

From: Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod synod@gulfcoastsynod.org
Subject: News from Around the Synod for the week of October 12, 2026
Date: October 12, 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 12, 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 2: Education & Opportunity



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!

The Central African Republic has one of the lowest schooling rates in the world. The ELC-CAR is bridging this gap with 31 schools serving over 5,000 children in remote villages. In 2023, it opened the first Protestant high school in the country. These schools continue to offer children the tools of learning and hope for a brighter future. We are proud that we have been able to offer girls as well as boys the opportunity to attend schools, and we hope to

continue to expand these opportunities in the future.

October is CAR Month PDF



[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!

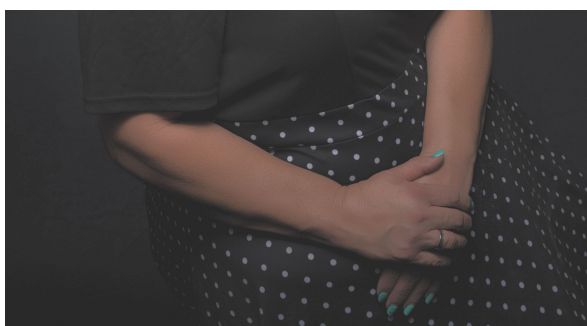


By the grace of God and by the call
of the Church,

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 77822



Watch Online

DREHMANN, TEXAS 77055

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 16-18, 2026

[Fall Family Retreat](#)

October 24, 2026

[Spiritual Care Training](#)

October 26, 2026

[Gethsemane Lutheran](#)

November 10, 2026

[Upbring Golf](#)

November 12, 2026

[Boundaries: Gender Inclusion](#)

December 10, 2026

[Living Word's 50th Anniversary](#)
Celebration

Church's 75th Anniversary

October 31, 2026

Ordination of Sharon

Schwartz

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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