

From: Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod synod@gulfcoastsynod.org
Subject: News from Around the Synod for the week of October 19, 2026
Date: October 19, 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 19, 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 3: Other Initiatives of the ELC-CAR



October is CAR Month in our Synod! We celebrate our companion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic (ELCCAR).

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!



Clean water and food security are transforming lives in CAR. The ELC-CAR has already provided clean water to more than 27,000 families and is



helping farmers add value to crops like peanuts, improving nutrition and family income. These sustainable projects give dignity and resilience to entire communities. During CAR Month, let us continue to sow seeds of hope together with our companions in Christ.

October is CAR Month PDF



Zion is excited to host our [1st Annual Community Trunk-or-Treat](#), and we'd love to partner with you to help promote this fun, welcoming, and family-friendly space for our neighbors to celebrate together!

Friday, October 30 | 5:30–7:00 PM

Zion Lutheran Church

3606 Beauchamp St., Houston, TX 77009

Four ways to participate:

Host a Trunk: Gather your family, youth group, or church friends, decorate a trunk, and hand out candy! Sign up with Laura ASAP.

Donate Candy: Individually wrapped Halloween candy is always welcome! Drop it off at Zion by October 30 or bring it with you.





October 30 or bring it with you.

 **Volunteer:** Help welcome families, run games, paint faces, or monitor the bounce house.

 **Help Spread the Word:** Share the invitation with your congregation, friends, and neighbors! Spanish and English flyers are attached for easy sharing in newsletters, on social media, or throughout your community.



You are invited to worship and celebrate with St. John's Lutheran Church as **Pastor Angela Fleeger** is installed to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Saturday, November 7, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

Together, we'll give thanks for God's call, celebrate this new chapter in our congregation's life, and look ahead with faith, hope, and love.

Clergy are invited to Vest. Color of the Day is Green.

A Celebration Luncheon will follow in the Fellowship hall. All are welcome!

[RSVP for the Luncheon Celebration](#)



🎄 Give Gifts That Give Back This Holiday Season! 🎁 ✨

Looking for unique, meaningful presents while spreading extra Christmas joy? Come shop at the Hands of Faith Fair Trade Store—a ministry of Lord of Life Lutheran Church!

Admission is FREE, so gather your neighbors, family, and friends for a warm and cheerful shopping experience filled with beautiful, handcrafted gifts from around the world. 🌍❤️

Every item is 100% fair trade and sustainably made. When you shop here, your holiday purchases do so much more than bring joy to loved ones—they put direct, reliable income into the hands of global artisans supporting their families in places without social safety nets.

This year, shop with purpose and celebrate the true spirit of giving. Come visit us and help change the world, one purchase at a time! ✨



Watch Online

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.*



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 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.



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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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
Region 4

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 24, 2026
[Spiritual Care Training](#)

October 25, 2026
[Gethsemane Lutheran Church's
75th Anniversary](#)

October 30, 2026
[Zion Lutheran, Houston
Trunk or Treat](#)

October 31, 2026
[Ordination and
Installation of Sharon
Schwartz](#)

November 7 & 8, 2026
[Fair Trade Holiday Market](#)

November 7, 2026
[Installation of Pastor Angela Fleeger](#)

November 10, 2026
[Upbring Golf](#)

November 12, 2026
[Boundaries: Gender Inclusion](#)

December 10, 2026
[Living Word's 50th Anniversary
Celebration](#)

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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