



Kinsmen

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rooted in Faith. Relevant to Life.

August 2023

CONNECTION

12100 Champion Forest Drive
Houston, TX 77066
281.444.3126

www.KinsmenLutheran.org



“God’s work. Our hands.”



**JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF SERVICE
AUGUST 26/27**

Inside This Issue

Pastor’s Word
page 2

Join the Choir
page 7

Latino Ministry
pages 12-13

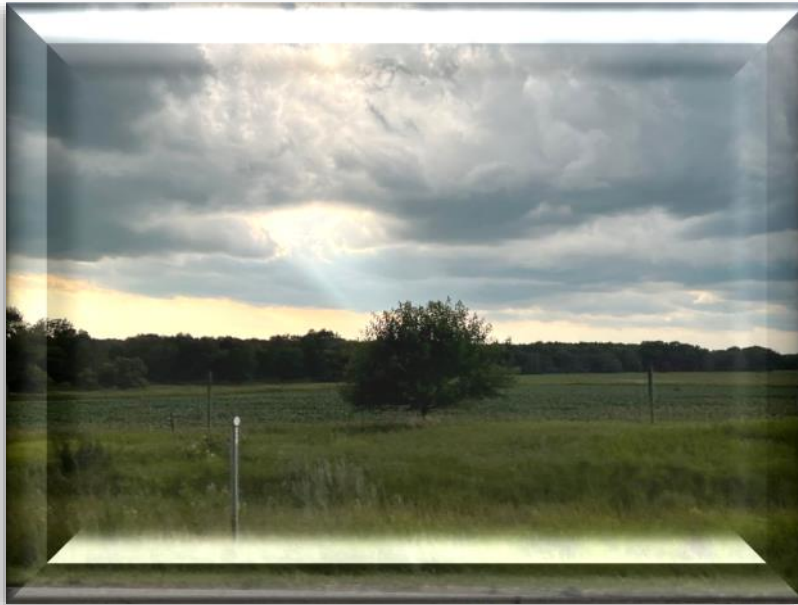
Birthdays
page 21

Pastor's Word

In July we took a family vacation to Minnesota and Wisconsin. On our way back and as we were driving through the flat plains of Iowa, dark storm clouds formed and moved right over us. There was lightening all around us and we knew the clouds would unload on us at any moment. Strangely, it didn't rain very much. Instead, we could see these incredibly ominous storm clouds without the distraction of blinding rain.

The dark clouds were thick and solid and they stretched out for miles in front of us until a destination we could see in the distance. At that point, it was almost like a line had been drawn in the sky. Dark, bruised-purple skies gave way to bright clear blue skies just beyond the line in sharp contrast. We knew once we got past the threatening clouds that stretched out for miles in front of us, we would be out of danger.

Then I turned my head to the right and noticed something incredible. In the midst of the dark, thick clouds, there was a small opening where the sun was trying to shine through. Sun beams were actually visible. It looked like God's glory was shining down on a specific place on earth. At that point, I took a picture because it was a powerful image depicting "On Earth as In Heaven."



Then, since it was a long drive, I began to think about the various ways we see glimpses of earth as it is in heaven—as it is in God's Reign:

The gospel readings for the next five weeks give us a few ideas. Glimpsing heaven on earth looks like sharing food with those who are hungry through God's abundance. It looks like being calmed by Jesus in the midst of the many storms in life. It looks like grace being extended to all those overlooked and on the margins of society. It looks like seeing and confessing who God is when others cannot. It also looks like giving our lives to show God's kind of sacrificial love.

In addition to hearing God's word through Jesus, serving and learning also give us glimpses of heaven on earth:

- It looks like a whole congregation of people coming together to serve. (We'll be doing this August 26-27 for God's Work. Our Hands. Weekend.)
- It looks like parents passing on the faith to their children. (This will happen with the beginning of Sunday School, youth ministry, and school starting up, but especially with Bibles being given to 3 year olds, 3rd graders, and 6th graders this month.)



- It looks like people being trained for listening and care ministries. (Group ministry and The Community of Hope Lay Chaplain training begins this month.)

- It looks like a Pentecost moment when people from all different nations are able to speak and understand each other. (English as a Second Language classes will be launching this month as well.)

This means the picture I took coming back from vacation will be enacted this month. God's light and beams from heaven will be visible in the Word preached and in many of the activities beginning this month! What a joy and privilege it is to be a part of God's holy activities in and beyond the church! I invite you to find one or more ways to join in!

Grace and Peace,

Beth Warpmacker

Senior Pastor

Church Council

Church Council News

Do you Know Someone who feels Called to Serve?

Kinsmen is seeking to fill three church council positions (2024-2026), assemble a team of three members for the 2024 Nominating Committee, and select two Kinsmen representatives for the 2024 Synod Assembly. If you or someone you know is interested in serving, I invite you to submit your nominations to <https://bit.ly/KinsmenFeedback>

If you have any questions, please contact myself or Pastor Beth at <https://bit.ly/FeedbackforPB>

- 3 - Church Council Members (2024-2026)
- 3 - 2023 Nominating Committee Members
- 2 - Representatives for the 2024 Synod Assembly

Peace in Christ,
Jennifer Kaurich,
Kinsmen 2023 Church Council Vice President

Sermon Series: On Earth as it is in Heaven

Have you ever wondered what is meant by the phrase “on earth as in heaven” in the Lord’s Prayer? It’s ways we see glimpses of God’s Reign on earth. Glimpsing heaven on earth looks like sharing food with those who are hungry through God’s abundance. It looks like being calmed by Jesus in the midst of the many storms in life. It looks like grace being extended to all those overlooked and on the margins of society. It looks like seeing and confessing who God is when others cannot. It also looks like giving our lives to show God’s kind of sacrificial love. Join us for this 5-week sermon series where we will see and participate in God’s Work together!

Dates	Sermon Title	First Reading	Gospel
August 5-6	Feeding People	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
August 12-13	Faith Amid the Storms	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
August 19-20	Extending Grace	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15:21-28
August 26-27	Living Stones	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
September 2-3	Setting your mind on the Divine	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28

Discipleship Pastor Call Committee Update

The Call Committee to call our new Discipleship Pastor (Pastor Mark's former position) was formally installed July 23rd and will have already met four times before the end of July. The committee made up of Krista Guerrero, Andrew Hanson, Wade Ivey, Jacob Jyrkama, Linda Martens, Chris Turner, Ellen Wangsmo, Pastor Beth Warpmaeker and myself are currently working with the synod on on a Ministry Site Profile to match us with the best possible fits for Kinsmen. Thank you for your prayers for the discernment of this committee and for potential pastors. I'm available if you would like to visit about this process.

In Him,
Eric Wietstruck
Chair of Discipleship Pastor Call Committee



God's Work. Our Hands.

August 26 and 27

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully. The need is great and God's church is at work.

We are the church together. By performing acts of service we explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions: All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Join us for worship on "God's work. Our hands." weekend, August 26 and 27, as we come together for a day of sharing grace.

What does this mean?

During Saturday evening worship on August 26, we will have projects available to do as part of the work-shop experience. On Sunday morning, August 27, we will gather for one worship service at 9 AM. After worship, participants will be encouraged to serve at a project of their choosing.

Confirmed projects include:

- Delivering beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace,
- Teacher projects,
- Washing firetrucks (this project is reserved for families with young children),
- Quilting for Lutheran World Relief,
- Abandoned Animal Rescue (this project is reserved for high school youth),
- Habitat for Humanity Restore Project
- Kinsmen Clean Up
- Helping with the Celebratory Luncheon

We will re-gather at church on Sunday at 12:15 PM for a celebratory luncheon.

Sign up for your project today [HERE](#) or at <https://bit.ly/2023GWOH>

Thank you in advance for sharing God's grace with others through service to our community. #GodsWorkOurHands





Join the Choir

Alleluia Choir

Have you seen the latest research? Singing is good for you. Singing in groups is even better. (Washington Post June 25, 2023). The latest "Sing With Us" study has determined that singing reduces stress hormones and promotes the body's ability to fight illness.

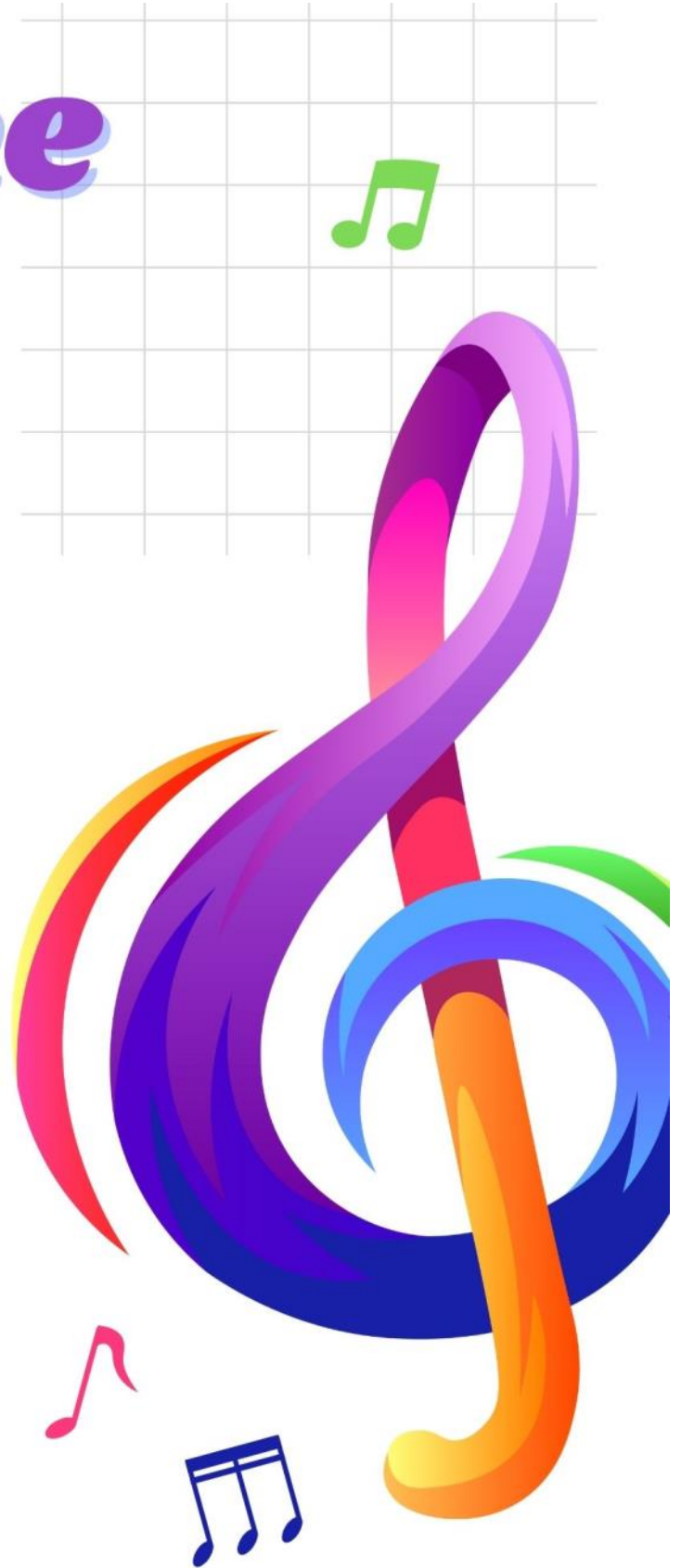
Now's the time to join the choir. Alleluia Choir meets most Wednesdays at 7 PM in the Choir Room. Elizabeth Marks is the director. Join in on the fun on August 16 at 7 PM.

Contact [Elizabeth](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

Praise Team

The Praise Team is a group of individuals who have a passion for inspiring others to worship God. The Praise Team is looking for vocalists who love to sing and would be willing to help lead the congregation in worship on Sunday mornings. The Praise Team leads the 11 AM Contemporary Worship Service on Sundays with rehearsals at 10 AM. If you are interested in learning more or joining in on a rehearsal, please contact Kristen at

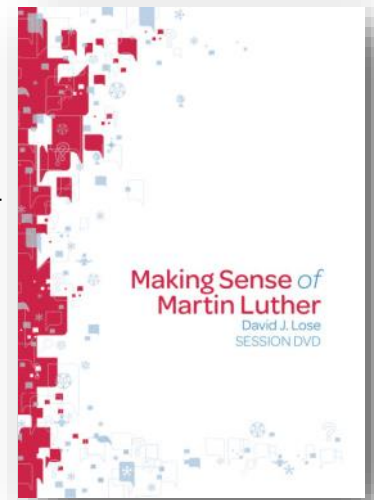
kschulze@kinsmenlutheran.org.



Making Sense of Martin Luther by David Lose

Sundays at 9:45AM (August 6, 13, 20)

This class will explore how Luther's understanding of God's life-changing gospel informs day-to-day faith and life in the world today. This will be a video and discussion class led by Pastors Beth and Steve. To get the most out of the class, you can download the book on Kindle or order it in paperback on Amazon or Augsburg Fortress. Having a book is recommended, but not necessary. Register here: <https://bit.ly/MLuther2023>



August 6: Called for Good—Vocation, Sinning Boldly,
and the Respiratory System of the Body of Christ

August 13: God Hidden and Revealed—Luther's Theology of the Cross and the Sacraments

August 20: *Semper Simul*—Sin, Forgiveness, and "Becoming Christian"

Naomi Bible Study

Summer of Connections

Are you wanting to meet other women in the church, or are you interested in informal Bible study with a caring group of Kinsmen women? We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 10AM at Kinsmen. During the year, Bible readings are combined with application to issues in our lives, community and world. Studies have some leader-led direction but a lot of sharing.

In July, we met in a member's home and shared a lot of yummy snacks and posed questions to learn more about one another. On August 1st at 10AM, we will again meet in a member's home and continue sharing our personal stories to connect on a deeper level. We would love to have you join us!

For any questions, contact [Pastor Beth Warpmaeker](#).

Men's Bible Study

Monday Nights at 7PM beginning August 28

This fall we will be gathering to study the book of James, using the book *James: Faith/Works* by Matt Chandler.



Group Leader Training

August 20 at 9:45AM

New and returning Groups will be launching in September. Come to a Group Leader Meeting/Training on August 20 at 9:45AM. This will give you information about the studies we will be using this fall and it will give you helpful insights about leading or forming a new group! We will meet in the Community Room.

Weekly Lectionary Study Group

Wednesdays at 10:00AM beginning September 6 in Room 17

Ever wish you could study the bible readings before you get to worship? This a great new group for you! The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) is a three-year cycle of weekly readings ("lections") used to varying degrees by the vast majority of mainline Protestant churches in Canada and the United States. There are usually four readings for each Sunday—one from the Old Testament, the Psalter, the Epistles, and the Gospels.

Every weekend at Kinsmen, two of the readings assigned for a particular Sunday are read aloud. The purpose of this study group is to focus first on those two readings for the upcoming worship service and, if time is available, the other readings as well. Our goal is to enhance and to deepen our worship experience. We will meet on Wednesdays at 10AM. To register, click [HERE](#) or go to <https://bit.ly/Lectionarygroup>

An Overview of the Old Testament

Sundays at 9:45AM beginning September 10 in Conference Room

Amy-Jill Levine is one of the most respected NT scholars of our time. In this course, however, we will be tapping into her extensive knowledge of the Hebrew bible (or Tanakh), which is our Old Testament. We cannot lose sight of the fact that, when Jesus referred to scripture (e.g., *Matthew 4:4*, *Luke 4:21*), he was referring to the Old Testament, which had been translated from Hebrew to Greek circa 250 BCE. This version is called the Septuagint.

This course, facilitated by John Turnquist, has twenty-four 30-minute lecture videos, and, after each lecture, there will be ample time for discussion. A list of the lecture titles will be handed out at the first session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to <https://bit.ly/overviewOT>

Amy-Jill Levine, a practicing Orthodox Jew, is Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace and a retired Professor from Vanderbilt Divinity School.



Pickleball

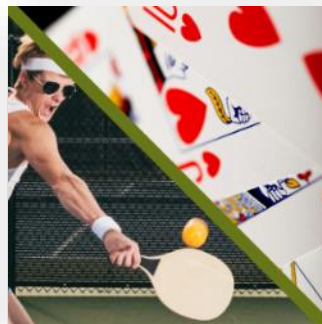
August 24 at 6:30PM

Join in on the fun on Thursday, August 24 at 6:30PM. All equipment is provided.

Dress comfortably.

Questions?

Contact Lynnae Schatz or Ken Mersiovsky.



Euchre

August 28 at 7PM

Like to play cards? Check out Euchre on Monday, August 28 at 7 PM in the Coffee House. Euchre is an easy and fun card game that uses a 24-card deck.

Questions? Contact Colette Edwards.

Exploring Alternatives to Division

Wednesdays at 6:00 PM (Sept 6-27)

Cost: \$25 (to cover the cost of an inventory)

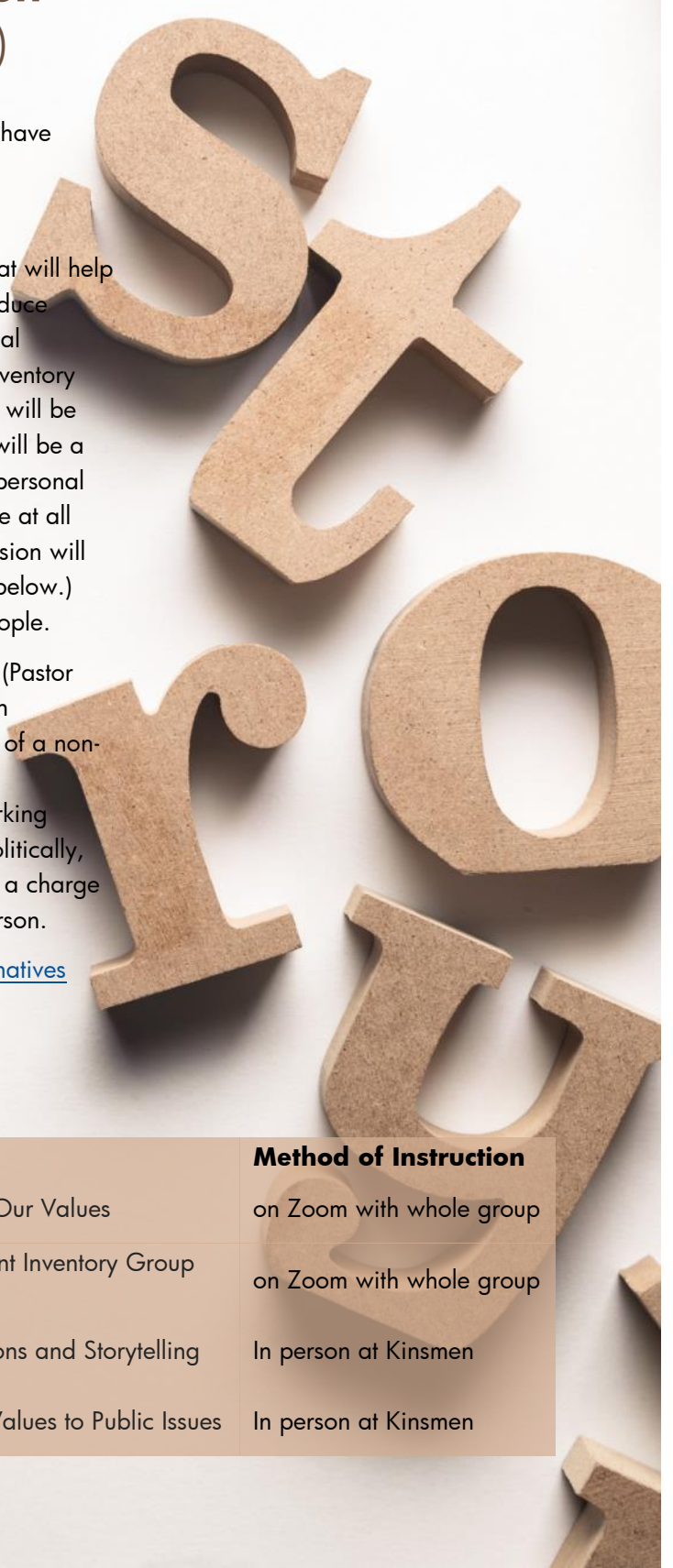
Do you have a friend or family member with whom you often have disagreements?

Have you wondered how you might be a bridge to divisions?

Beginning in September we will have a 4-week experience that will help you “Explore Alternatives to Division.” The first class will introduce the concept of storytelling as a tool to reveal your own personal values. The following week each class member will take an inventory called the Intercultural Development Inventory. A group report will be given in the second class and life applications and practices will be a part of Units 3-6. The units are interconnected and flow from personal engagement toward engaging in the public arena. Attendance at all units is strongly encouraged. The method of instruction/discussion will use both Zoom and in person interactions. (See the schedule below.) Also, due to the nature of this class, it will be limited to 15 people.

The facilitator of this class will be the Rev. Dr. Nancy Maeker (Pastor Beth’s mother). She is a retired ELCA pastor who has served in congregations, on a synod staff, and as an executive director of a non-profit. She’s also a Qualified Administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). In her current vocation she is working to break down walls that divide people from one another—politically, socially, religiously. No books are needed. However, there is a charge of \$25 to take the Inventory. This can be paid online or in person.

All participants must register here: <https://bit.ly/ExploreAlternatives>



Date	Time	Units Covered	Method of Instruction
Wed. Sept. 6	6-8PM	Unit 1: Storytelling: To Reveal Our Values	on Zoom with whole group
Wed. Sept. 13	6-8PM	Unit 2: Intercultural Development Inventory Group Report	on Zoom with whole group
Wed. Sept. 20	6-9PM	Units 3 and 4: Real Life Situations and Storytelling	In person at Kinsmen
Wed. Sept. 27	6-9PM	Units 5 and 6: From Personal Values to Public Issues	In person at Kinsmen



The Marriage Course

Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Beginning August 23-October 4



Pastor Beth and Mark Warpmaecker are celebrating their 25th anniversary this month! To celebrate, they thought they'd host and facilitate a Marriage Enrichment 7-week session on Wednesdays beginning August 23 from 7-9PM.

Now, you might be thinking to yourself: "I don't want to share things about my marriage with others I don't know." That's the beauty of it. Your participation in this will not require you to share anything you don't want to with others. It's more like a facilitated private discussion between you and your spouse bookended with some connecting time with other couples. Also, it will ALL BE ON ZOOM, so you can attend in the comfort of your own home.

Think of this as a kind of date night. We will be using the new "Marriage Course" videos that you can preview here: <https://themarriagecourse.org/new-series>

The last time we hosted this, these are 2 of the quotes we received:

"7 weeks to a deeper more intimate relationship with your spouse!"

"The online format works very well for content delivery and provides for a private setting for discussions."

To participate and receive more information, register here: <https://bit.ly/MarriageCourse2023>

Join a trip to the Holy Land

Trip Dates: June 4-17, 2024 with an optional extension to Jordan.

Join Kinsmen members and friends on this life-changing trip to the Holy Land!

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.



The brochures are out. Please contact [Pastor Beth](#) if you are interested in receiving a brochure and future updates on this journey of faith, learning and relationship building. There are also brochures in the church office or go to shepherdstours.com/packages.

Mental Health Matters

"Maybe you need to change the name to something else...". Some how, some way, the term Mental Health has developed a **bad reputation** perhaps just because it contains the same words as *Mental Health Condition or Mental Illness*. Mental Health simply refers to "Your general state of well-being and state of mind. Something that should be looked after". *Definition provided by the World Health Organization*

Having a tough day? Just want to work on better relationships? Feeling lonely, isolated, anxious or worried? Caring for someone and feeling a bit stretched?

All of these statements are related to mental health. We seek to improve our lives and mental health through supportive gatherings, cultivating connection and self-care. Showing up for yourself may be the best thing you choose to do.

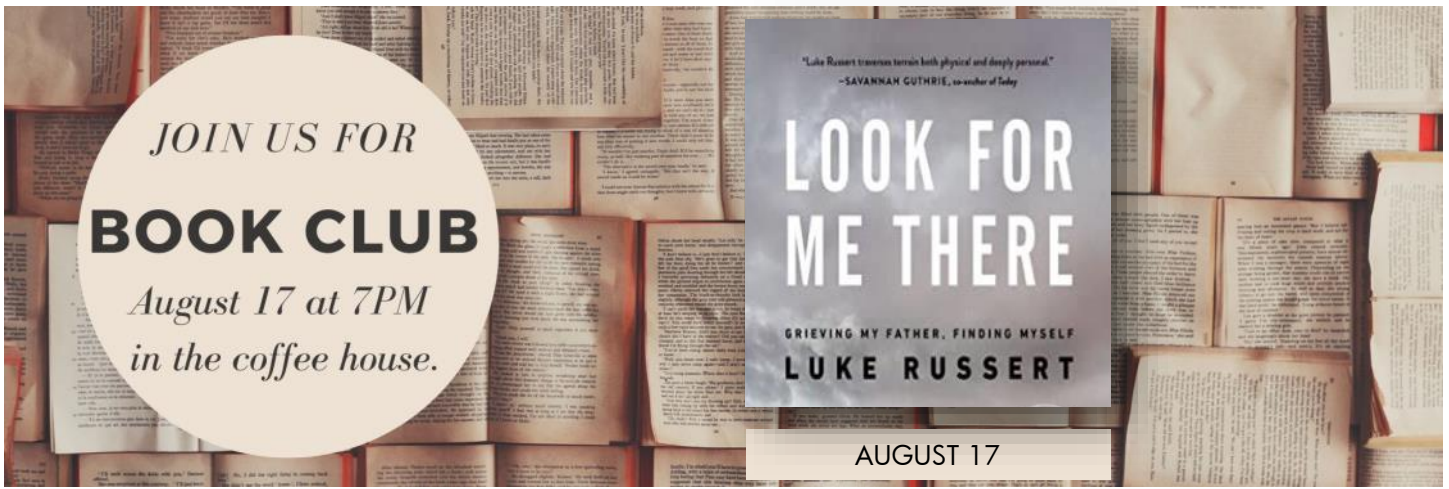
The Mental Health Matters Vision statement captures it this way. We believe that mental health, physical health, and spiritual health are all vital components of the human wellness condition. We are a community-based peer support system utilizing the basic concepts of compassion, dignity, and respect for both those living with mental health conditions and those who love them. Stigma and Shame are not welcome here. Our community includes peer led groups, individual lay chaplain support, educational/wellness opportunities, and resources.

You are invited to join us for meetings and special events. Need something special? Please reach out.

We choose to stand up for each other, fight stigma and shame to cultivate better relationships. Kinsmen Cares!

Sign up to receive more information [HERE](#).





Community of Hope Training

Do you want to grow in your relationship with Christ? Do you want to acquire the skills to handle different life situations in your everyday journey?

Then, the Community of Hope is for you where you will be challenged in your relationship with Christ and utilize life skills to help others.

Community of Hope International is designed to create Christian communities of lay volunteer pastoral caregivers united in prayer, shaped by Benedictine Spirituality and equipped for and serving in pastoral care ministries. The volunteer Pastoral Caregivers remain united in prayer and community as their ministries lead them to serve in the congregation and in the wider community. The program remains rooted in Benedictine Spirituality and is based on the classic “clinical pastoral education” model used in many hospitals to train pastoral caregivers.



The Community of Hope training awakens trainees to God’s call on each of our lives by helping individuals discover and better understand their own spiritual gifts for ministry. Each participant is encouraged to make this experience a journey into wholeness to use this opportunity to explore a “rule of life”, practice sacred silence, Christian meditation, compassionate listening, pastoral identity and Lectio Divina, all within the context of Benedictine Spirituality.

This experience builds Community and develops spiritually centered pastoral caregivers. Community of Hope training will begin August 15. Interested or questions? Contact [Lynnae Schatz](#) for an application. The cost for the class is \$50.

“Care of the sick must rank above and before all else so they may truly be served as Christ, who said, “I was sick and you visited me.” (Matthew 25:36) The Rule of Benedict; Chapter 36

MINISTERIO LATINO



This summertime is time to share with the family, it is vacation time ... that is why we have believed it important to also have a time of reflection. For that reason and while we were looking for material for our previous series of sermons Faith and Film, we came across this excerpt from the film "An Interview with God", which we would like to share.

I asked: "What's the one thing that surprises you most about mankind?"

He answered: "That they get bored of being children, are in a rush to grow up, and then long to be children again.

That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health.

That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live neither for the present nor the future.

That they live as if they will never die, and they die as if they had never lived..."

His hands took mine and we were silent.

After a long period, I said, "May I ask you another question?"

He replied with a smile.

"As a father, what would you ask your children to do for the new year?"

"To learn that what is most valuable is not what they have in their lives, but who they have in their lives.

To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most but is one who needs the least.

To learn that they should control their attitudes, otherwise their attitudes will control them.

To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in persons we love, and that it takes many years to heal them.

To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness.

To learn that there are persons that love them dearly, but simply do not know how to show their feelings.

To learn that money can buy everything but happiness.

To learn that while at times they may be entitled to be upset, that does not give them the right to upset those around them.

To learn that great dreams do not require great wings, but a landing gear, to achieve.

To learn that true friends are scarce; he/she who has found one has found a true treasure.

To learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others, but that they forgive themselves.

To learn that they are masters of what they keep to themselves and slaves of what they say.

To learn that they shall reap what they plant; if they plant gossip, they will harvest intrigues; if they plant love, they will harvest happiness.

To learn that true happiness is not to achieve their goals, but to learn to be satisfied with what they already achieved.

To learn that happiness is a decision. They decide to be happy with what they are and have or die from envy and jealousy of what they lack.

To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see something totally different.

To learn that those who are honest with themselves without considering the consequences go far in life.

To learn that even though they may think they have nothing to give, when a friend cries with them, they find the strength to appease the pain.

To learn that by trying to hold on to loved ones, they very quickly push them away; and by letting go of those they love, they will be side by side forever.

To learn that even though the word "love" has many different meanings, it loses value when it is overstated.

To learn that they can never do something extraordinary for Me to love them; I simply do.

To learn that the shortest distance they could be from Me is the distance of a prayer."

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

VOLUNTEERS:

ESL Classes: once a week,
Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM

CITIZENSHIP Classes for a Mock
interview, just one or two Sundays
11:00 AM to 12 PM

If you able to help, please send an email to
acuina@kinsmenlutheran.org



Upcoming 55+ Events

August 14 at 12PM

Lunch at Dimassi's Mediterranean buffet.

For more information on any of these events,
contact Colette at Cedwards@kinsmenlutheran.org

55+

SENIOR MINISTRY

Dimassi's
MEDITERRANEAN BUFFET

Girls Night Out

August 10 at 6:30PM

REDEEMED

We invite women of all ages, 16 and over, to Girls Night Out, a time to gather for fellowship and to learn about one of Kinsmen's Mission Partners, Redeemed Ministries. This organization is committed to helping survivors of sex trafficking.

We will hear about the work of Redeemed while we have a light meal, and then we will play bunco (an easy dice game). We will meet on Thursday night, August 10th, from 6:30 - 8:30PM. A light dinner will be served. Cost for the evening is \$5.

We will be collecting in kind donation.

Redeemed Ministries is asking for in kind donations that are:

- Murphy Oil Soap for wood floors
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Paper Plates
- containers for leftovers
- laundry detergent pods for the washers

***Currently, no personal hygiene items are needed

Register at: <https://bit.ly/KinsmenGirlsNightOut23>

For more information, please contact Colette Edwards at cedwards@kinsmenlutheran.org





KCA Early Learning Program

Our Early Learning Program operates full-time, year-round for those ages 6 weeks to Pre-K (4-years-old). Register today for fall!

www.kinsmenlutheran.org/early

Or contact Rachel at rsantellana@kinsmenlutheran.org,
281.444.3127 x 123



KCA Before and After School Program

We are now enrolling for our Before and After School Program!

We bus kids to and from these local schools:

- Greenwood Forest Elementary
- Klenk Elementary
- Wunderlich Intermediate
- Yeager Elementary
- Harmony School of Technology

www.kinsmenlutheran.org/before

Or contact Dennisse – dmejia-cruz@kinsmenlutheran.org



KCA Now Hiring!

We are looking for some creative, fun, hard-working teachers to join our Kinsmen Children's Academy team!

Our full-time Early Learning Program is for children from infants to age 5, and during the school year (following Klein ISD's schedule) we have a Before & After School Program for school-aged kids from Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Positions begin immediately! Full and part-time positions are available.
Contact [Sara Ray](mailto:Sara.Ray@kinsmenlutheran.org) for more information.

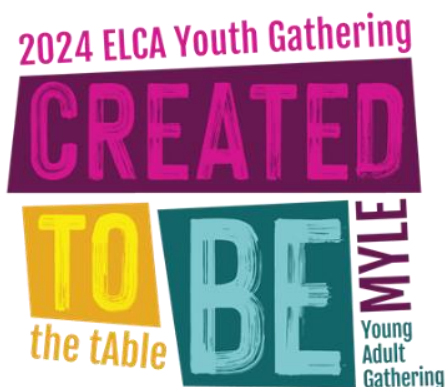




The ELCA Youth Gathering - July 2024!!

The ELCA has a High School Youth Gathering every 3 years. The next ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans, LA. It is an amazing week of faith building, worship, service, and learning. There will be another informational meeting on **August 20, 2023 at 12:15 pm** in the Community Room. Students that are in grades 8-12 during the 2023-24 school year may attend the Gathering in 2024.

If you have any questions, contact Kristen at kschulze@kinsmenlutheran.org
Please fill out this form to express interest: <https://bit.ly/ELCAGatherAug20>



S.W.A.T.

S.W.A.T. (Students with a Testimony) is our high school ministry (Grades 9-12). We have high school gatherings that typically meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month during the school year. Our gatherings typically consist of a time of bible study, prayer, and fun. S.W.A.T. is student led ministry with the support of adult leaders. Our high school ministry launch will be on **August 13 at 12 noon** in the Loft. All high school students are invited to attend, and friends are always welcome. Register here: <https://bit.ly/KinSWATAug13>
Any questions? Contact Kristen at kschulze@kinsmenlutheran.org



Confirmation Orientation & 6th Grade Milestone

August 6 and 20

The 6th grade milestone is a special time for youth and parents to join together to receive a new bible and be shown how best to navigate it. On August 6 at 9:45AM, we will gather in the choir room for this session. We will be encouraging you to ask your friends, relatives, neighbors or whomever you would like to submit Bible verses to highlight in the new bible. We will recognize and bless you during worship on Sunday, August 20.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/ConfirmationLaunch23>

Confirmation Launch

August 13 at 9:45 AM

6th-8th Grade students and their parents will gather at 9:45 AM on Sunday, August 13 to launch Confirmation Small Groups for the fall and learn more about how our faith in Jesus helps guide our decisions and our life.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/ConfirmationLaunch23>



Blessing of the Backpacks!

August 5 & 6 during worship

We will bless our students, teachers, bus drivers, and all others as we begin a new school year!

Bring your backpacks, briefcases, keys, lunch boxes, or whatever tools you use for your school/job and come to worship on August 5 & 6 for a small gift and blessing.



Children's Milestone Classes

Beginning Sunday School

For preschoolers (ages 3 and 4 as of September 1) who haven't attended Sunday school yet, we invite you to join us on **Sunday, August 6** at 9:45AM as we meet our teachers, do a fun craft and lesson about hippos, and get used to the new room with our parents by our sides.

3rd Grade

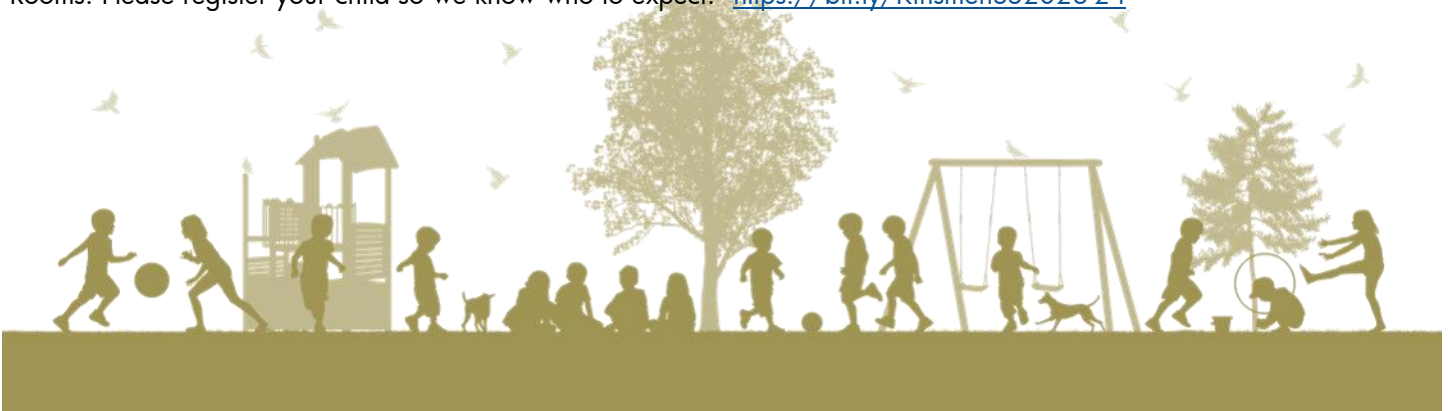
It's time for a big kid Bible with fewer pictures and more words! Join us on **Sunday, August 6** at 9:45 AM to learn about the Bible, God's love story to us. Parents will join us for the class.



Both of these milestones are celebrated during worship at 11 AM on **Sunday, August 20** with our Kinsmen family.

Sunday School Begins

Our Sunday school year begins on **August 13** at 9:45AM for those 3-years-old through 5th grade. Preschoolers will be downstairs in the Green Preschool Room and Elementary schoolers will be upstairs in the Great Rooms. Please register your child so we know who to expect! <https://bit.ly/KinsmenSS2023-24>



Noisy Offering – August 12/13

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

So many great charities provide clothing, meals, and toys to families in need. But as wonderful as this aid is, few organizations offer suitable beds and bedding to the kids in these families.

At Sleep in Heavenly Peace, we fully believe that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. When it was brought to our attention that the need for beds went far beyond our own neighborhoods, we stepped up and took initiative. We're a national organization answering the call to a national problem.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is where it is today because of the passionate volunteers who believe in the mission of getting kids off the floor and into beds. In exchange for just a few hours of your time, you can make a direct, permanent impact in the quality of life for dozens of kids in your community.

Build Days are meant for communities to come together to serve. Because of this we encourage kids, adults, families, co-workers, neighborhoods, community groups, churches, organizations, businesses, schools, etc. to sponsor or participate in a build day. We do ask that participants are over 12 years old and that minors are accompanied by a legal guardian.

Don't be intimidated by the noise, the sawdust, or the fact you've never touched a power tool before. We're simply looking for willing hearts to help turn lumber into bunks. We'll teach you everything you need to know.

On Delivery Days, we take the beds we have built and deliver and assemble them in the homes of the children who need them. This is the most satisfying part of our mission, as we get to see the smiles on faces of the children when they see their new bed for the first time.

As a nonprofit organization, donations are imperative to Sleep in Heavenly Peace and ensuring that we can continue our mission that "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town." With your donation, you are helping to provide comfort and safety to countless numbers of children that desperately need our help to get a good night's sleep. More importantly, you're helping them tackle whatever the day brings their way with confidence and a sense of knowing that a community came together on their behalf- simply because YOU cared enough.

There are many other ways to donate to SHP besides a financial contribution. Chapters are always in search of twin-size bedding and pillows to make up the beds we deliver. You can also opt to volunteer your time or your talents, or you can make an in-kind donation directly to a Chapter. When you do this, you offset their operating costs, allowing them to build more beds.

At SHP, we appreciate our sponsors! Without them, we wouldn't be able to provide so many children and families with something as simple as a bed. Sleep in Heavenly Peace may have started in Luke's garage, but it is now the leading organization in the United States providing new beds to children in need thanks to the generosity of our donors and sponsors. You can help sponsor a local build by providing lumber, bedding materials such as mattresses or bedding, or even hosting a local build day in your area.

By providing sponsorship or volunteering your time to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, you can help us continue our mission to ensure that "**No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town**".



Food Distribution—Sign up to Volunteer

Kinsmen Lutheran Church, in partnership with Bridging for Tomorrow and the Houston Food Bank, serves as a Mobile Food Distribution Site every month.

The distribution dates for August are August 5 and 19 from 8:00 AM—11:00 AM. The food is for everyone. Volunteers are needed to make the Distribution possible. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available.

Shifts begin as early as 7 AM and the entire event is over by noon.

Visit kinsmenlutheran.org - EVENTS - to sign up to volunteer.

Contact [Lynnae Schatz](#) if you have any questions.



ELCA Youth Gathering Volunteers

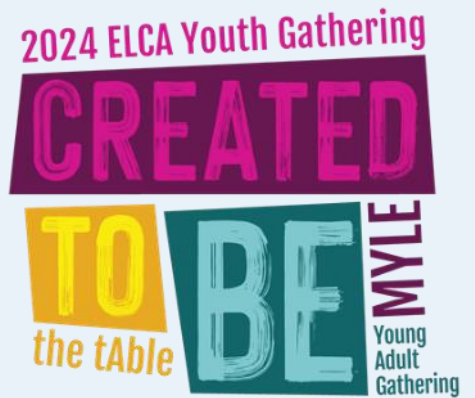
The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in New Orleans July 16-20, 2024.

Volunteers are an integral part of every Gathering. Might you like to volunteer at the Gathering and help young people grow in faith while they encounter Christ? Volunteer applications open soon.

Volunteer applications and more information on volunteering can be found here:

<https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/volunteers>

If you have questions, contact [Lynnae Schatz](#).



Summer is here and many of us will be traveling and may miss a service or two at Kinsmen. However, Kinsmen's ministries endure and God's mission continues—so should our gifts to our Church Home. If you will be traveling and you might miss a Thankoffering along the way, please consider scheduling your monthly/weekly gift online (<https://kinsmenlutheran.org/online-giving>). OR you can always automate your gift through auto bill pay with your bank. We will be here when you get back!



S u m m e r G i v i n g

Sleep in Heavenly Peace in action

Sleep in Heavenly Peace had a dedicated Kinsmen build day on Saturday, June 24. Over 30 Kinsmen members and friends participated in building 40 beds and delivering 50 beds. It was a great day!

On Sunday, June 25, after the Spanish Language worship, P. Adriana identified a family who was visiting and learned this family had lost everything due to a lightning strike at their apartment with one of the recent storms. The father stated that their biggest need was a bed for their 8-year-old daughter.

An email was sent to the Sleep in Heavenly Peace team. With many more emails, texts and lots of translation and cooperation a bed was delivered to the daughter on Tuesday, June 27. Smiles abounded.

Thanks be to God for the opportunity to partner with Sleep in Heavenly Peace – North Houston chapter.

You can deliver beds as a part of God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, August 27. Won't you consider signing up?



LUTHERHILL MINISTRIES 17TH ANNUAL

*S'mores &
Champagne Gala*

SEPTEMBER

9

2023

THE WOODLANDS
WATERWAY MARRIOTT
1601 Lake Robbins Drive
The Woodlands, Texas 77380

SATURDAY

6:00

PM



August Birthdays

Michael Carrier	08/01	Peyton White	08/11	Colin Young	08/20	Janet Mueller	08/28
Aidan Nash	08/02	Sandra Peterson	08/12	Gary Bertelson	08/20	Emily Baker	08/28
Marie Borchert	08/02	William Joyce	08/12	Vera Matson	08/20	Spencer Hilpert	08/28
Mallory Stelzer	08/02	Lauren Rivera	08/13	Mike Yuen	08/20	Grace LeMay	08/28
Josie Rodenhauser	08/02	Mary Collins	08/15	Elissa Monrad	08/21	Abigail Hanson	08/28
Joseph Clark	08/03	Kailey Hines	08/15	Daniel Sutter	08/21	Adam Craig	08/28
Rick Miller	08/05	Daniel Grobe	08/16	Corey Klein	08/21	Kennie Hall	08/29
Jana Kulhanek	08/05	R'Nay Havran	08/16	Alan Fanaff	08/22	Jason Awbrey	08/29
Marianne Timmerman	08/05	Destiney De Leon	08/16	Brian Moore	08/22	Dina Castaneda	08/29
Lisa Reder	08/06	Dora Orosco	08/17	Molly Teall	08/23	Erik Smith	08/30
Patrick Beecher	08/06	Jacob Gillette	08/17	Pete Schmeisser	08/24	Rich Mueller	08/30
Rachel Ferguson	08/07	Addison Turner	08/17	Martha Hahn	08/24	Melissa Turnquist	08/30
David Gu	08/07	Doug Ray	08/18	Doris Thompson	08/25	Tangie Cooper	08/30
Richard Schulze	08/08	Scott Nott	08/18	Meghan Lowe	08/25	Addie Ray	08/30
Kenneth Cox	08/08	Hunter Watson	08/18	Jake Holsberg	08/25	Alvin Johnson	08/30
John Henze	08/08	Amy Alderman	08/18	Emma Rogers	08/25	Oliver Peckhaus	08/30
Bill Hillis	08/09	Doug Porter	08/18	Myrlene Chapman	08/26	Steve Gurley	08/30
Bob Douglas	08/10	Gitta Moseley	08/18	George Karker	08/26		
Angela Meyer	08/11	James Leffel	08/18	Kelsey Vasquez	08/26		
Victoria Mills	08/11	Kelly Strickler	08/19	Diane Smith	08/27		
Jo Ella Doyle	08/11	Jennifer Merkel	08/20	Benjamin Holloway	08/28		



GLIMPSES of GRACE

Kroger and Grocery Rewards Programs

We encourage you to link your Kroger and other grocery rewards cards to Kinsmen. Kroger's Community Rewards is easy to use. The more you shop and use your rewards card, the more money Kinsmen will earn! From February 26 to May 27, 2023, 37 households used their card at least once for a total donation of \$76.00.

February 26 to May 27, 2023, 37 households used their card at least once for a total donation of \$76.00.

KINSMEN BUDGET UPDATE - CHURCH ONLY OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS FOR June 2023

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Total Income	149,516	146,559	(2,958)
Total Expenses	158,617	180,004	21,387
Net	(9,101)	(33,446)	(24,345)
Year-to-Date (2023)			
Total Income	983,174	940,582	(43,132)
Total Expenses	951,230	968,944	17,714
Net	32,484	(28,362)	(60,846)

GIVING UPDATE

Thankoffering	Budget	Actual	Variance
June 2023	79,118	73,552	(5,566)
2023	580,910	554,412	(26,498)

GLIMPSES OF SHARING GRACE

CARE MINISTRY

July 2023	
Flower Deliveries	41
Prayer Shawls	3

GLIMPSES OF GRACE

June	
Noisy Offering/ Bridging for Tomorrow	2,071.16
General Mission Support	7,086.69
Designated Mission Support	268.50
KCA Scholarships	1,515.00
June TOTAL	10,941.35
YTD TOTAL	74,174.04

UPCOMING EVENTS



Naomi Bible Study	Tuesday, August 1, 2023	
Blessing of Backpacks	Saturday/Sunday, August 5/6	
Food Distribution	August 5 & 19	VOLUNTEER
Children's Milestone Classes	Sunday, August 6, 2023	
Confirmation Orientation and Milestone	August 6 & 20	
Girls Night Out	Thursday, August 10, 2023	REGISTER
Noisy Offering	Saturday/Sunday, August 12/13	MAKE AN OFFERING
Sunday School Begins	Sunday, August 13, 2023	REGISTER
SWAT Begins	Sunday, August 13, 2023	REGISTER
Confirmation Begins	Sunday, August 13, 2023	REGISTER
55+ Lunch	Monday, August 14, 2023	CONTACT COLETTE
Community of Hope Training	Begins August 15	CONTACT LYNNAE
Choir Resumes	Wednesday, August 16, 2023	CONTACT ELIZABETH
Book Club	Thursday, August 17, 2023	
Group Leader Training	Sunday, August 20, 2023	
Sunday School Milestone Celebration	Sunday, August 20, 2023	
ELCA Gathering Meeting	Sunday, August 20, 2023	REGISTER
The Marriage Course	Begins August 23	REGISTER
Pickleball	Thursday, August 24, 2023	
God's Work. Our Hands. Worship and Service Projects	Saturday/Sunday, August 26/27	VOLUNTEER
Men's Bible Study - Monday Nights	Monday, August 28, 2023	REGISTER
Euchre	Monday, August 28, 2023	
Exploring Alternatives to Division	Begins September 6	REGISTER
Weekly Lectionary Study	Begins September 6	REGISTER
Old Testament Overview Study	Begins September 10	REGISTER

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

Rev. Dr. Beth Warpmaeker, Senior Pastor
bwarpmaeker@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 118

Rev. Steve Stutz, Interim Pastor
sstutz@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 124

**Rev. Adriana Johnson-Rivas,
Interim Latino Ministry Pastor**
ajohnson-rivas@kinsmenlutheran.org
— Ext. 119

Lynnae Schatz, Director of Congregational Life
lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 143

Sara Ray, Director of Children's Ministry & Outreach
sray@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 117

Colette Edwards, Senior Ministry Coordinator
cedwards@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 111

Chris Ray, Director of Communications and Facilities
cray@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 121

Anh Truong, Accounts Payable Clerk
atruong@kinsmenlutheran.org

**Kristen Schulze, Contemporary Worship Coordinator;
Interim Youth Minister**
kschulze@kinsmenlutheran.org

Alvin Johnson, Keyboardist for the Praise Team
ajohnson@kinsmenlutheran.org

Elizabeth Marks, Alleluia Choir Director
emarks.klc@gmail.com

Adriana Cuina, Spanish Communications Administrator
acuina@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 114

Ruben Aranda, Custodian

Gonzalo Montes, Custodian

Rachel Santellana, KCA Preschool Director
rsantellana@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 123

**Dennisse Mejia-Cruz, Kinsmen Children's
Academy, Before and After School Director**
dmejia-cruz@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 135

Yong Goo Kim, Organist
ykim@kinsmenlutheran.org

Hannah Macon, Children's Choir Director

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
281-444-1733 FAX
kinsmen@kinsmenlutheran.org

Membership

Interested in learning more
about Kinsmen?

Contact Pastor Beth or Lynnae Schatz
for more information.