



## Rev. Cheryl Lamaak

Lakeside Lutheran Church  
League City, TX

The Rev. Cheryl Lamaak currently serves Lakeside Lutheran Church in League City, TX. She is a graduate of Mount Mercy University with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and minors in psychology and sociology. She studied for a year at the Augustana Hochschule in Neuendettelsau, Germany as well as living and working with the Evangelisches Augustinerkloster in Erfurt, Germany during a J-term. Her internship was with the American Church in Berlin (Germany). She earned her M.Div. from Wartburg Theological Seminary (2007). Lakeside is her third call as a pastor, the first in Marquette, KS and the second in Georgetown, TX. Throughout her life, she explores the Gospel's call to social justice and helps to make connections between home, church, and community for herself and others. Pr. Lamaak has served as Chair/President of two ministerial alliances; Central States Synod Youth Chair; Camp Tomah Shinga Board Member; Synod Assembly Chair and Dean of the Capital North Conference in SWT Synod; and on the Gulf Coast Synod's LiveOn Board.

Prior to seminary, Pastor Lamaak worked a wide spectrum in social services from court-ordered supervised visitation to traditional, kinship and specialized foster care and everything in-between in Chicago, IL and SE Iowa. She also served as the Director for Youth and Family Ministry and Education for two churches in SE Iowa and Wisconsin. With her diverse background and care for others, especially children, she became a foster-to-adopt parent for three years with Upbring. During this time period of caring for children from 2 months to 12 years old, she adopted her two sons. Pr. Lamaak enjoys reading, movies, being with friends and family, good food, going for walks, and enjoying quiet moments whenever possible.

Pastor Lamaak is deeply thankful for the many people who supported her as she answered God's call to ordained ministry. After a lifetime of being told that women could not be leaders or pastors within a conservative Lutheran church, she accepted an invitation to visit another Lutheran church tradition with a co-worker. Upon entering the sanctuary and being warmly and openly received, it felt like coming home. The ELCA has enabled so many who have been demeaned, deeply hurt, and pushed to the fringes to have an opportunity to live out God's call. There is still much work to be done, but Pastor Lamaak sees hope and promise as the ELCA wades deeper into the baptismal waters filled with God's promises and creates sacred space so that all God's people have a place to call home.



**Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod**  
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