

Budget Narrative
Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Approved by Synod Council: May 4, 2026

Proposed Budget for 2027-28

The proposed budget for 2027-28 is balanced, with revenues and expenses each totaling \$1,254,000. It is an important statement of our stewardship to propose and manage to a balanced budget. The proposed budget is 3.1% above the Synod Assembly approved budget for 2026-27 and 2.9% above the spending plan for 2026-27.

Priorities:

The proposed budget support the Synod's longstanding benevolence programs and allocations. The other priorities in this budget include calling a part-time Bishop's Associate for Mission/Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM), beginning in 2026-27, so that we can advance this important work. In addition, the budget supports the current count of rostered and lay staff.

Key Revenue Assumptions:

The budget projects Mission Support at \$1,160,000. We will have the goal of building support among our congregations to return toward the higher levels of giving that we saw in FY 2023 (of \$1,177,471). We assume gifts from individual donors at \$25,000, in line with actual experience in 2024-25. In addition, we are budgeting all other revenue sources at \$69,000 (Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest and Thrivent) based on actual experience in 2024-25 and 2025-26. The line of Interest Income is blank because the interest that the Synod receives is from the Synod's endowment fund (ELCA Fund A) and those monies are now credited to the ELCA Fund A Synod Savings restricted account. Previously they were recorded as revenues to the general operating budget.

Key Expense Assumptions:

Expenses total \$1,254,000 with 49.7% supporting Benevolence and 50.3% supporting the operating expenses of the Synod. Benevolence totals \$623,500, 11% above the approved budget and spending plan (due to an increase in mission support assumed in the budget). The operating expenses of the Synod total \$630,500 which includes salaries and benefits for the Bishop, two bishop's associates, two administrative staff and a part-time DEM. Salaries include a 3% raise for administrative staff and seniority-based adjustments in compensation for the Bishop and bishop's associates based on Synod compensation guidelines. The benefits budget reflects the policy change in 2026-27 to limit coverage to

employees only. The budget includes \$24,500 for the REALM system and contract accounting services and \$10,650 for audit fees based on the agreed upon level in the latest engagement letter. With appreciation to Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church for its generosity in use of its space for Synod offices, the Synod is not paying rent until budget year 2028-29.

Spending Plan for 2026-27

The Synod approves budgets two years in advance of the start of the fiscal year, it is good practice in the interim year, to update the approved budget to reflect current estimates. This update is known as the spending plan. The spending plan for 2026-27 projects a deficit of \$47,023, down from the \$106,889 deficit budget approved a year ago. Our goal is to manage the budget to reduce the deficit further depending on actual revenue performance and prudent expense management. Revenues are revised upward from \$1,109,000 to \$1,172,000 primarily due to increasing Mission Share contributions by \$50,000 from \$1,030,000 to \$1,080,000 based on experience to date.

Expenses total \$1,219,023, slightly above the \$1,215,889 Synod Assembly approved budget. The expenses in the Spending Plan include all positions, some of which were not in the approved budget. This was possible because of actions to reduce costs to make room for the increase. Major areas of savings include:

- The stewardship contract was deleted. (\$10,000)
- The approved budget included the total compensation of the former bishop, not the current bishop. (\$20,568)
- The budget assumed a full year DEM position and the spending plan assumes a DEM hired by July 1, 2026. (\$67,000)
- Effective in the 2026-27 spending plan, the Portico benefits policy was changed to cover employees/rostered ministers only and not family coverage. (\$35,000)

Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

2027-28 Budget

Income		
General Revenues		
1.40000 - Mission Share		\$1,160,000.00
1.40005 - Donations from Individuals		\$25,000.00
1.40010 - Interest Income		\$0.00
1.40020 - Other Income		\$69,000.00
1.40030 - Grants to offset DEM expenses		\$0.00
1.40040 - Campus Ministry ECLA support		\$0.00
1.40050 - Grants to offset salaries & exps		\$0.00
Total General Revenues		\$ 1,254,000.00
Benevolence		
1.50000 - ELCA Undesignated (28% of MS)		\$324,800.00
1.50005 - ELCA Pilot Mission (13% of MS)		\$150,800.00
1.50006 - ELCA Pilot DEM/MC (9% of MS)		\$104,400.00
1.50010 - Lutherhill		\$7,000.00
1.50030 - Luth School of Theology at Chicago		\$4,000.00
1.50040 - Wartburg Theological Seminary		\$4,000.00
1.50110 - Texas Impact		\$1,000.00
1.50120 - Interfaith Ministries		\$1,000.00
1.50130 - LA Interchurch Conference		\$2,000.00
1.50160 - Ministry to Seafarers		\$1,000.00
1.50190 - RIC		\$1,000.00
Total Benevolence		\$ 601,000.00
Campus Ministries		
1.55600 - Brazos Valley		\$10,250.00
1.55610 - Baton Rouge		\$0.00
1.55620 - HouMin		\$10,250.00
1.55630 - NOLA		\$2,000.00
1.55640 - Houston Rice/CTK		\$0.00
Total Campus Ministries		\$ 22,500.00
Benevolence Total		\$ 623,500.00
Word & Sacrament		
Bishop-Compensation & Benefits		
1.51000 - Salary, FICA, Housing - Bishop		\$105,100.00
1.51030 - Health & pension - Bishop		\$25,280.00
1.51035 - Offset Bishop Salary		\$0.00
Total Bishop-Compensation & Benefits		\$ 130,380.00
Bishop-Travel & other expenses		
1.51040 - Travel - Bishop		\$5,000.00
1.51050 - Auto expenses - Bishop		\$3,000.00

1.51060 - Meals & entertainment - Bishop	\$2,500.00
1.51070 - Cell phone - Bishop	\$650.00
1.51080 - Event registrations - Bishop	\$200.00
1.51090 - Professional Exp - Bishop	\$500.00
1.51100 - Continuing education - Bishop	\$2,000.00
1.51125 - Vehicle Replacement - Bishop	\$2,000.00
Total Bishop-Travel & other expenses	\$ 15,850.00
Word & Sacrament Expenses	
1.52500 - Deans/Conference exp.	\$8,500.00
1.52510 - Synod Council exp	\$400.00
1.55205 - Youth Ministry Network Team Exp	\$250.00
1.55215 - Youth Leadership Summit	\$250.00
1.56210 - Global Mission/Companion Synod	\$500.00
1.52535 - Worship Materials /Expenses	\$1,000.00
1.56215 - Hunger Appeal	\$400.00
1.56218 - Ecumenical	\$400.00
1.54270 - Region IV Support	\$1,300.00
1.52548 - Stewardship Contract	\$0.00
	\$13,000.00
Word and Sacrament (Office of the Bishop) Total	\$ 159,230.00
General Expenses	
Administration/Finance	
Admin Salaries & Benefits	
1.52000 - Salary - Adminstrative Assist	\$30,900.00
1.52010 - FICA-Employer's share - Admin	\$2,364.00
1.52020 - Health & Pension - Admin	\$0.00
1.52030 - Salary - Admin/Communications	\$54,590.00
1.52040 - FICA-Employer's share- Admin/Commun	\$4,177.00
1.52050 - Health & Pension - Admin/Commun	\$6,000.00
1.52059 - Offset Min Coord LDR Disaster Grant	-\$14,304.00
1.52061 - Salary Disaster Response Coord	\$10,501.00
1.52062 - FICA - Disaster Response Coord	\$803.00
1.52210 - Wages/Salary - Bookkeeper/Office	\$0.00
1.52220 - FICA - Employer's share-Bookkeeper	\$0.00
1.52230 - Health & Pension - Bookkeeper	\$0.00
Total Admin Salaries & Benefits	\$ 95,031.00
Admin Staff Travel & Other Exp	
1.52060 - Cell Phone - Support Staff	\$1,200.00
1.52100 - Travel - admin staff	\$3,500.00
1.52105 - Travel - Admin Staff Synod Disaster	\$2,500.00
1.52120 - Continuing education - admin staff	\$500.00
1.52130 - Prof Exps & Event Reg - admin staff	\$200.00
1.52133 - Event reg - Admin Synod Disaster	\$500.00
Total Admin Staff Travel & Other Exp	\$ 8,400.00
Communications	
1.52310 - Email & Communication Tools	\$1,300.00
1.52340 - Website design & maintenance	\$4,000.00

1.52345 - Communication - contracts	\$9,900.00
1.52350 - Commuication Design Tools	\$0.00
Total Communications	\$ 15,200.00
Facilities expenses	
1.52320 - Telephone & internet	\$3,000.00
1.52415 - Office Equipm & Furnit Replacement	\$2,000.00
1.52420 - Office rent	\$120.00
1.52425 - Utilities	\$6,500.00
1.52427 - Facilities	\$7,000.00
1.52428 - Northline Upkeep	\$5,100.00
1.52430 - Equipment leasing	\$3,000.00
1.52435 Subscriptions & Prof Exp-Director	\$0.00
1.52440 - Repairs & maintenance - equipment	\$0.00
1.52450 - Software	\$3,000.00
1.52610 - Insurance	\$15,200.00
Total Facilities expenses	\$ 44,920.00
Finance	
1.52250 - Other accounting expenses	\$24,500.00
1.52260 - Audit expenses	\$10,650.00
1.52270 - Bank and credit card charges	\$6,000.00
Total Finance	\$ 41,150.00
Meeting/retreat & gifts	
1.52520 - Staff mtg/retreat/gifts & vol lunch	\$2,500.00
1.52525 - Gifts & Hospitality	\$500.00
Total Meeting/retreat & gifts	\$ 3,000.00
Other administrative expenses	
1.52600 - Archive expenses	\$500.00
1.52620 - Office supplies & printing	\$3,000.00
1.52630 - Postage & express	\$800.00
1.52640 - Legal fees & Other prof services	\$500.00
1.52650 - Intern/assistance Office	\$0.00
1.52660 - Recruitment	\$250.00
Total Other administrative expenses	\$ 5,050.00
Total Administration/Finance	\$ 212,751.00
Bishop Assoc Mission/Stwrdship	
1.57195 - Offset DEM/MC Exp Pilot (9% of MS)	-\$104,400.00
DEM - Program Expenses	
1.57185 - Mission Strategic Table - DEM/MC	\$250.00
1.57196 - DEI and Congregational Resources	\$3,000.00
1.57198 Contract Work for Justice	\$1,000.00
Total DEM - Program Expenses	\$ 4,250.00
DEM - Travel & Other	
1.57100 - Travel - DEM/MC	\$5,000.00
1.57110 - Meals & entertainment - DEM/CM	\$2,000.00
1.57115 Other David Hope Tringall	\$0.00
1.57120 - Continuing education - DEM/MC	\$1,000.00
1.57130 - Event registrations - DEM/MC	\$500.00
1.57140 - Prof Exp - DEM/MC	\$500.00
1.57150 - Auto expenses - DEM/MC	\$4,200.00

1.57160 - Cell phone - DEM/MC	\$600.00
Total DEM - Travel & Other	\$ 13,800.00
DEM/MC - Salary & Benefits	
1.57000 - Salary, Housing - DEM/MC	\$60,000.00
1.57030 - Health & Pension - DEM/MC	\$20,000.00
Total DEM/MC - Salary & Benefits	\$ 80,000.00
Total Bishop Assoc Mission/Stwrdship	-\$ 6,350.00
Leadership	
Bishop Assoc - Candidacy & Education	
1.54500 Salary, Fica, Housing	\$92,375.00
1.54510 Health & Pension	\$14,696.00
Total Bishop Assoc - Candidacy & Education	\$ 107,071.00
Bishop Assoc - Candidacy & Education - Travel	
1.54515 Travel	\$3,000.00
1.54520 Meals & Entertainment	\$2,000.00
1.54525 Continuing Education	\$2,000.00
1.54530 Event Registration	\$500.00
1.54535 Prof. Expenses	\$1,000.00
1.54540 Auto Expenses	\$6,000.00
1.54545 Cell Phone	\$600.00
Total Bishop Assoc - Candidacy & Education - Travel	\$ 122,171.00
Bishop Assoc - Community & Call Process	
1.54600 Salary, Fica, Housing	\$92,375.00
1.54610 Health & Pension	\$17,923.00
1.54615 Travel	\$3,000.00
1.54620 Meals & Entertainment	\$2,000.00
1.54625 Continuing Education	\$2,000.00
1.54630 Event Registration	\$500.00
1.54635 Prof. Expenses	\$1,000.00
1.54640 Auto Expenses	\$6,000.00
1.54645 Cell Phone	\$600.00
Total Bishop Assoc - Community & Call Process	\$ 125,398.00
Candidacy program expenses	
1.54400 - Candidacy retreat	\$4,000.00
1.54410 - Candidacy Committee Travel	\$500.00
1.54420 - Testing services	\$1,750.00
1.54430 - Background checks	\$300.00
1.54450 - New to Synod Orientation	\$500.00
1.54460 - Candidacy Committee	\$250.00
1.54465 - Interim Training	\$500.00
Total Candidacy program expenses	\$ 7,800.00
Leadership Program Expenses	
1.54210 - First Call Theological Education	\$1,200.00
1.54240 - Leadership Development	\$500.00
Total Leadership Program Expenses	\$ 1,700.00
Total Program expenses - Leadership	\$ 9,500.00
Total Leadership	\$ 264,869.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,254,000.00
Net Income	\$ 0.00