From: **Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod** synod@gulfcoastsynod.org
Subject: News from Around the Synod for the week of October 5, 2026
Date: October 5, 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

October 5, 2026

Dear Congregational Leaders,

October is CAR Month across the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, and we are hoping you will join us in celebrating this companionship by sharing information about the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic (ELC-CAR) and supporting it in prayer and any way you can. Recognizing that October may also be the month in many of your congregations when you focus on stewardship, we have prepared a short message that you may wish to use in your weekly messages to highlight our Synod's partnership with the ELC-CAR. Our Synod supports this partnership financially, and a number of congregations in the Synod also include the ministry in their budget as part of their missional support and companion ministry. We invite you to copy and paste these messages and photos in whole or in parts in your bulletins, newsletters, or announcements during the month of October.

With gratitude,
The Gulf Coast Synod CAR Team



Week 1: Health & Healing

October is CAR Month in our Synod! We celebrate our companion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic (ELC-CAR). This church, founded in 1923, now has over 120,000 members, 389 congregations, and 75 pastors faithfully serving communities in one of the world's most fragile contexts. Join us this month in prayer and support for our siblings in Christ in the heart of Africa.



Access to healthcare in CAR is extremely limited, and in many areas, the church is the only provider. The ELC-CAR operates two health centers and mobile outreach teams, serving mothers, children, and remote villages with essential care. It has been the hope and dream of the ELC-CAR for a number of years to expand healthcare access beyond the nurses and midwives available at these clinics. We have long wanted to recruit doctors to work in these clinics and even to establish additional clinics. In 2026, we were able to begin the process of realizing this dream. We now have a medical student whose training we are supporting. Samson Ngoe began his medical studies in Senegal this fall. We will be supporting him for the four years necessary to complete his medical studies. Upon completion of his studies and becoming credentialed as a doctor, Samson has contracted to return to CAR to serve as the first medical doctor of the ELC-CAR for a period of ten years. What

serve as the first medical doctor of the LEC CAR for a period of ten years. What an incredible commitment this is on his part! We are dedicating money to this; and he is dedicating his life. We are extremely proud to be supporting him in his call to serve his community.

October is CAR Month PDF



Ordination of Sharon Schwartz

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

Sharon Schwartz

will be ordained to the

Ministry of Word and Sacrament

on **Saturday, October 31, 2026, 2:00 p.m.** at

Christ Lutheran Church
1104 Carlee Drive
Brenham, Texas 77833

Bishop Tracey Breashears Schultz, presiding
The Rev. Patricia Dietrich, 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.

Watch Online

Upbring Golf

You're invited to an 18-hole, four-person scramble benefiting children and families across Greater Houston. Enjoy a day of golf, fellowship, and friendly competition while helping create brighter futures through Upbring's work with children, families, and communities. Pastors play for free!

Tuesday, November 10, 2026
BlackHorse Golf Club
12205 Fry Road | Cypress, TX 77433
7 AM Registration, Breakfast, & Driving Range
8 AM Shotgun Start | Scramble Format
Lunch & Prizes Following the Tournament

Register today at www.Upbring.org/Golf





Living Word's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Living Word Lutheran Church in Katy, Texas, is celebrating 50 years of ministry and God's faithfulness, and we would love for our Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod friends to join us!

Please join us on Sunday, December 6, 2026, for a special 50th Anniversary Celebration. We'll gather for one worship service at 9:45 a.m., followed by a joyful afternoon of fellowship and celebration.

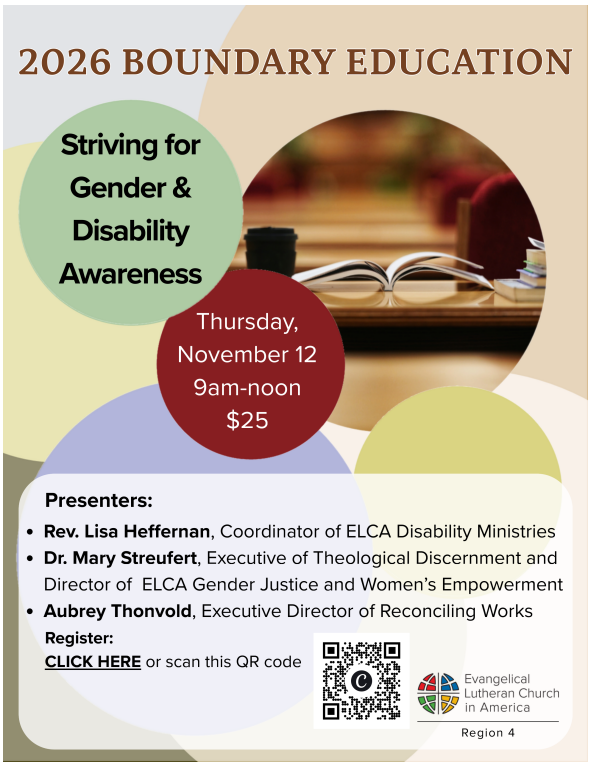
The day will include a catered meal, potluck desserts, community service opportunities, pictures with Santa, music, photo and memory displays, and plenty of time to reconnect with friends—both new and old.

Whether Living Word has been part of your story in the past, you have friends in our congregation, or you simply want to celebrate this milestone with us, you are warmly invited!

Come help us give thanks for 50 years of God's faithfulness and look with joy toward the exciting future ahead.







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. Join us **November 12, 9am-noon**!

Register

PORTICO®
Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

Join the Portico Regional Reps for a Zoom webinar on **Thursday, October 8 at 2pm Eastern** covering

Register

need to know information for annual enrollment and helpful contextual information about the Portico bundle of benefits. This webinar is designed for both plan members and sponsoring organizations. You will receive an email with information to attend once you register. (This webinar will not be recorded).



Iglesia San José Obero 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.



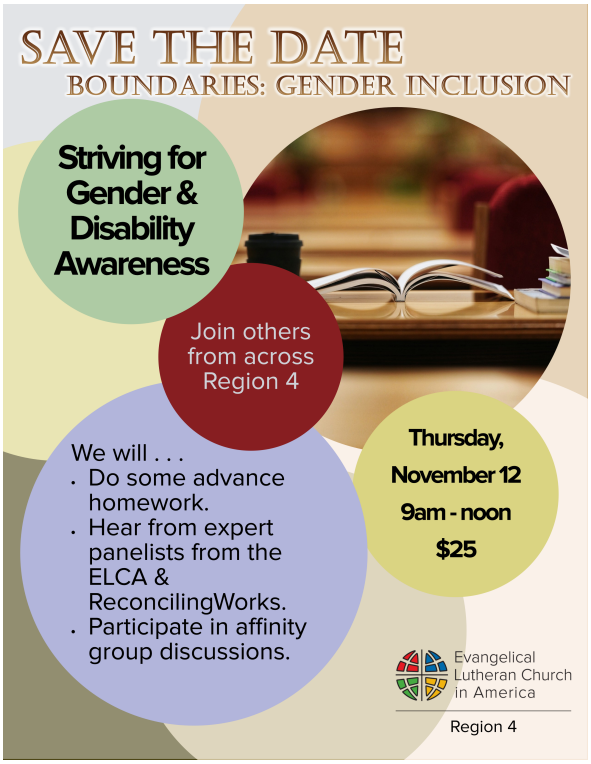
Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Chalmette, LA, invites to join us as we celebrate our 75th anniversary on **Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 10am**! Bishop Tracey Breashears-Schultz will be our guest preacher. We will have a reception following worship. For more information,



please call (504)-271-4254. Come join us as we celebrate 75th years of faith!

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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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. [Register now!](#)

Upcoming Events

October 8, 2026
Portico Benefit Services: Final Annual Enrollment Webinar

October 10, 2026
Bayou Conference Spiritual Care Training

October 11, 2026
Iglesia San José Obero Grand Opening

October 16-18, 2026
Fall Family Retreat

October 24, 2026
Spiritual Care Training

October 26, 2026
Gethsemane Lutheran Church's 75th Anniversary

October 31, 2026
Ordination of Sharon Schwartz

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.

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Monthly Mission Support Memo

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