

From: Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod synod@gulfcoastsynod.org
Subject: News from Around the Synod for the week of September 28, 2026
Date: September 28, 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 28, 2026

2026 BOUNDARY EDUCATION

**Striving for
Gender &
Disability
Awareness**

Thursday,
November 12
9am-noon
\$25



Boundary Education

Along with many other synods across this church, the Gulf Coast Synod is committed to a three-year cycle of boundary education encompassing basic boundaries, gender justice, and racial justice. Based on a 2024 report from the churchwide boundary education task force, we expect our rostered and synod-authorized ministers to engage in this work. Rostered retired ministers who serve congregations in an interim or pulpit supply capacity are included in this expectation.

Boundaries education encompasses basic boundaries, gender justice and racial justice, with special emphasis on rooting both content and pedagogy in the Lutheran theological tradition and ELCA social teachings. We commit to continued learning as as part of our:

- **Theological Imperative:** Our Lutheran theology teaches us that we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and to work for justice in all aspects of life. As disciples of Christ, we are compelled to address ongoing injustice and work towards a more equitable society that reflects God's love for all people.
- **Denominational Commitment:** The ELCA has made clear and strong commitments to equity and justice.
- **Witness to the World:** By actively working to dismantle systems of imbalance and injustice within our church and communities, we are witness to the transformative love of Christ and offer hope for a more just and peaceful world.
- **Congregational and Community Vitality:** This work helps create more inclusive and welcoming faith communities that better reflect the diversity of God's creation and the communities we serve.
- **Personal and Communal Growth:** Gender and boundaries justice education and action provide opportunities for profound personal and communal growth. By examining our own biases, and working to create change, we grow in faith, expand our perspectives, and become more effective ministers of the Gospel.

If you cannot attend the training on November 12, 2026, please [register](#) and type "YES" in the box indicated. Deacon Aimee will work to schedule an alternative date.

Register



Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

Portico Benefit Services: Final Annual Enrollment Webinar

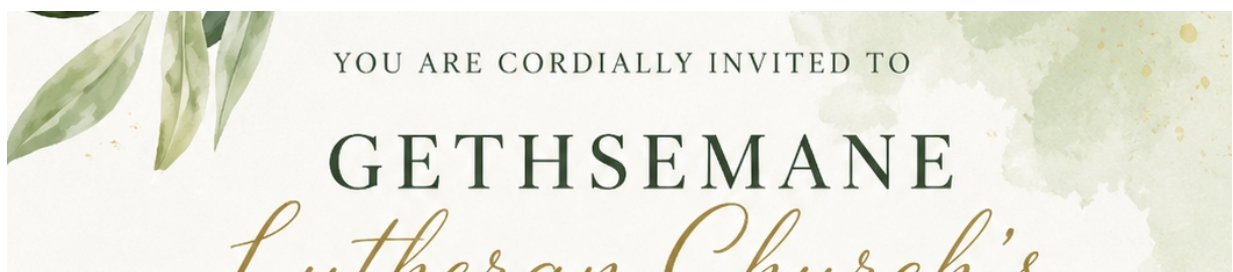
One more! A final webinar offering from Portico Benefits for Annual Enrollment 2027.

Join the Portico Regional Reps for a webinar covering need to know information for annual enrollment and helpful contextual information about the Portico bundle of benefits (health insurance, retirement plan, disability insurance and survivor benefits). This webinar is designed for both plan members and sponsoring organizations (employers).

- Thursday, October 8 at 2pm Eastern
- Zoom
- [Register](#)

You will receive an email with information to attend once you register. (This webinar will not be recorded).

Register





Gethsemane Lutheran Church's 75th Anniversary

[Gethsemane Lutheran Church](#), Chalmette, LA, invites to join us as we celebrate our 75th anniversary on **Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 10am!** Bishop Tracey Breashears-Schultz will be our guest preacher. We will have a reception following worship. For more information, please call (504)-271-4254. Come join us as we celebrate 75th years of faith!



A new retreat at Lutherhill for anyone whose life is laced with grief.

Join us for a weekend of worship, honest conversation, creative ways to process loss, rest, reflection, laughter through the tears, and space to simply breathe. We are honored to welcome Pastor Tammy Sharp as the speaker for our inaugural Good Grief Retreat.

Come as you are. Bring your whole,

[More Info & Register](#)

complicated, grieving self. Come breathe with us **October 2-4, 2026**.



Iglesia San José Obrero Grand Opening - The service on **October 11** will begin with a procession at 9:45am with the image of San José Obrero, followed by a bilingual Mass. After the service, we will gather for a brunch with music in the church Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.



A gathering for your family to rest, play and reconnect!

Need a little time set apart for rest and play? Retreat to the Hill for a fun-filled family weekend. Make space to rest as you relax in a hammock, sneak in an afternoon nap or take in the epic Lutherhill sunset. Make space to play as you tackle the ropes course, take aim at the sling shot range or sing silly songs around the campfire. Make

[More Info & Register](#)

space to reconnect with the ones
you love and our loving God on
October 16-18, 2026.



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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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!



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

homework.

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

9am - noon
\$25



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America
Region 4

from the ELCA & ReconcilingWorks.

- Participate in affinity group discussions.

Cost is \$25. [Register now!](#)

Upcoming Events

October 1, 2026

Children & Youth Ministry Network
Meetings - [Daytime](#) & [Evening](#)

October 2-4, 2026

[Good Grief Retreat](#)

October 8, 2026

[Portico Benefit Services: Final
Annual Enrollment Webinar](#)

October 11, 2026

[Iglesia San José Obero Grand
Opening](#)

October 16-18, 2026

[Fall Family Retreat](#)

October 26, 2026

[Gethsemane Lutheran Church's
75th Anniversary](#)

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

Job Openings

Monthly Mission Support Memo



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