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Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

CONNECTIONS

*A Network of Christ-Centered, Outwardly-Focused, Faith-Growing
Communities for the Sake of the World*

August 2026



Mission on the Move: a Closing, a Sale, and a New Beginning

by Bishop Tracey Breashears Schultz

Iglesia Luterana San Jose Obrero just celebrated their third anniversary. They are a Spanish-speaking mission congregation of our synod and have grown, both in worship attendance and in community engagement, to the point that the building in which they are located, at 7822 Northline in Houston, formerly the location of the synod office, is no longer suited to their needs. Not only have they outgrown the space, but the building has a 22-year-old air conditioner, a boiler for which parts are no longer made, and is beginning to show signs of wear and tear. As the synod owns this building, we needed to make some decisions about whether it made sense to fund maintenance on this aging facility. In conversation with Pastor Gabriel Marcano (of *San Jose Obrero*), the synod staff, the synod council, and the mission table, I proposed a move for this mission congregation. Much to my surprise and delight, Pastor Gabriel took this suggestion to his congregation, and after prayerful discernment, they agreed to a move!

[Read more...](#)



Since synod assembly we have been highlighting feeding ministries in our
annual The Gathering Table book, and we will continue to do so.

synod. The Connections team hopes to connect our communities and congregations that have feeding ministries to [share your feeding ministries](#) so that we can connect our synod more closely with other congregations either doing similar ministries or interested in sharing the work with one another. If you have not yet completed the survey, please take a few minutes to do so now.



Sandwich Saturdays at Holy Comforter

Q&A with Andy Schiefelbein

Can you describe the feeding ministry Sandwich Saturday at Holy Comforter?

Many years ago, a pair of middle school sisters started this initiative after walking by the downtown baseball fields and witnessing the homeless encampments. They felt compelled to take action.

After talking with the congregation and getting others involved, the sisters and

their family brought supplies to church to prepare lunches for distribution downtown after worship on a Sunday morning. They managed to make approximately 60 to 70 lunches that first weekend. Although they didn't immediately resume the project the following month, they gradually established a regular schedule thereafter. However, finding the right balance of supplies proved challenging. Initially, they relied on sign-up sheets, but they still lacked essential items and had to supplement their supplies to meet the demand of 50 to 150 lunches per month.

[Read more...](#)



Lisa's Pieces: Creation Care Tips from the Synod Lutherans Restoring Creation Team

by Lisa Brenskelle

The mission of [Lutherans Restoring Creation](#) is to promote incorporation of care for creation into the full life and mission of the church, working in five areas: worship, education, discipleship, building & grounds, and public ministry/advocacy.

[Read more...](#)

August & Early September Creation Care Events

- [Living the Change](#) – ongoing thru August, dates/times individually scheduled, online
- [A Multi-Faith Call for a Just & Prosperous Future for All](#) – August 23, 2 p.m., online
- [Finding Water and Hope](#) – Sunday, August 30, 6 p.m., online
- [Learning the Language of Creation book discussion group](#) – Tuesdays

• [Learning the Language of Creation Book discussion group](#) – Mondays, September 1 – October 6, 6 p.m., online

• [Living the Change](#) – September - November, dates/times individually scheduled, online

• [Climate Solutions 101](#) – September 10 – October 15, 6 p.m, online

• [God's Work, Our Hands Justice Advocacy Event](#) – Sunday, September 13, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Blvd., Houston

• [Energy Conservation for Houses of Worship](#) – Sunday, September 13, 3 p.m., online

• [Faithful Resilience: A Study on Climate Resilience for Faith Communities](#) – Mondays, September 14 – October 19, 6 p.m., online

Contact gcs.lrc@gmail.com for details on any of these events.



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