



# Kinsmen

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Rooted in Faith. Relevant to Life.*

September 2023

## CONNECTION

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[www.KinsmenLutheran.org](http://www.KinsmenLutheran.org)



## September/October Sermon Series

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# Pastor's Word

Kinsmen Connection, page 2

September 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In Matthew 16, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answers "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replies saying it is that confession upon which the church will be built. Jesus didn't literally mean Peter the person and he didn't literally mean a church built with stones. Instead, he meant that a community of believers, beginning with Peter, would be formed with all making that same confession: Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the LIVING God.



That means that, just like Peter's public confession, we, as the church, are to publicly confess/ state our belief about our living God. Each one of us at every age and at all is to proclaim and publicly confess who God in Jesus is. So I'd like for us to try something as a congregation at the beginning of September:

First, I encourage you to make a cardboard sign or poster with some kind of confession that God is living among us today. It can say something simple like "God is love" or "God forgives" or "Jesus cares for those who feel lost and alone" or be creative.....what is your confession of faith about our living God today? Begin with "God/ Jesus is"...then fill in the blank.



Second, go to a public place that you believe symbolizes hope in our community. Where do you see our living God active in our community? With a coach or referee? In a classroom? In a volunteer group? At work? In a park? Wherever it is, take a picture of yourself holding your sign and send it to [office@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:office@kinsmenlutheran.org).

Third, on September 9-10, we'll feature some of the photos you send to us in worship. At that worship service, we will pray that God might transform our signs and our confessions into a living faith that knows no barriers or boundaries.

Finally, on September 11, a day that has come to have great significance in our country, we'll post these messages of good news on social media. That is a day we all need to be reminded of God's living good news today.

During the rest of September and October, we'll be reminded of the strange ways of God—the ways of forgiving, welcoming, and restoring relationships. Join us and invite a friend to this 7-week sermon series where we'll explore God's strange ways and how they lead us to life.

Grace and Peace,

*Beth Warpmæker*

Senior Pastor

## 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

## Call Committees

### Latino Ministry Pastor Call Committee Update

It has been a while since we communicated to the congregation. The Call Committee that the congregation empowered to search for a rostered minister of word and sacrament to lead our reach into the Hispanic community has been busy. Since being installed, we have met several times. With prayerful considerations we surveyed members across the English and Spanish speaking church community to identify the qualities the congregation sought in a person to lead this ministry. We also analyzed community demographic trends as a part of this process. Recently, the committee completed the Ministry Site Profile, sought church council approval, and have posted it to the ELCA site. Going forward, the committee will prepare for the interview process as candidates are identified. We ask for continued prayer that the Holy Spirit be among us to guide us through this process and that He guide the right candidate to us.

Sincerely,  
Eric Fidler

### Pastor of Discipleship Call Committee Update

The process to call a new Discipleship Pastor to fill Pastor Mark's shoes is moving along nicely. The call committee made up of Krista Guerrero, Andrew Hanson, Wade Ivey, Jacob Jyrkama, Linda Martens, Chris Turner, Ellen Wangsmo, Pastor Beth Warpmaeker and myself have completed an extensive Ministry Site Profile for our synod to share with potential candidates who might be a match for Kinsmen. We ask for your prayers for these candidates and for the Kinsmen community as we work to call a new Discipleship Pastor. If you have any questions about our call process, I'm happy to visit.

In him,  
Eric Wietstruck

## Sermon Series: God's Strange Ways

Speak about others behind their backs. You get what you deserve. Reject the unworthy. When someone does you wrong, make 'em pay... These are all phrases we may not speak very often, but they describe the usual ways we act and relate to one another. Jesus teaches his disciples and us very different phrases. He encourages direct communication, forgiveness, wide welcome and generosity toward latecomers. Some might take offense at these teachings and say, "That's not fair!" Ezekiel 18 voices this lament again and again. In response, God says, "Turn, then, and live." Join us for this 7-week sermon series where we will explore God's strange ways and how they lead us to life.



Dates	Sermon Title	First Reading	Gospel
September 9-10	Direct Communication	Ezek 33:7-11	Matthew 18:15-20
September 16-17	Forgiveness	Genesis 50:15-21	Matthew 18:21-35
September 23-24	Concern for latecomers	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Matthew 20:1-16
September 30-October 1	That's not Fair!	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	Matthew 21:23-32
October 7-8	Whose Harvest?	Isaiah 5:1-7	Matthew 21:33-46
October 14-15	Wide Welcome	Isaiah 25:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
October 21-22	Unlikely Leaders	Isaiah 45:1-7	Matthew 22:15-21





# Join the Choir

"Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!" Psalm 150:1-6

It's always a good time to join the Choir or Praise Team. If you play an instrument, it's always a good time to share your musical gifts

## Alleluia Choir

rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7 PM.  
Contact Elizabeth Marks

## Children's Choir

rehearsals are Sundays at 10:30 AM.  
Contact Hannah Macon

## Praise Team

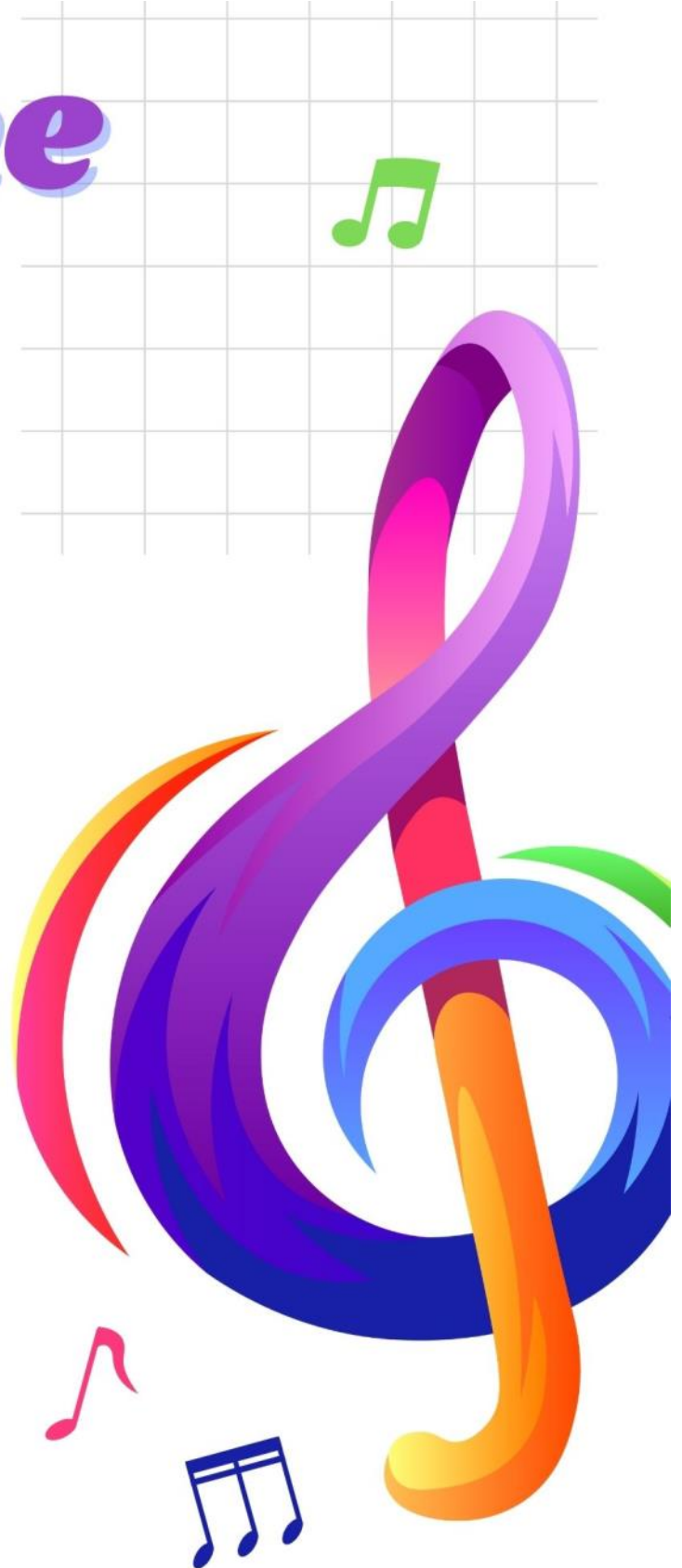
Contact Kristen Schulze

## Jubilee Ringers

rehearsals resume, Wednesday, September 6 at 1PM. Contact Lynnae Schatz

**Kinsmen Ringers** – rehearsals resume, Sunday, September 10 at 9:30 AM. Contact Lynnae Schatz

If you'd like to share your musical gifts in worship, contact Lynnae Schatz

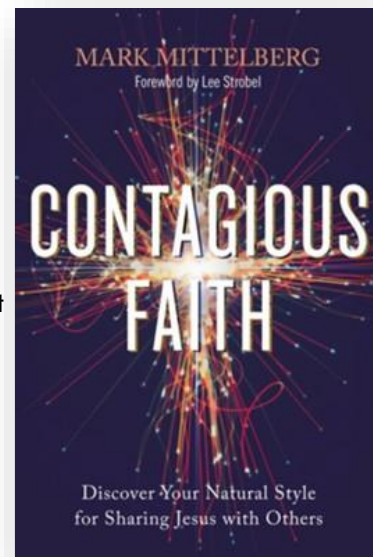


## Contagious Faith

Sundays at 9:45AM (Beginning September 10)

This class will prepare you to share God's love with others in a way that's authentic, comfortable, and impactful. As disciples of Christ, we are called to share the gospel, but few of us are naturally comfortable with evangelism. In *Contagious Faith*, author and teacher Mark Mittelberg introduces five approaches to help you determine which of them fit best with your unique personality and style. This will be a video and discussion class led by Pastor Steve. To get the most out of the class, you can download the book on Kindle or order it in paperback on Amazon. A limited number of copies are available in the church library. Having a book is recommended, but not necessary.

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



## 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, features lecture videos, and 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.



## Men's Bible Study

Monday Nights at 7PM

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

## Midmorning Wednesday Group

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 10AM

This group is welcoming men and women to watch the series *The Chosen* before each group meeting and then we will discuss it together.

## Weekly Lectionary Study Group

Wednesdays at 10:00AM beginning September 6

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>

## Naomi Bible Study

September 5 at 10AM

We invite women of all ages to join us for Naomi Bible Study. In September, we will be looking at the gospel of John. John shows us that salvation is not just about what happens after we die. Salvation is about now and the part we play in God's redemptive work, reminding us about Jesus' utter dedication to love. We'll explore John's commitment to service, how we as Christians see the needs of a hurting world, and how because Jesus is the bringer of salvation, we are compelled to follow Jesus into the needs now.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month—this month, September 5th—at 10:00 AM in the Coffee House in the Community Life Center. 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. Naomi Bible Study is informal with a caring group of women. Please join us!

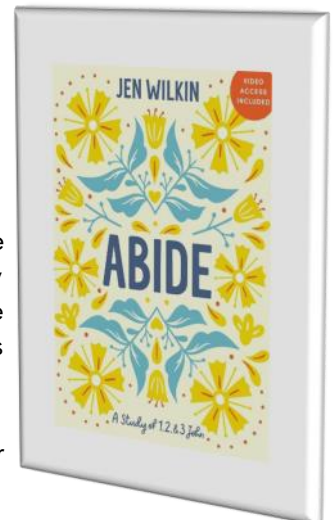
For any questions, contact [Pastor Beth Warpmaeker](#).

## Weekly Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10AM

The weekly women's Bible Study will begin on Thursday, September 7th at 10AM in the Community Room. All women are welcome to join us as we begin a new Bible Study led by Jen Wilkin entitled Abide, a Study of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. The study book can be purchased through [Lifeway.com](https://www.lifeway.com) or [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) for \$24.99. This includes video access which is a great addition if you are unable to attend a session.

If you have any questions or concerns please direct those inquiries to [Susan Newhard](#) or [Marianne Timmerman](#)



# Exploring Alternatives to Division

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

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.

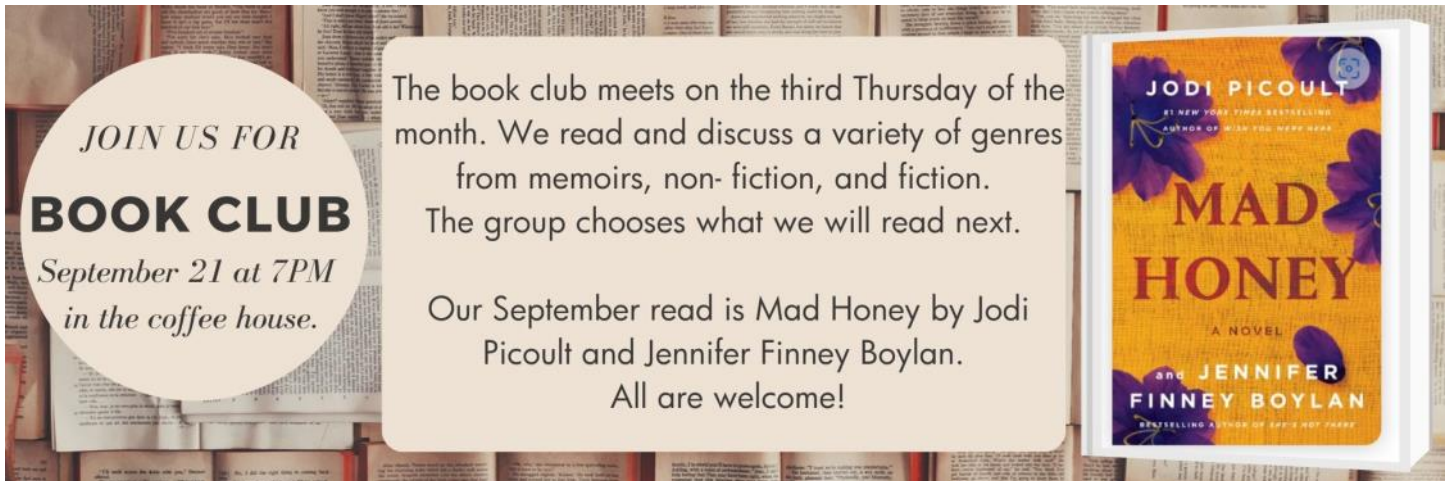
The facilitator of this class will be the Rev. Dr. Nancy Maeker (Pastor Beth’s mother). She is a retired ELCA pastor who has served in congregations, on a synod staff, and as an executive director of a non-profit. She’s also a Qualified Administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). 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





*JOIN US FOR*  
**BOOK CLUB**  
*September 21 at 7PM  
in the coffee house.*

The book club meets on the third Thursday of the month. We read and discuss a variety of genres from memoirs, non-fiction, and fiction. The group chooses what we will read next.

Our September read is Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan.  
All are welcome!

JODI PICOULT  
#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR OF WISH YOU WERE HERE  
**MAD HONEY**  
A NOVEL  
and JENNIFER FINNEY BOYLAN  
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF SPINNING HONEY

## Walking the Mourner's Path

Registration ends September 13

We all experience the grief that comes with losing someone we love and with that grief comes the journey of mourning. Beginning Sunday, September 17 at 3PM Kinsmen will offer this eight-week support program. Participants will have the opportunity to share their journey with others and discover that while their pain is unique, they are not alone.

Christ is present with those who mourn and there are tools for moving forward while honoring our loved ones. For more information please contact Lynnae Schatz ([lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org)). Registration ends September 13.

"Come to me all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28-29



# intro to kinsmen

[ Beginning September 24 ]

If you have been worshipping at Kinsmen and you would like to learn more about our church, or if you think you might be interested in becoming a member, we invite you to consider attending the Introduction to Kinsmen class. This is a 3-session class that will be taught by Pastor Beth. The class will be held September 24, October 1 and October 8 at 9:45 AM in the Conference Room. Participation in the class does not commit you to church membership but is an opportunity for you to find out more about the life and ministry of Kinsmen.

If you would like to attend you may register here: <https://bit.ly/IntroToKinsmen23>



## 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.



## Mental Health Matters

September 20 from 6:30-8 PM

According to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, although mental illnesses are more prevalent in women than in men, men suffering from mental illnesses are less likely to receive mental health treatment or diagnosis. There are many reasons for this and one of them is the pressure men face to "man up" or "tough it out." The stigma of men speaking out is that it is seen as a form of weakness or not "manly."

Men, feeling depression and anxiety or any other mental health illness is not unusual and is nothing to feel ashamed of. Other reasons that may impact a man's mental health journey are culture, fatherhood, race, and socioeconomic status. These stigmas are real and deeply affect men as nearly 1 in 10 men experience depression or anxiety but less than half will receive treatment and more than 4 times as many men as women die by suicide every year.

Join the Mental Health Matters initiative on September 20 from 6:30-8 PM (in the sanctuary) as we sit down with three men - Billy Pickett, Dan Hornstein, & Derek LaHair - as they discuss some of the issues they've faced in their lives, seeking help, and what they do to maintain their mental well-being.

A light reception & resources will be available. Kinsmen Cares!





God's Work  
Our Hands



2023



### Pickleball

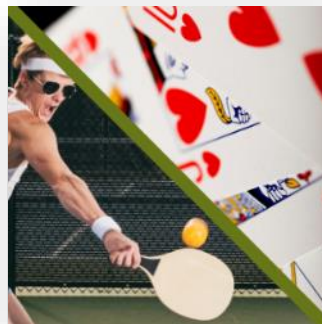
September 28 at 6:30PM

Join in on the fun on Thursday, September 28 at 6:30PM. All equipment is provided.

Dress comfortably.

Questions?

Contact Lynnae Schatz or Ken Mersiovsky.



### Euchre

September 24 at 7PM

Like to play cards? Check out Euchre on Monday, September 24 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.

## Food Distribution



## Working with the Community



## Watercolor Classes



## Concert



**JOIN OUR SPANISH CLASSES**

**THURSDAYS 6:30 TO 8:00 PM**

**INFO: [acuina@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:acuina@kinsmenlutheran.org)**

## 2nd Annual Health & Social Services Fair

Saturday September 23th

10AM-1:00PM

Kinsmen Lutheran Gym

Services include:

- free blood tests
- gold card for health services
- educational programs
- free tablets and cell phones for low income kids and seniors

And more!



# From immigration to Citizenship...a long way

Immigrating to a new country is a complicated process for people and even more so when it comes to a family. Sometimes we migrate in search of new opportunities, but other times it is the alternative to the critical political or economic situations of a country, or even both.

Moving to a new country means losing many things: family, friends, home, our tastes, our smells, our land, but at the same time many opportunities are gained if we do things well and if we work for them.

After arriving in the United States, one of the biggest goals is to become an American citizen. It is the last step to adopt the country and for the country to adopt us. But becoming a citizen is not an easy task, not only because we must prove that we deserve it by our behavior, but we must also pass many requirements.

The first difficult step is the citizenship test; an oral and written test where knowledge of government, civics, history and geography are examined. In addition to being able to write and speak in English, 100 questions must be studied, of which 10 will be asked, and at least 6 must be answered correctly orally.

To prepare the people who will take the citizenship test we have implemented the program of classes at Kinsmen, taught by Luis Mata, a young volunteer who donates time and knowledge to help prepare for the exam. We must also highlight the support of the Barbara Bush Library and Gery Marquez, who has provided us with training and valuable materials.

Finally, an interview is carried out with the immigration officer who is the one who approves the citizenship applications. This is the most difficult part of the process. Since you are in a stressful situation, you cannot memorize your answers and questions can range from data on your application to how the weather is that day. Assertiveness and body language are also considered. If any aspect of your application is considered important to the officer, the officer may ask for an explanation or more detailed documentation.

To be successful in this last step, participants of the citizenship course will be trained in the use of the vocabulary commonly used during the interview and (even more importantly) will be subjected to a mock interview to familiarize them with the process.

Although no course can guarantee citizenship, we believe this class is an important contribution to the Latino population and encourages us to continue working to provide programs of this type to help improve the living conditions in our community.



# 55+

## SENIOR MINISTRY

For more information on any of these events,  
contact Colette at [Cedwards@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:Cedwards@kinsmenlutheran.org)

September 10

Space Cowboy Baseball Game

September 18

Lunch at Red Robin at 12PM

October 16

Lunch at Cracker Barrel at 12PM

November 13

Lunch at P.F. Chang's at 12PM



# Lotería

Join in on the fun as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month on September 14 at 6:30 PM in the gym.

The evening will begin with a catered meal followed by Lotería! There is a suggested donation of \$5 for the meal. Children 4 and under are free. Lotería Cards are free!

Please let us know that you are coming by 11 AM on September 11.

<https://bit.ly/KinsmenLoteria2023>



We are currently enrolling for our Early Learning Program ages 0 - Pre-K and Before & After School at Yeager Elementary, Greenwood Forest Elementary, Klenk Elementary, and Wunderlich Intermediate.

Go to [www.kinsmenlutheran.org/kca](http://www.kinsmenlutheran.org/kca) for more information, or contact [Sara Ray](#)



## Sunday School and Children's Choir

### For Kinder-5<sup>th</sup> Graders:

9:45-10:30 AM– Sunday School in the Great Room

10:30-10:55 AM – Children's Choir in the Choir Room

### For Preschoolers (ages 3 and 4):

9:45-10:45 AM – Sunday School in the Green Room

Ready to join us? Register today! <https://bit.ly/KinsmenSS2023-24>



## Family Service Milestone

Sunday, September 17 from 2-3:30 PM

Join us as we gather all elementary ages and stages together and learn about why and how we can serve others.

Milestones are a great time to meet other families with kids the same age as yours. Join us for this time of learning and serving together!

We will celebrate this milestone together on Sunday, September 24 during worship at 11 AM.

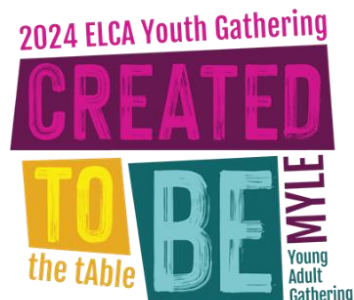




## The ELCA Youth Gathering - July 2024!!

The ELCA Youth Gathering will take place in New Orleans July 16-20, 2024. Registration will open in September. This is an amazing faith building experience for high school students (current 8-12<sup>th</sup> graders). Please let Kristen Schulze know as soon as possible of your interest in attending so we can make plans for our group.

Register at <https://bit.ly/ELCAGather2024>.



## S.W.A.T.

S.W.A.T. is our High School Ministry that gathers twice a month for bible study, fun, and service. S.W.A.T. is also student led. High School students have the opportunity to lead and to plan future events. All our welcome. Our gatherings in September will be September 10 and September 24. <https://bit.ly/KinSWATSep10>



Any questions? Contact Kristen at [kschulze@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:kschulze@kinsmenlutheran.org)

## Driver's License Milestone

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth and Parents

### September 17 and 24

We invite 10<sup>th</sup> Grade youth and parents to join us for the Driver's License Milestone. We look forward to our conversations about what the freedoms and responsibilities of having a driver's license have to do with our faith. Join us on September 17 at noon for lunch and conversation, and on September 24 for a second session at 9:45 am with the Milestone Recognition during worship.

Do you know another 10<sup>th</sup> Grader who would benefit and would like to be recognized?

Please invite them. Contact Kristen Schulze with any questions. Register here. <https://bit.ly/DLMilestone2023>



## 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 Confirmation (Middle School) and SWAT (High School) happenings. If you are not receiving the Tuesday email, contact [Kristen Schulze](mailto:kschulze@kinsmenlutheran.org).



## Blessing of the Pets Sunday, October 1 at 2PM

Join us on October 1 by the fountain to celebrate God's gift of animals! Please bring a cage or a leash in case our friends get a little too excited.

Francis of Assisi, an Italian Roman Catholic friar, whose feast day is October 4th, loved all God's creatures, great and small. In remembrance of how he cared for God's creation, each year churches will hold a special ceremony called the Blessing of the Pets.

At Kinsmen, we've hosted a gathering of dogs, cats, iguanas, rabbits, hamsters and everything in between. It's a fun afternoon where we get to show off and bless our feathery, furry, and scaly friends.



## Playground Playdate

September 9 at 10 AM

We 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).

This event is aimed at those 5-years-old and younger and their caring adults, but all are welcome!



## Lutherhill Fall Family Retreat

October 13-15, 2023

Lutherhill is a camp and retreat center in La Grange and Galveston, TX. Their Fall Family Retreat is a great time to get away as a family and rest, play, and reconnect.

Go to [www.lutherhill.org](http://www.lutherhill.org) to register! This retreat often fills up, so reserve your spot soon.



## Noisy Offering – September 9/10

### Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services



It is Kinsmen's tradition to collect a Noisy Offering the second weekend of the month for a Mission Partner. This month's Mission Partner is Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS).

LIRS, an ELCA organization, is the largest faith-based nonprofit dedicated to serving vulnerable immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees in the US and around the globe, for more than 80 years.

LIRS' legacy of compassionate service has made a difference in the lives of more than 500,000 people who have sought safety and hope in America's communities. The history of LIRS reflects American Lutherans' deep immigrant roots and passionate commitment to welcoming newcomers, especially those who are most in need, including, most recently, Afghans and Ukrainians.

Please give generously, as always, so that LIRS can continue to support, equip and empower new Americans, while advocating for policy that protects all of God's children. May LIRS continue this courageous work of serving and loving our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you!

## Blest Be the Tie that Binds

### Saturday, September 9, 9 -11:30 AM

All are welcome to Quilting for Lutheran World Relief.

Quilters meet in the gym on Saturday, September 9 from 9 – 11:30 AM and again on Monday, September 25 from 1 –3:30 PM. **NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!**

On the job training is provided.

All tools are provided too.

Contact [Lynnae Schatz](#) or Connie Jackson for more information.



## Bunks Across America

Can you help deliver beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace on Saturday, September 9?

Learn more and sign up here: <https://bit.ly/Sept9SHP>



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE®

## 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 September are September 2 and 16 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](http://kinsmenlutheran.org) - EVENTS - to sign up to volunteer.

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



## ELCA Youth Gathering Volunteers

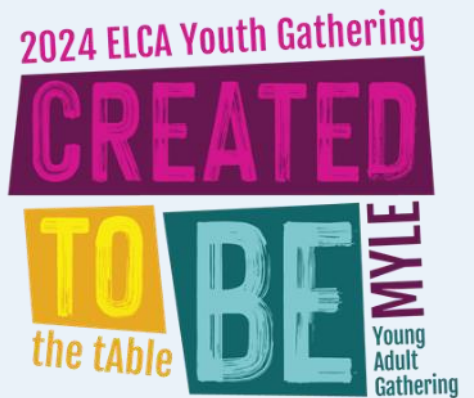
The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in New Orleans July 16-20, 2024.

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](#).



**Be a hero, donate blood  
and save lives**

**Schedule your appointment  
today at:  
<https://bit.ly/Sept17BloodDrive>**

**September 17  
8AM -12:30PM**





# Kinsmen

## ENDOWMENT FUND

We enjoy shade from trees we did not plant and water from wells we did not dig. *Deuteronomy 6:11*

Enjoy the New Furniture in the Coffee House!  
The Kinsmen Endowment Fund awarded funds to provide comfy furniture in the Coffee House.  
Drop-in for a cup of coffee and large serving of fellowship!  
THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed to the Kinsmen Endowment Fund at ANY time.  
This project is the fruit of YOUR generosity!

Peace in Christ,  
Melissa Turnquist, Generosity Team Chair *and*  
Your Generosity Team Members: Loretta Castaño, Andrew Hanson, Benita Huff, Jen Nash, Ed Newhard, Craig Sutter,  
Melissa Turnquist, Richard Vermilyea, Pastor Beth Warpmaker, and Brad Young.

To see a complete list of projects made possible by the Kinsmen Endowment Fund,  
visit <http://kinsmenlutheran.org/kinsmen-endowment-fund>.

Kinsmen Generosity Team is now accepting proposal requests from the Kinsmen Endowment Fund to fund ministries and projects apart from the Kinsmen Lutheran Church annual budget. These ministries and programs must be connected in some way to the values, vision, and purpose of Kinsmen Lutheran Church



# September Birthdays

Joan Horner	9/01	Benita Huff	9/09	Mike Pate	9/15	Christian Vindiola	9/21
Tony Gatti	9/01	Emma Matson	9/09	Kaitlyn England	9/15	John Jr De Leon	9/21
Bobbie Kridner	9/01	Michael Guerrero	9/10	Megan Nott	9/16	Mary Jane Alderman	9/22
Robin Milner	9/02	Craig Strickler	9/11	Emily Harper	9/16	David Johnson	9/22
Gerald Pierce	9/02	Douglas Bayer	9/12	Noah Hanson	9/16	Kathy Sutter	9/22
Spencer Hall	9/03	Loretta Castano	9/12	Laura Pate	9/17	Carolyn Turnquist	9/22
Jennifer Nash	9/03	Michael Jones	9/12	Diana Draper	9/17	Alexandra Karker	9/23
David Fretwell	9/04	Cindy Parliament	9/12	Trevor Young	9/17	Mila De Leon	9/23
Linda Intschert	9/04	Robert Weber	9/12	Clem Campos	9/17	Cassandra Miller	9/25
Susan Newhard	9/04	Dan Kulhanek	9/13	Olivia Shafer	9/18	Kelsey England	9/26
John England	9/05	Virginia Blackwell	9/13	Victoria Sifuentes	9/18	Mason McAnear	9/26
Allison Johnson	9/05	Deborah Holzman	9/13	Cathy Weber	9/19	Gretchen Wietstruck	9/26
Kenneth Loudermilk	9/05	Mark Smith	9/13	Alexandra Harvey	9/19	Sharon Jeremenko	9/27
Dennis Berger	9/06	Wanda Schraeder	9/13	John Boldt	9/20	Hilmer Potcinske	9/27
Dominic Garcia	9/06	Colton Lane	9/13	Johnathan Ward	9/20	William Hardy	9/28
Sheila Prejean	9/06	Jerid Brown	9/14	Heather Lane	9/20	Ryan Keeling	9/29
Sterling Cox	9/07	Patti Herwig	9/14	Vicki Bigham	9/20	Hope Jyrkama	9/29
Jason Ruen	9/08	Lorie Turner	9/14	David Bohmann	9/20	Sue Dunshee	9/30
James Nolan	9/09						



# 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.

KINSMEN BUDGET UPDATE - CHURCH ONLY OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS FOR July 2023			
	Budget	Actual	Variance
Total Income	145,156	145,933	777
Total Expenses	155,709	149,158	(6,551)
Net	(10,553)	(3,226)	7,328
<b>Year-to-Date (2023)</b>			
Total Income	1,128,869	1,086,515	(42,355)
Total Expenses	1,106,939	1,118,102	11,163
Net	21,930	(31,587)	(53,518)

GLIMPSES OF SHARING GRACE CARE MINISTRY	
August 2023	
Flower Deliveries	30
Prayer Shawls	3

GIVING UPDATE			
Thankoffering	Budget	Actual	Variance
July 2023	81,432	74,069	(7,363)
2023	679,409	628,481	(50,927)

GLIMPSES OF GRACE	
July	
Noisy Offering—Lutherhill	3,326.30
General Mission Support	7,114.40
Designated Mission Support	292.50
KCA Scholarships	137.50
July TOTAL	10,870.70
YTD TOTAL	85,044.74

### From the Treasurer...

Kinsmen is running slightly negative this year (Income less expenses). Thankoffering in particular, continues to be short of budget. Please help us by staying current with your giving. Thank you.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Naomi Bible Study	September 5	
Food Distribution	September 2 and 16	<a href="#">VOLUNTEER</a>
Exploring Alternatives to Division	Begins September 6	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
Weekly Lectionary Study	Begins September 6	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
Men's Bible Study - Monday Nights	Every Monday	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
Women's Bible Study - Thursday Mornings	Begins September 7	
Playground Playdate	September 9	
Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Delivery	September 9	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
Quilting	September 9	
Old Testament Overview Study	Begins September 10	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
Contagious Faith Adult Education Class Begins	September 10	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
55+ Baseball Game	September 10	<a href="#">CONTACT COLETTE</a>
Noisy Offering	September 12/13	<a href="#">MAKE AN OFFERING</a>
Lotería	September 14	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
Walking the Mourner's Path	September 17	<a href="#">CONTACT LYNNAE</a>
Blood Donor Mobile	September 17	<a href="#">SIGN UP HERE</a>
Driver's License Milestone	September 17 & 24	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
55+ Lunch	September 18	<a href="#">CONTACT COLETTE</a>
Spanish Class	September 21	
Book Club	September 21	
Health and Social Services Fair	September 23	
Pickleball	September 24	
Intro to Kinsmen	September 24	<a href="#">SIGN UP HERE</a>
Euchre	September 28	
Choir Resumes	Wednesdays at 7PM	<a href="#">CONTACT ELIZABETH</a>

# 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 **15<sup>th</sup>** 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.