From: **Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod** synod@gulfcoastsynod.org
Subject: News from Around the Synod for the week of October 19, 2026
Date: October 26, 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 26, 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 4: Thank You for Your Support of ELC-CAR During October



As we reach the end of our October emphasis on our Central African Republic (CAR) companion synod, the CAR companion synod team met to make several important decisions. We are very pleased to have introduced Samson Ngoe to all of our churches in the Gulf Coast Synod as the first Lutheran medical student and aspiring doctor from CAR. He has agreed to return to CAR after his studies in Senegal and serve in the church's medical ministries for 10 years. And we have agreed to help support his medical school education.

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We are hopeful that he will be the first in a cadre of Central African medical students we will educate to serve in CAR. As Jesus said to his disciples in Matthew 9:37-38 (and Luke 10:2), “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” Thousands in CAR are waiting to hear a word of hope and healing. Samson is ready to be the first to answer the call, but the CAR team is hoping that, just as word spread about the fistula repairs at Gallo, word will spread about the possibility of medical school scholarships being offered by the Lutheran Church in CAR.

The cost of one year of tuition and living expenses for Samson to attend medical school in Senegal is $15,000. To those of us who have funded university educations in the United States in recent years, this seems like an unbelievably low cost. But to a family in CAR, it is monumental. To support realizing our dream of more doctors in CAR, we are establishing a dedicated funding category named “University Scholarships” so you or your church can direct donations for educating doctors to the Synod. Our CAR team is grateful for your prayers and continued support for this companionship ministry. Together with our fellow Lutherans in CAR, we are transforming lives and bringing new hope in the heart of Africa.

You can send a check to the synod office, or you can give online here:

https://give.tithe.ly/?locationId=11001cb3-fc36-4e87-bc51-fe91b983bdcd

Please select “Central African Republic Companion Synod (47)” from the dropdown list of Funds and type “University Scholarships” in the memo box.

With gratitude,

The Gulf Coast Synod CAR Team

October is CAR Month PDF





DISCOVERING FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP IN UNPREDICTABLE AND COMPLEX TIMES

What does faithful leadership look like when the world around us keeps changing? How might our Lutheran theology and practices help us navigate uncertainty and respond to the needs of our communities?

You are invited to explore these questions with **Rev. Dr. Terri Elton, Luther Seminary's Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Leadership**, on Monday, November 9, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in La Grange. Terri will lead a free workshop, **Discovering Faithful Leadership in Unpredictable and Complex Times**, with a light lunch provided.

Together, participants will return to the basics of the church's calling and consider what they mean for the places and people you serve. Through conversation, shared practices, and reflection on your own ministry context, you'll explore how to accompany people as they discover a Christian way of life in their everyday lives.

life in their everyday lives.

This workshop is for ministry leaders of all kinds. **Whether you serve as a pastor, church volunteer, small group leader, Sunday school teacher, youth leader, or lay professional,** you bring experiences and questions that will enrich the conversation.

Monday, November 9, 2026
Noon–2 p.m. | Light lunch included
St. Paul's Lutheran Church | La Grange, Texas

There is no cost to attend, thanks to generous donors and grants supporting Luther Seminary and the hospitality of host congregation St. Paul's Lutheran.

Register Here



Save the Date for Lutherhill's Christmas at Camp Open House on December 12, 2026!

Join us for a magical day on the Hill! Lutherhill's Christmas at Camp Open House will feature festive crafts, camp activities, cocoa & s'mores, a Christmas Carol Sing-a-long with Pastor Mike Rinehart AND maybe a little snow! This FREE day will include fun for the whole family.

Interested in staying the night a Lutherhill after the Christmas at Camp Open House? Contact Alexandria@lutherhill.org. We are happy to offer complimentary lodging and breakfast on Sunday morning! While there is no cost for your stay, freewill donations to support Lutherhill's ministry are always welcome and appreciated. (Limited space available.)

Date: December 12, 2026

Time: 1pm - 4pm

Location: Lutherhill | 3782 Luther Hill Rd., La Grange, TX 78945

RSVP





Lutherhill Summer Camp 2027

The countdown to Summer 2027 is on, and we can't wait to welcome campers back to Lutherhill!

Get ready for another summer filled with adventure, friendships, faith, and memories that will last a lifetime. **Registration for Summer Camp 2027 is NOW OPEN!** Explore our programs and save your camper's spot for an unforgettable summer.



Lutherhill Summer Staff 2027

Looking for more than just a summer job? Join the Lutherhill Summer Staff for a summer filled with faith, friendships, adventure, and opportunities to make a difference! We're looking for enthusiastic individuals ready to grow as leaders, build community, and share the love of Christ with campers.

With a variety of positions available, there's a place for you on the team!

Explore Summer Staff Opportunities & Apply!



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



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.

RSVP for the Luncheon Celebration

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

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



🎄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!

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 30, 2026
Zion Lutheran, Houston
Trunk or Treat

October 31, 2026
Ordination and Installation of Sharon Schwartz

November 7, 2026
Installation of Pastor Angela Fleeger

November 7 & 8, 2026
Fair Trade Holiday Market

November 9, 2026
Discovering Faithful Leadership Seminar

November 10, 2026
Upbring Golf

November 12, 2026
Boundaries: Gender Inclusion

December 10, 2026
Living Word's 50th Anniversary Celebration

December 11, 2026
Lutherhill's Christmas at Camp Open House

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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