



Kinsmen

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rooted in Faith. Relevant to Life.

February 2023

CONNECTION

12100 Champion Forest Drive
Houston, TX 77066
281.444.3126

www.KinsmenLutheran.org

Ash
Wednesday

February 22

12 PM (noon)
Worship in
English

7PM
Bilingual Worship

Drive Through Ashes
7-9AM in North Lot
3-5PM in Main Parking Lot

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Pastor's Word

You don't know me!

Have you ever had times when someone tried to speak for you, speak about you, or speak into your experience, but they really had no idea what's going on in your life.

I am certain I have done this to others.

It's natural. We want to make a connection with someone, so we try to relate. But everyone's experience is unique and it's difficult to truly know what it's like to walk in someone else's shoes.



And yet, Jesus knows. Because God sent Jesus into this world, He knows what we have experienced. And Jesus continues to know us and wants to speak into our experiences.

Sometimes when we have not seen a friend for a long time, we have to spend time catching up on their life because all of our experiences with them are in the past. Is our relationship with Jesus ever like that? Is there some distance between now and the last time we fully realized the relationship we have with Jesus? Maybe Lent can be time when we realize again how much Jesus truly gets us because he knows us.

Join us for worship on Sundays and for worship and Bible Study on Wednesdays where we will remind ourselves through worship, Bible Study, and service who Jesus is and how much he can truly speak into our experience.

Or join a group or Bible Study where you can share your joys and struggles, get to know Jesus better by studying God's Word, and pray for one another. Read further in this Newsletter for opportunities to grow deeper in your connection to God and in closer friendship with others.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F. Mark England". The script is cursive and fluid.

Mark England, Pastor of Discipleship at Kinsmen Lutheran Church

A green graphic with a white logo for Kinsmen Lutheran Church on the left. The logo consists of a stylized flower icon and the text "Kinsmen LUTHERAN CHURCH". To the right, the words "STAFF UPDATE" are written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this, there is a paragraph of white text. On the left side of the graphic, there is a circular portrait of a woman with dark, curly hair, wearing a dark clerical shirt with a white collar. A white arrow points from the text "Interim Latino Ministry Pastor" at the bottom right towards her portrait. A white speech bubble next to her portrait contains her name "Adriana Johnson-Rivas" in a white, cursive font. There are decorative white dotted patterns in the background of the graphic.

Kinsmen
LUTHERAN CHURCH

STAFF UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that since January 23, Pastor Adriana Johnson-Rivas has been serving as the Interim Latino Ministry Pastor. She is currently the pastor at Principe de Paz, but she is at Kinsmen/ Sagrada Familia 3 days a week. She has preached and led worship many times when Pastor Gabriel was on vacation. We are excited that she has joined the Latino ministry team along with Adriana Cuina, Spanish Communications Administrator, and many strong volunteers. Please join me in welcoming her and get to know her. She is always bubbling over with joy and love!

Interim Latino Ministry Pastor

Adriana Johnson-Rivas



*Ash
Wednesday*

For you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.
Genesis 3:19

February 22
12 PM (noon)
Worship in English

7PM
Bilingual Worship

Drive Through Ashes
7-9AM in North Lot
3-5PM in Main Parking Lot

Sermon Series Title: Jesus Knows

Jesus was no stranger to stress, betrayal and loss. The social pressures he faced was immense. He was constantly bombarded with questions and challenged. Living in times of unrest, he had to be intentional about his words and his actions. Jesus gets us and knows us. Join us this Lent for this 6-week sermon series. Each weekend we will explore another way that Jesus knows our struggles. Every Wednesday we will have worship and a bible study discussion that discusses how "He Gets Us." We will see how Jesus handled the challenges in his life and find strength and courage in him.



February 25-26

Jesus Knows our Temptations
Psalm 32
Matthew 4:1-11

March 4-5

Jesus Knows our Questions
Psalm 121
John 3:1-17

March 11-12

Jesus Knows our Stories
Psalm 95
John 4:5-42

March 18-19

Jesus Knows our Struggles
Psalm 23
John 9:1-41

March 25-26

Jesus Knows our Loss
Psalm 130
John 11:1-45

April 1-2

Jesus Knows Betrayal
Psalm 31:9-16
Matthew 21:1-11

He Gets Us™

Wednesday Midweek Lent Worship at 7PM

Look for Jesus in the Superbowl and then at Kinsmen during Lent. "He Gets Us" is a national advertising campaign that hopes to show that Jesus truly knows our struggles and encourages churches to truly show the love of Jesus. These "ads" will be shown during the Superbowl. This is also the theme of our Wednesday night worship and Bible Study during Lent. We will use the "He Gets Us" ads and scripture to guide our conversations that will take place in the midst of a short worship service featuring Taize-style songs.. Our first Lent Wednesday Gathering will be at 7PM on March 1.

March 1	Midweek 1	He Gets Us: Jesus the Influencer
March 8	Midweek 2	He Gets Us: Jesus the Rebel
March 15	Midweek 3	He Gets Us: Jesus at a Dinner Party
March 22	Midweek 4	He Gets Us: Jesus managed Outrage
March 29	Midweek 5	He Gets Us: Jesus knew Heartbreak

Lent Devotions

Did you know that there are always 2 devotions available to you at Kinsmen? One can be found on the Kinsmen app that you can access on your phone. Simply go to where you download apps on your phone and download Kinsmen's app. When it downloads there is a "Devotions" tab that you can use. We also have hard copies of the "Christ in Our Home" devotions that are available in the narthex. We encourage you to use one or both of these year-round, but especially during Lent.



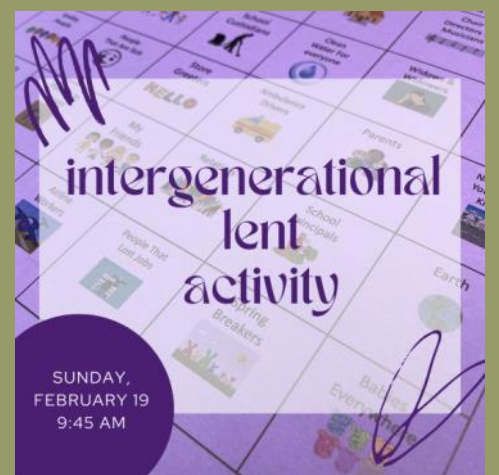
Intergenerational Lent Activity

Sunday, February 19 at 9:45AM

Join us on Sunday, February 19 at 9:45 AM in the gym for a fun intergenerational activity to help us focus on the season of Lent.

This event replaces Sunday school for the day, and adults are encouraged to attend with their children.

All are welcome!



Join a Group or Bible Study this Lent

Grow in faith and friendship through Group Life at Kinsmen. There are opportunities on Sunday mornings and other times during the week to gather around God's Word or around Common Interests.

Learn more here. <https://bit.ly/experiencefamily>

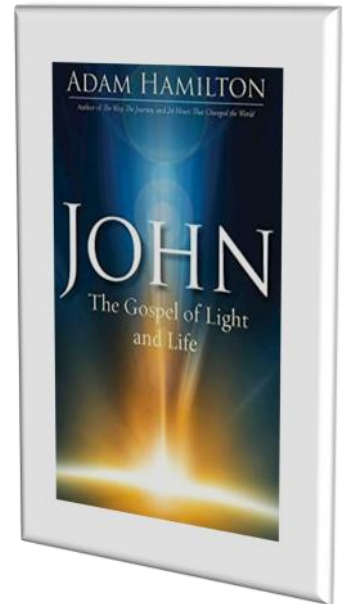


John: Gospel of Light and Life

Sunday Mornings 9:45AM beginning February 26

Join us this Lent for our study of the Gospel of John. Together we will experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal in Adam Hamilton's six-week series, John: The Gospel of Light and Life. As we follow the life of Jesus through the Gospel of John, we will understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament. While purchasing the book through Cokesbury or Amazon is not necessary, it will enhance your participation in this study.

Register here. bit.ly/JohnLight



Naomi Bible Study

Looking at the Ten Commandments

We welcome women of all ages to join us for Naomi Bible Study. We meet at 10:00 AM on the first Tuesday of each month in the Coffee House in the Community Life Center. We combine Bible readings with application to issues in our lives, community and world. Studies have some leader-led direction but a lot of sharing.

Way before human beings took to social media, Netflix, or Judge Judy (those can only take you so far!), there were God's laws. Not for entertainment, but for eternity, these 10 commandments actively promote the health and life of others and ourselves.

For the next four months, we will be examining how the commandments still speak to the challenges of our world today. We will definitely be finding out that the commandments are not outdated or quaint!

In February, we will consider the first two commandments. Psalm 19 claims, "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul." Joy and romance may not be the first images that come to mind when we think of the Ten Commandments. However, a close reading of the first several commandments opens us to a fresh encounter with the God of fierce, freeing love.

You will find Naomi Circle to be an informal and caring group of women. Please join us!

For any questions, contact [Pastor Mark England](#).

THE 55+ SENIOR MINISTRY INVITES YOU TO A PANCAKE DINNER

Tuesday, February 21st in the Gym.

All (women, men, children, teens!) are invited. Come over to the gym between 5 and 6:30PM to enjoy delicious pancakes with an assortment of toppings.

A love offering will be collected. For more information contact Colette Edwards cedwards@kinsmenlutheran.org if you have any questions.

To register go to <https://bit.ly/Pancake23>



55+ Lunch February 7, 12:30PM

We will be going to Campioni Restaurant.

Hope to see you there! Register [HERE](#).

For more information contact Colette at Cedwards@kinsmenlutheran.org



Are you interested in a Holy Land Trip in 2024?

Come to a Holy Land Trip Planning Meeting on February 12
Possible Trip Dates: June or November 2024 (optional extension to Jordan)

We now have enough interest to begin planning! Join Kinsmen members and friends on this life-changing trip to the Holy Land! If you are interested, come to the first official trip meeting on **Sunday, February 12 at 9:45AM**. We will narrow down the dates at that time.

This trip will visit biblical and archaeological sites from as far south as Beer Sheva to as far north as Ancient Dan. It will deepen your understanding of the Bible, but it will also give you insight into the current Christian witness of our Lutheran brothers and sisters, specifically in the city of Bethlehem.

Contact Pastor Beth at bwarpmaeker@kinsmenlutheran.org if you are interested in this journey of faith, learning and relationship building.

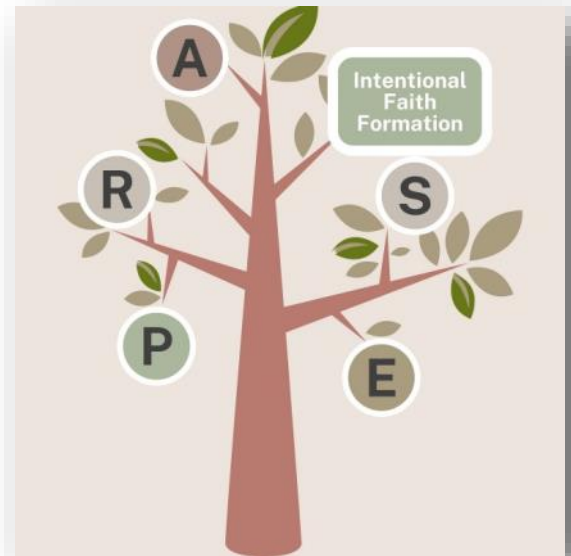


Discipleship Path

Because we want to connect you to concrete ways to grow in your faith, we have developed a Discipleship Path at Kinsmen. The Discipleship Path will help guide us as we grow in our faith through worship, hospitality, faith formation, service, sharing your faith, and generosity.

We want to help you grow what we call Intentional Faith Formation. While it is the Holy Spirit working our lives that helps us grow in our faith, we can still be intentional in the spiritual practices that help us realize what God is doing in our lives and in the world. What's your next step to grow?

Fill out this form to be connected to ways to grow in your faith this season through Intentional Faith Formation. <https://bit.ly/KinDPFaithFormation>



March 13-16



February 14-17

KCA will also be open for Spring Break Holiday Care in March for school-aged children!

<https://bit.ly/KCAMarch23>

We will be open for Holiday Care from 9 AM to 4 PM, February 14-17, when Klein ISD is closed.

Please contact Dennisse Mejia-Cruz (dmejia-cruz@kinsmenlutheran.org) before February 11 if you are interested



Kinsmen

REGISTER NOW!

@ LUTHERHILL



RETREATS

Explore Retreat
March 24-26, 2023
1st - 5th graders

This is a great opportunity for anyone who'd like to take a trial run at camp for a full weekend retreat before coming out for a whole week in the summer. Contact Sara Ray for more details!

Worship. Lead. Serve.
Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers
February 17-19, 2023

Join us for a great weekend at Lutherhill! We'll grow in our faith and friendship and have a lot of fun too!

Register at lutherhill.org and then let Pastor Mark know.

SUMMER CAMP

JULY 16-21, 2023

Alphas - 1st Graders, \$395
(leave camp on Wednesday, July 19)

Youngns - 2nd & 3rd Graders, \$695

Yearlings - 4th & 5th Graders,
\$695

Amazing Race - 6th-8th Graders,
\$745

Scholarships are available!

Wondering what campers will gain from a week at Lutherhill? We're glad you asked!

- Here are just a few benefits of camp:**
- FAITH!** Campers engage their faith with a sense of wonder. This wonder ignites a passion for lifelong faith exploration.
- AFFIRMATION!** The young adult staff is specially trained to engage campers in all camp activities while honoring their individual needs.
- COMMUNITY!** Campers live together in cabins and are partnered with another cabin group to create a 'village'. It's a great way to practice living well with others.
- ADVENTURE!** Campers are encouraged to try new things and most of all have fun!

For more info: www.lutherhill.org

Use group code: Kinsmen and save \$50!



High School Youth

S.W.A.T. is our high school ministry and we meet regularly throughout the year to grow in faith and friendship. Those in high school are not only invited to participate but they are given opportunities to lead bible study, games, and prayer time. In February, we will be meeting on February 5 for lunch off campus and February 26 at Kinsmen. Details of each gathering will be included in the weekly e-mails and through remind. All high school students are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Kristen at kschulze@kinsmenlutheran.org.

Playground Playdate

Saturday, February 4 at 10AM

We'd love to help parents to connect with other families in the same life stage while kiddos connect with others their age.

Snacks and water bottles are provided!

If your kiddo is too young to run and play, we encourage you to bring a blanket or a stroller so you can still enjoy the adult fellowship.

We will meet in the North Parking Lot (the small lot off of Pinewood Springs). That is where our preschool playground is located. This event is aimed at those 5-years-old and younger, but all are welcome!

Camp Hope Save the Date!

Camp Hope 2023 will be June 12-16, June 19-23, June 26-30.

Camp Hope a day camp run by the Kinsmen youth and is for children currently in Pre-K (entering Kinder in fall 2023) through 7th grade. Youth currently in 8th grade and older can apply to be part of the Camp Hope Staff.

Staff applications and registration for campers will be open in Spring 2023!

Youth and Family News

Are you receiving the Tuesday Middle School and High School Youth Ministry News?

These emails are one of the primary ways you will stay in the know on all things, especially Confirmation (Middle School) and SWAT (High School) happenings.

If you are not receiving the Tuesday email, please contact Pastor Mark at mengland@kinsmenlutheran.org



MINISTERIO LATINO



Our projects 2023



We continue with a new semester of our ESL program. The students report that they are very satisfied with the opportunity to improve their English and have progressed in their language skills with having been promoted to a more advanced level.



We are preparing 12 students to celebrate their First Communion. This group meets every Sunday.



We started this month with a community garden project. We already have the necessary funds. As a first step, we will give four talks to impart basic knowledge and begin fieldwork during the spring. We invite you to participate and share your knowledge in this area. We are excited to implement this new program in Kinsmen, led by the Latino community.



"The Academy" is a resource in Spanish provided by the ELCA for the Lutheran formation of our community. We are planning sessions to cover this program throughout the year and develop leaders.



We also want to strengthen Latino leadership by giving greater participation and responsibilities to our volunteers, and attracting added resources to increase active participation in the church.



Finally, we focus on interaction, on becoming an increasingly united group. We started with the flower committee and knitting blankets for our baptisms, two activities where the language is not limiting. We want to demonstrate, with the facts, that there should be no barriers between groups with a common goal to grow in faith and be an instrument of the Lord.

We are open to having all the support, help and knowledge of our congregation to achieve our goals for this year.



What we are working on

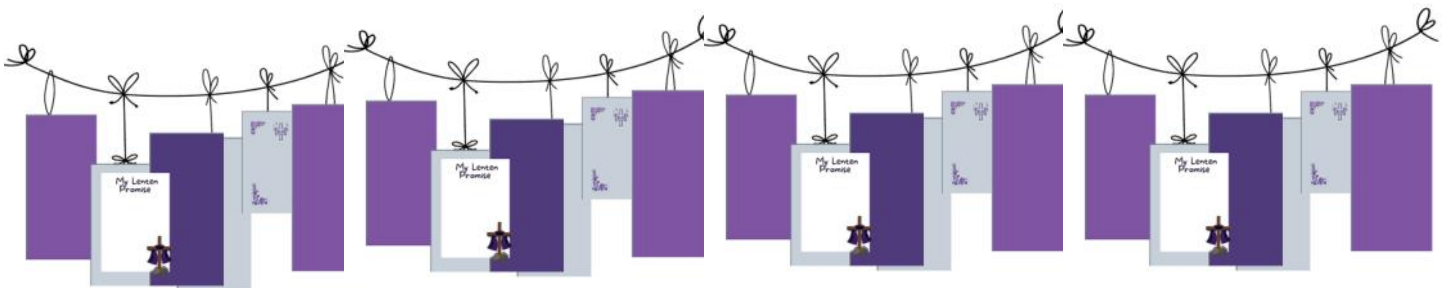
This Lent we have created an activity to prepare us for the resurrection of Christ, to strengthen our faith and to draw us closer to the Lord with our actions.



WHAT IS IT? It is a garland located in the Narthex where we will place our intentions of Lent.

HOW DO WE DO IT? You will find cards with intentions already written, others blank if you want to place something personal, they will be available in English, Spanish and for children. We will take a card and place it on the garland as a commitment to our act.

We are all invited to participate, the more promises we have, we will be stronger in our faith and commitment to God.



Noisy Offering— Habitat for Humanity

It is a Kinsmen tradition to collect a Noisy Offering the second weekend of the month for a Mission Partner. This month's partner is Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Harris County -



For over 30 years, Habitat for Humanity Northwest Harris County has been working in our community to help families transform their lives with the incredible effects of safe and affordable shelter. The stability of owning your own home provides improvement in health, safety, child development, economic opportunity, and educational opportunities. With your help, we can provide this to more families in our community.

This year we are excited to help Sarah and her four boys who were living at a shelter after a domestic violence situation drove them to abandon life as they knew it. Because of generous donors and volunteers in our community, she and her boys will be moving into their own safe, affordable home this April.

Habitat for Humanity Northwest Harris County has committed to being a leader in long-term repair efforts. The Home Repair Department partners with volunteers, donors, and homeowners in the community to help repair homes. Some of the home repair work includes painting, landscaping, weatherization and minor repair services to preserve home exteriors and revitalize neighborhoods.

If you would like to learn more visit the website at Habitatnwhc.org. Thank you for your gracious generosity.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Sleep in Heavenly Peace. "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town." Might you like to volunteer at Sleep in Heavenly Peace? Visit the links below to volunteer on February 4 and/or February 18.

February 4:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0544ada82ea2fc1-feb4th#/>

February 18:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0544ada82ea2fc1-feb18th#/>

Food Distribution ON HOLD

We were notified on January 11, that the Houston Food Bank has cancelled all "Satellite Food Distributions." We are exploring our options to continue this important ministry.

Contact Lynnae Schatz if you have questions.



Blest be the Tie that Binds our hearts in Christian Love

Kinsmen quilters will meet on
Monday, February 6 from 1 – 3:30 PM
and Saturday, February 25 from 9 – 11:30 AM – in the gym.

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

Training is provided. Questions? Contact Connie Jackson or Lynnae Schatz.

Contact Connie Jackson or Lynnae Schatz (lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org) for more information.

LENT Personal Care Kits

During the season of Lent, we will collect items for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for Personal Care Kits. Personal Care Kits are one of LWR's most requested items and make a simple yet profound difference to families struggling in poverty. In a world filled with strife, the demand for kits grows every year and LWR relies on our generous hearts to make sure those with the very least are not forgotten.

Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help. Making Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits is a simple, fun and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need.

LWR Personal Care Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.



Personal Care Kit items will be collected in the narthex from Ash Wednesday, February 22 through Maundy Thursday, April 6.

What items make up a Personal Care Kit?

- light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- bath-size bars of soap any brand, in the original wrapping
- adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- a sturdy comb
- a metal nail clippers (attached file optional)



If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? *James 2:15-16*

The book of James reminds us of the important difference between words and actions. We can't just talk about helping our neighbors in need, we must also take action and make it happen.

In prior years, the Kinsmen Endowment Fund has made possible gifts in loving response to community needs related to natural disasters, emergent basic needs assistance, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to each family who has contributed to Kinsmen's Endowment Fund – your past generosity ensures gifts into the future!

One way we can make sure our church continues to "make it happen" is by adding to our congregation's endowment

fund. As this fund grows, we'll be able to buy more "coats" for everyone in need. One of the easy ways to support the church, at a level far greater than you may realize, is by using appreciated securities (like stocks and bonds). When you transfer appreciated securities to our congregation, you avoid capital gains taxes and the full amount can be used by the church for mission. So, instead of cashing appreciated securities and paying capital gains taxes and income taxes, you make a larger donation and receive the full tax deduction as allowed by law. Please contact a financial advisor before making this type of gift.

By supporting the endowment fund you have the opportunity to create a legacy of faith that will positively impact our congregation's ministry long after your lifetime. These funds open new horizons for our congregation to reach even more people with Christ's love.

Peace in Christ,

Melissa Turnquist, Generosity Team Chair

Generosity Team Members: Loretta Castano, Andrew Hanson, Benita Huff, Jen Nash, Ed Newhard, Craig Sutter, Melissa Turnquist, Richard Vermilyea, Pastor Beth Warpmaeker, and Brad Young.



February Birthdays

Ruth Thompson	02/01	Linda D. Thomas	02/07	Gloria Bernardino	02/16	Hélène Roeger	02/24
Anika Sutter	02/01	Michael Patton	02/07	Jude Grimes	02/16	Gayle Lyons	02/24
Luke Reder	02/01	Allyson Schroeder Orta	02/08	Brett Kulhanek	02/18	Jacob Awbrey	02/24
Velsie Borja	02/01	William Thompson Jr.	02/08	Richard Pravata	02/18	Molly Rall	02/25
Lila Rodenhauser	02/01	Kathy Turnquist	02/08	Jacob Warpmaeker	02/18	Renate Jordan	02/25
Garrett Best	02/02	Steve Wooden	02/09	Steven Schatz	02/19	Fay Cade	02/25
Oliver Goodell	02/02	Caila Jean Roberts	02/09	Sophia LeMay	02/19	Joy Coote	02/25
Henry Goodell	02/02	Maximus Silva	02/10	Erin Beecher	02/19	Christopher Monrad	02/25
Jakki Schertle	02/03	Oscar Caraveo	02/10	Clinton Ray	02/19	Carter Monrad	02/25
Randy Bratsven	02/03	Patsy Fretwell	02/12	Bob Parliament	02/20	Ann Gilmore	02/25
Kailey Cutbirth	02/03	Carol Simpson	02/12	Ashley Blackwell	02/20	Russell Petrucciani	02/26
Rachel Goodell	02/03	Connie Jean Simpson	02/12	Michael Prejean	02/21	Karen Wood	02/26
Elaine Monrad	02/05	Camila Broussard	02/12	Lydia Mathis	02/21	Alicia Baker	02/26
Liam Ray	02/05	Glen Peterson	02/13	Edith Chuta	02/22	Doug Wittenberg	02/27
David Lehmann	02/06	Laroy Borchert	02/13	Teresa Cook	02/22	Annice Joyce	02/27
Joan Ebner	02/06	Margo Watson	02/14	Ian Wietstruck	02/23	Max Rivera	02/27
Craig Sutter	02/06	Connie Jackson	02/14	Season Davis	02/23	Melissa Gribb	02/28
Al Holzman	02/06	Ellen Wangsmo	02/15	Kenneth Mersiovsky	02/23		
Suzanne Nott	02/07	Jason Huff	02/15	Randy Grobe	02/24		
Kristine McNeill	02/07	Elizabeth Orosco-Stolz	02/16	Michael Hamric Jr.	02/24		



GLIMPSES of GRACE

KINSMEN BUDGET UPDATE - CHURCH ONLY OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS FOR December 2022

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Total Income	157,441	184,202	26,761
Total Expenses	139,367	159,792	20,424
Net	18,074	24,410	6,336
Year-to-Date (2022)			
Total Income	1,603,462	1,676,503	73,041
Total Expenses	1,603,462	1,637,476	34,014
Net	-	39,027	39,027

GIVING UPDATE

Thankoffering	Budget	Actual	Variance
December 2022	127,973	124,225	(3,748)
2022	1,229,394	1,166,548	(62,846)

GLIMPSES OF SHARING GRACE

CARE MINISTRY

January 2023	
Flower Deliveries	56
Prayer Shawls	2

GLIMPSES OF GRACE

December 2022	
Noisy Offering— Bright Stars of Bethlehem	863.09
General Mission Support	11,815.95
Designated Mission Support	462.50
KCA Scholarships	137.50
December TOTAL	13,574.04
YTD TOTAL	153,095.21

IN PERSON AND ONLINE

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

INFORMAL WORSHIP

Saturday
5:30 PM

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Sundays
8:30 AM

EDUCATIONAL HOUR

Sundays
9:45 AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Sundays
11:00 AM

MISA en ESPAÑOL

Domingos
12:30 PM

ESCUELA DOMINICAL

Domingos
12:30 PM

Kinsmen Staff

Reach a staff member directly by dialing
281-444-3127, plus their extension

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Rev. Mark England, Pastor of Discipleship
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Interim Latino Ministry Pastor**
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Elizabeth Marks, Alleluia Choir Director
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Adriana Cuina, Spanish Communications Administrator
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Ruben Aranda, Custodian

Gonzalo Montes, Custodian

Rachel Santellana, KCA Preschool Director
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**Dennise Mejia-Cruz, Kinsmen Children's
Academy, Before and After School Director**
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Hannah Macon, Interim Children's Choir Director

Linda Thomas, Interim Organist

CONNECTION

is a monthly publication of Kinsmen Lutheran Church. Deadline for submitting news is the **15th** day of each month or the previous church business day if the deadline falls on the weekend or on a church holiday. Articles are preferred electronically, but may be faxed or hand-delivered to a staff member.



Office Hours

Monday—Thursday
9 AM—5 PM

Friday
9 AM—12 PM

Contact Information

281-444-3126 Phone
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kinsmen@kinsmenlutheran.org

Membership

Interested in learning more
about Kinsmen?

Contact Pastor Beth, Pastor Mark, or
Lynnae Schatz for more information.