928) starring Laurel & Hardy

Sunday, September 27, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m. at Lord of Life in The Woodlands.
3801 S. Panther Creek Dr.

 *Stay for the fun: A festive popcorn reception will immediately follow the performance in the fellowship area!*

Event Information

2026-2027 Concert Series



Gather Space City: Fall Relaunch

September 26 @ 7:30 PM

Hopdoddy Burger:

4444 Westheimer Rd.

Houston, TX 77027

Young Adults (Ages 18-35)

For more information contact

youthdirector@stmartinslc.org or benremmert@ctkelc.org

Gather Space City: Fall Relaunch

Calling all young adults (ages 18-35 yrs old) for a time of fellowship and networking with other young adults in Houston. We will meet at Hopdoddy Burger at 4444 Westheimer Rd. We will take the time to dream and hear your needs. For more information, please contact Susan Woodson at youthdirector@stmartinslc.org or Deacon Ben Remmert at benremmert@ctkelc.org.

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Zoom

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%. 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 Thursday, September 10th.**



Community Fair Event 2026

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

Download Flyer

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.



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,

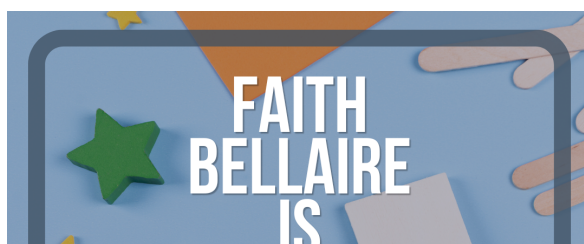
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Faith Bellaire is searching for
candidates to fill our vacant part-
time position for Next Gen Ministry
Coordinator. The Next Gen Ministry
Coordinator will support the Pastor



...formation and support for Faith Formation in our congregational efforts to form consequential faith in the lives of people. Please email Pastor Amber Harbolt at aharbolt@faithbellaire.org for more information.



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Join us in Carmine, TX for this three-

Join this Ravon Conference two-

Join us in Carmine, TX for 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. Lunch will be provided. *Registration closes on September 15.*

Register

Join this day of conference 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 two sessions—participants are asked to be present for each one on **Thursday, September 24, 6-8:30pm (online) and Saturday, October 10, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM** at Grace Lutheran, New Orleans (lunch provided). *Registration closes on September 17.*

Register

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

Thursday, November 12
9am - noon
\$25

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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 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](#)

September 26, 2026

[Gather Space City: Fall Relaunch](#)

September 27, 2026

[Lord of Life Concert Series Kickoff](#)

November 12, 2026

[Boundaries: Gender Inclusion](#)

Synod Partners



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](#), or read their [Ambassador-Grams](#).



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

Job Openings

Monthly Mission Support Memo



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