



# Kinsmen

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Rooted in Faith. Relevant to Life.*

November 2023

## CONNECTION

12100 Champion Forest Drive  
Houston, TX 77066  
281.444.3126

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

# THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY FEAST

## THANKSGIVING DAY

November 23, 2023  
11AM - 1:30PM

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# Pastor's Word

Kinsmen Connection, page 2

November 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There are many topics I usually write on in my Pastor's Word for November: gratitude for the abundant gifts God has given each one of us, awareness of how the gospel calls us to abundance rather than scarcity mindsets, or reasons why generosity is an important part of our spiritual growth. These are all important topics and I encourage you to read the letter written by Jen and Mike Nash about why they give on page 19. They wrote this article since we are entering into our Annual Stewardship Campaign—the month where we ask you to turn in Giving Intent cards.



However, world events prompt me to shift my focus. I'd like to encourage all of us to take some deep breaths and breath in God's Spirit of Peace. On Sunday, October 29, I facilitated a discussion, lament and prayer service related to events in Israel and Gaza. We read from Ephesians 2:13-18 and John 15:9-12 where we were encouraged to hear Christ's proclamation of peace and abide in his love. About 25 of us lit candles and said prayers and laments together. (If you would like a copy of the prayers, let me know.) Before the prayers, though, I invited each person in attendance to share how they were feeling and why. Many feelings were mentioned—feelings of sadness, anger, hopelessness, some hope, frustration, and confusion. This, coupled with conversations I've had with some of you about national/world events and fears, has made me realize how fragile and fearful many of us are right now. So, of the articles and statements I've been listening to, there are three I thought were very helpful that I want to share:

One was an article where a teacher was asked by a student: "Are you Team Israel or Team Palestinian?" Her response was, "I'm Team Humanity." I encourage all of us to be on Team Humanity.

Another was an article (shared by Lynnae Schatz at a staff meeting) by Terry Hershey. This is the quote I liked most: "This week, I read an article about what kids need and how certain teachers are best able to help them when they're having a meltdown. The article said to ask a child, 'Do you want to be helped, heard, or hugged?' The writer then went on to say those are actually great questions to ask anybody at this time. I love that. As leaders—be it in our families, our workplaces, or our communities—we will never be able to totally have everyone's back all the time. That said, we can minister in the gap with our hearts and with compassion. We can minister by listening, by sharing practices, by showing tenderness, and by sharing our own experiences that helped us when we felt alone, afraid, and disconnected. We can minister by apologizing as well when it's needed. My friends, see yourself on this day and this week as a minister with a pulpit or platform, because you actually have one. Believe that you have a message worth sharing because you do. Believe that you have a presence that can make another person feel protected in this moment because you do."



Finally, I really liked the statement put out by an Interfaith group in Austin and circulated by the Spring Interfaith group. It is quoted in its entirety on page 9, but I liked the phrase encouraging us to "hold space for love."

Dear Kinsmen members and friends, I encourage you to abide in love, hold space for love, be a minister of love in whatever role you find yourself, and promote love for "Team Humanity."

With Peace and Love,

*Beth Warpmaeker*

Pastor Beth Warpmaeker

(Continued on page 9)

## Church Council News

This upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas season is a time to celebrate God continually bestowing His many gifts upon the world. The pastors and staff of Kinsmen have been a blessing to us all throughout a year filled with many joys and challenges.

They have repeatedly exemplified what it means to be disciples of Christ.

We continue the tradition of making a monetary gift to our pastors and staff who have faithfully and diligently served our church throughout the year. Please join me in marking your donation as "Pastors and Staff" and place it in the offering plate, mail it to the church or make it online.

On behalf of the Council, we hope you and yours have a blessed and peaceful season of celebration, filled with hope, joy and fellowship!

Peace in Christ, and Merry Christmas!

Eric Turnquist, 2023 Church Council President

## Call Committees

### Latino Ministry Pastor Call Committee Update

The Committee charged with the search for a minister to lead our outreach to the Spanish speaking community in our midst continues. Through completion and submission of the ministry site profile in September, the position has been posted via the ELCA. The committee did not meet in October but plans to meet soon to prepare interview questions. Please continue to pray the Spirit works to lead the best candidate to us.

Sincerely,  
Eric Fidler

### Pastor of Discipleship Call Committee Update

Our Discipleship Pastor Call Committee is beginning to interview prospective candidates. Based on your feedback, we are looking for a candidate whose five main ministry tasks are:

- o Youth and Family Ministry
- o Preaching/Worship
- o Spiritual Formation/Direction
- o Campus/Young Adult Ministry
- o Small Group Ministry

We are receiving recommendations from the Synod and from pastors who are interested in our Ministry Site Profile. If you know of a pastor who might be a good fit for Kinsmen, please fill out the form found on the QR code, or visit with any of the committee members (Krista Guerrero, Andrew Hanson, Wade Ivey, Jacob Jyrkama, Linda Martens, Chris Turner, Ellen Wangsmo, Pastor Beth Warpmaeker or myself).

Thank you for your prayers for God to send the right person to grow God's kingdom here at Kinsmen.  
-Eric Wietstruck, Call Committee Chairperson

## Send us your Selfies!!

With two new pastors coming on staff soon, it would be good for them to have a photo directory to look through and learn names. Please email us your individual selfies or photos, so we can update our photo database.

Send to [office@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:office@kinsmenlutheran.org)



## Budget Discussion Open House November 4 and 5

If you would like to walk through the proposed 2024 budget with Kinsmen's treasurer, Mark Hanson, and other church council members, they will be available to meet with you at the following times:

Nov. 4 at 6:30 PM in the Narthex Parlor (Bride's Room)

Nov. 5 at 9:45 AM in the Narthex Parlor (Bride's Room)

## Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 12

Kinsmen's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on November 12 at 9:45 AM. All Voting members are encouraged to attend. Before the Meeting, we will have TO GO breakfast beginning at 9:20 AM. You may then enter the sanctuary to attend the meeting.

You may attend ONLINE or IN PERSON. However, those attending online will only be able to watch, listen and submit questions via the Chat function. Online attendees will not be able to speak or vote.

Agenda items will include voting on the 2024 proposed budget, the Church Council members and the Nominating Team for 2024. On the weekend of November 4-5, a link to the Annual Report (and the Zoom link for the meeting) will be emailed to all Kinsmen members for whom we have an email. There will be a limited number of hard copies of the Report available at the Welcome Center at Kinsmen.

The Kinsmen Constitution defines a Voting Member in the following way: "**Voting members** are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation."



## Hanging of the Greens

Yes, it's that time of year again. We will be preparing the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas on Friday, December 1 at 6 PM. Contact Karen Crisler or Lynnae Schatz if you can attend.



## Sermon Series: Planting for the Lord's Harvest

We often want to see the benefits that come from our hard work. Whether it's enjoying vegetables from our garden or the paycheck after working overtime, we want to see and realize our rewards today. There is a different wisdom in the Bible. It says there is reward in planting the seeds today and in trusting God with the future. Author Robert Louis Stevenson echoes this in his quote: "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant." This month, we will explore the different kinds of "seed" that God wants us to plant: seeds of faith, serving, trust and kindness. These are planted internally within ourselves and externally among others. Join us for this 4-week sermon series where we will grow in faith, trust and generosity. The series begins with us giving thanks for the seeds of faith planted by all the saints who have come before us.



Dates		Sermon Title	First Reading	Gospel
November 4-5	All Saints Weekend	Seeds of Faith	Revelation 7:9-17	Matthew 5:1-12
November 11-12	Consecration Weekend	Seeds of Serving	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	Matthew 25:1-13
November 18-19	25th Sunday after Pentecost	Seeds of Trust	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
November 23	Thanksgiving Eve	Giving Thanks	Deuteronomy 8:7-18	Luke 17:11-19
November 25-26	Christ the King Weekend	Seeds of Kindness	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46

# THANKSGIVING EVE

## BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

NOVEMBER 22 AT 7pm with Pastor Adriana Johnson-Rivas

## Consecration Weekend November 11/12

On Consecration Weekend we, as a congregation, make personal decisions about our financial commitments to support our mission and ministry for the coming year.

It is a day when you have an opportunity to say “thank you” to God for the gifts that you have been given. It is a day when you make a commitment to God about your 2024 estimate of giving. Early in November you will receive your intent card in the mail. We ask that you bring your completed card to worship with you on Consecration Weekend. Consecration Weekend will be celebrated November 11/12.

Thank you for your generosity in the past. As you reflect on the appropriate level of intentional giving for 2024, please consider that as Christians we believe that God gives us all we have and we, in turn, give back to him in response to his generosity. This allows us to share His grace through our faithful and generous support of the ministry at Kinsmen. As you prayerfully consider how we are “**Planting for the Lord’s Harvest,**” allow your faith to guide you to the right commitment level.

Through this process, God will provide guidance and encouragement and, as found in 2 Corinthians 9:8, “you will be enriched in every way for your generosity”

Grace and Peace,  
The Stewardship Committee



**PLANTING**  
*for the*  
**LORD'S HARVEST**

**Kinsmen**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024  
Annual  
Giving Intent

12100 Champion Forest Drive  
Houston, TX 77066  
281-444-3126  
klich.org

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our intention to the mission of God's church through Kinsmen for 2024:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

weekly  monthly  annually

Please contact me about a gift of stock or another kind of gift

Please contact me to discuss a legacy/endowment gift as part of my estate planning

Please place this card in an envelope and mail or bring to the church the weekend of November 11-12

Ways to give

Mail to the church

Give online at klich.org

Scan QR Code for online intent card



*Incarnation*

IN THE FLESH

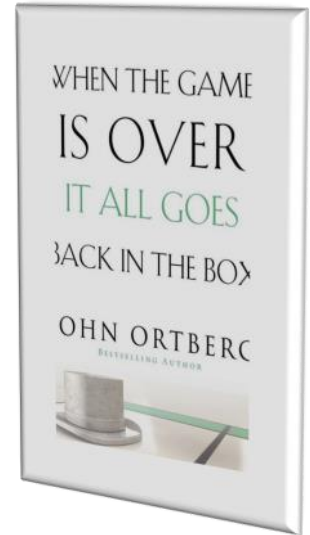
THE SEASON OF ADVENT BEGINS DECEMBER 2/3

## When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box

### Sundays at 9:45AM

Using popular games as a metaphor for our temporal lives, this six-session DVD study neatly sorts out what's fleeting and what's permanent in God's kingdom. Being master of the board is not the point; being rich toward God is. Winning the game of life on earth is a temporary victory; loving God and other people with all our hearts is an eternal one. Join Pastor Steve as he leads this study using videos by John Ortberg. 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.

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



## An Overview of the Old Testament

### Sundays at 9:45AM 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. To register, click [HERE](#) or go to <https://bit.ly/overviewOT>

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



### UPCOMING DATES

Nov. 5	The God of Israel
Nov. 12	ANNUAL MEETING
Nov. 19	Covenant and the Law, Part 1
Nov. 26	Covenant and the Law, Part 2
Dec. 3	The "Conquest"

## 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

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

November 7 at 10AM

Physical places often shape our identities, relationships and faith. Faith doesn't just reside in our thoughts or emotions but in our whole bodies and how our bodies "live and move and have our being" in the sacred places where God encounters us.

In our Fall Bible study, we are exploring what holy places mean, not only for the Holy Land of the Bible, but also for each of us, wherever we may be. For thousands of years, physical spaces have been set apart for individual prayer and community worship. "Sanctuary" is one word for such spaces. Throughout history, "sanctuary" has also referred to spaces of safety and refuge. If God is everywhere, what is the importance of sanctuary? What can Jesus' teachings and Paul's correspondence with the early church teach us about what sanctuary looks like today? In our November meeting, we will be considering these questions and more. We would love to have you join us!

We invite women of all ages to meet with us November 7th 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. Join us on the first Tuesday of each month! For any questions, contact [Pastor Beth Warpmaeker](#).

## Weekly Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10AM

The weekly women's Bible Study meets on Thursdays in the Community Room. All women are welcome to join us! Our last meeting for 2023 will be November 9 and we will then have a friendsgiving on November 16th. We will resume meeting on January 11, 2024. Look for more information in next month's newsletter. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you at the Advent Tea!

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



# ADVENT TEA

Monday, December 4 6:30 - 8:30PM

The Thursday Ladies Bible Study and Naomi Circle invite all ladies and their friends to a new tradition at Kinsmen - the Advent Tea.

The evening will be a time to celebrate the Advent season, be entertained by a festive choral presentation, spend time visiting with other women, and enjoy a variety of teas, appetizers, and desserts.

Everyone in attendance will bring either a dessert or an appetizer to share. A freewill offering will be collected to offer as a gift to the singers from Klein Collins High School who will provide the entertainment.

Register to attend at <https://bit.ly/AdventTea>



*Continued from the Pastor's Word on page 2*

*This letter put out by Interfaith Action of Central Texas in Austin, helped me and I hope it is helpful to you. They encouraged us to hold space for love and to pass on this message far and wide:*

Dear Friends,

We are in perilous times. As an interfaith organization whose mission is to cultivate peace and respect through interfaith dialogue, service and celebration, we must speak out. People are being killed because of their religion.

The world is mourning the loss of innocent Israeli and Palestinian people. Our Israeli and Palestinian friends of all faiths are mourning the loss of family members and are terrified. Innocent people are being killed every day. Emotions are raw. People are hurt, scared, and feel totally at a loss. Our Jewish friends are afraid for their lives and afraid this hatred will spread to our communities. Let us pledge to protect our Jewish and Muslim friends and stop the spread of hatred. Reach out to your friends who have been impacted and let them know you are with them.

Right now, our place is to hold space for love. Let us hold space for the people in our community who are mourning and share our love generously.

Let us be the beacon of hope that reminds them that they are loved, and we are there for them. Let people know they can be safe to come to you and that you will listen without judgement. Let us open our arms and hearts to each other. Let us share our compassion and love. This is what we can do now and in the days to come.

Let us work for peace and pray to the Divine Spirit we all share that compassion will fall like rain on all of us.

With love,

*Interfaith Action of Central Texas – Austin, Texas and joined by Spring Interfaith Council – Spring, Texas  
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JOIN US FOR

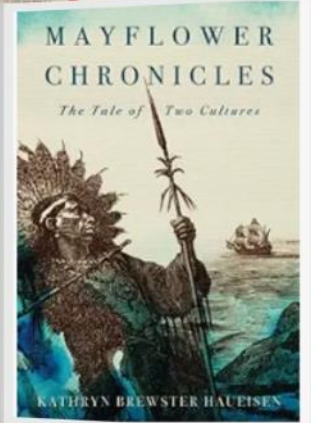
## BOOK CLUB

November 30 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.

Our November book selection is Mayflower Chronicles: The Tale of Two Cultures by Kathryn Hau Eisen. We will meet on November 30 at 7PM in the Coffee House to discuss the book.

Contact Kristen Schulze for more information.



## Mental Health Matters Initiative

### November 1, 15, and 29

The Mental Health Matters initiative began in April to provide community space to support each other through connection. Loneliness has been identified by our Surgeon General as the most prolific crisis we face to date. We are built for community and connection. Supporting each other in our journeys simply by listening to one another is the most powerful of human experiences.

Come experience connection with us on Zoom November 1, 15 and 29 from 6:30 – 8 PM.

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

## 55+

### SENIOR MINISTRY

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

### November 13

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

## P.F. CHANG'S

### December 11

Lunch at The Brisket House at 12PM



**THE BRISKET HOUSE**  
BBQ SINCE 2010

## Pickleball

### November 30 at 6:30PM

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

Dress comfortably.

Questions?

Contact [Lynnae Schatz](#).



## Euchre

### November 27 at 7PM

Like to play cards? Check out Euchre on Monday, November 27 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](#).

## Día de los Muertos

El Día de Muertos, the Day of the Dead, is a Mexican tradition that interweaves ancient aspects of pre-Hispanic culture with Christian beliefs to create a unique annual event of remembrance for the departed.

Day of the Dead altars, also known as *ofrendas* (offerings), are constructed and adorned to remember, honor and please the dead, are a central symbol of the Dia de los Muertos.

An altar may include a variety of symbols and items that are reminders of the deceased, or that were favorites of the honoree of the altar, but the following 12 items are considered to be fundamental requirements for an *ofrenda*.

The individual elements can be grouped into four categories that correspond with natural elements of water, fire, earth and wind.

Water to satisfy the thirst of the dead who visit; Fire burning in candles; Earth in food and other items for the departed; and Wind, which is represented by the papel picado, paper flowers and other paper elements that move with the wind.

Dia de Muertos Altar Elements: An altar for Day of the Dead may contain various items. The following examples are not obligatory, but are commonly used in the construction of an *ofrenda*.

### Portrait of the Deceased and Images of Saints

A photo of the deceased for which the altar is paying tribute is placed at the top and in the middle of the altar. Images of saints serve as reminders of their role as intermediaries between the living, the dead and the "beyond."

### Water

Representative of the purity of the soul, and it is believed that the water will quench the thirst of thirsty spirits, to reinvigorate their energies for their journey into the beyond.

### Bread

The most common food offering for the spirits, the most commonly used form of bread is called "pan de muerto," (bread of the dead), a round loaf of bread that may be adorned in three colors in the forms of quills and bones, and then sprinkled with white sugar.

### Marigolds

The *Cempasuchil* is the bright yellow Mexican marigold, also known as the *flor de muerto*, is the main floral adornment for gravesites and altars.

Its strong scent and bright color (said to represent the Aztec sun god Tonotiu) are believed to be an attraction to the spirits of the deceased as they come to visit their family on the Day of the Dead.

The colorful orange and yellow hues of the marigold (either fresh or dried) are also believed to help the souls of the departed to keep their way along the path in the afterlife. The petals of marigolds are often spread to cover a level of the *ofrenda*.

### Papel Picado

These are the colorful tissue paper rectangles that are cut to display Dia de Muertos designs and hung from string above altars, and placed on the front and sides of the altar.



## Small Group for Parents of Young Children

Sunday, November 19 at 9:45AM

We want to help connect you with other parents/families of young children (infants through elementary school age)! We hope this time together helps you build relationships with those around you while not adding another weekly activity to your busy schedule.

We will meet on the third Sunday of the month from 9:45-10:45 AM. Everyone is welcome to come with you to the playground! Or, your preschool and school-aged kiddos can go to Sunday school, and the little ones can go to the nursery. Our time together will be flexible, but we hope to engage in conversation around a relevant faith topic (no reading assignments!) and explore what it means to be Christian parents together.



Tess and Steven Long are leading this group. Here's a little about them:

Tess and Steven are native Houstonians and have lived in the Champions area for the past 8 years. They are parents to three young children - Harper (7), Henry (4), and Owen (1.5). Their hope with this monthly gathering is to meet and connect with other parents and families at Kinsmen and encourage one another in Christ's love.

Interested? Let us know! <https://bit.ly/ParentSmallGroup23>

Our next gatherings will be November 19 and December 17.

## Playground Playdate

November 4 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!

We will meet in the North Parking Lot (the small lot off of Pinewood Springs).

We usually stay and play for about 90 minutes, so join us when you can!

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



## KCA Holiday Care

### November 20-22

Thanksgiving Break Holiday Care

We will be open for Holiday Care November 20-22 for school-aged children in Kinder through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Contact Dennisse Mejia-Cruz ([dmejia-cruz@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:dmejia-cruz@kinsmenlutheran.org)) if you are interested in care for school-aged kids during Thanksgiving break. The cost is \$125 for 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Before and after care are available.

We will also be open in December during Christmas break!

Register at: <https://bit.ly/HolidayCare23-24>



Register today!



## Kinsmen Children's Academy

### Registration Open Now

We are currently enrolling for our Early Learning Program ages 0-Pre-K and Before & After School Care 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 ([sray@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:sray@kinsmenlutheran.org))



## Intergenerational Advent Activity

### Sunday, November 26 at 9:45 AM

Join together as we make our own Advent Wreaths! With greenery and candles and your artistic touch, these will be a keepsake for years to come. There is no cost for this event since it is covered by a Thrivent Action Grant.

This Advent Wreath will compliment the daily devotionals written by Kinsmen members which match the daily texts of the Advent Blocks. Advent Blocks (\$25) are available for purchase here: <https://bit.ly/AdventBlocks2023> or by scanning the QR code. We also have an additional book, He Is Here (\$12), that can be used with the Advent Blocks to change things up from year to year, or by itself for adults.

The Intergenerational Advent Activity replaces Sunday School for the day, and we hope that you'll join us together with your family. Questions? Contact Sara ([sray@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:sray@kinsmenlutheran.org)).



## Communion Milestone Retreat

Friday, March 1 — Sunday, March 3

Who: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> graders and at least one caring adult, but the whole family is welcome!

When: Friday, March 1 to Sunday, March 3 (Leave Houston around 5 PM Friday, return to Houston around 11 AM Sunday)

Where: [Lutherhill](#) in La Grange, TX

Why: For adults and kids to take time away to be together and learn about this important sacrament of Holy Communion

Contact Sara Ray ([sray@Kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:sray@Kinsmenlutheran.org)) for more information and to register!



## Family Stewardship Milestone

November 5 at 2 PM, celebration on

November 12 at 8:30 AM

Join us as we gather all elementary ages and stages together and learn about why and how we can be good stewards of the gifts God has given us.

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, November 12 during worship at 8:30 AM.

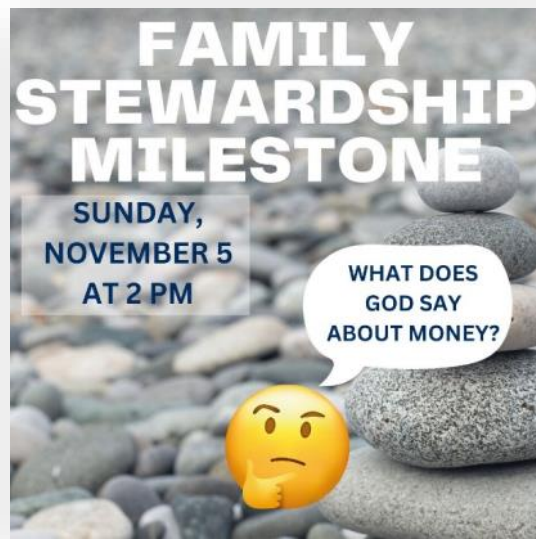
### Upcoming Family Milestones:

Intergenerational Advent Activity – November 26 at 9:45 AM

Family Church Year Milestone – January 21 at 2 PM, celebration on January 28 at 11 AM

Intergenerational Lent Activity – February 11 at 9:45 AM

Family Prayer Milestone – February 18 at 2 PM, celebration on February 25 at 11 AM.





## The ELCA Youth Gathering - July 2024!!

Registration for the ELCA Youth Gathering is underway. Registration costs will increase **November 2**. High School students currently in grades 8-12 can join us on this faith building experience in New Orleans **July 16-20, 2024**. Email [Kristen Schulze](mailto:Kristen.Schulze@elca.org) ASAP or register [here](https://www.elca.org/youth) if you are interested.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE  
the table BE Young Adult Gathering

## 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 are welcome. Our gatherings in November will be November 12 and 26 at 12:15 pm in the Loft. Please RSVP [HERE](https://www.kinsmenlutheran.org/swat).

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



## Save the Date

Lutherhill Ministries offers retreats during the year. Worship Lead Serve is a retreat for students in Grades 6-12 and will be held **February 16-18, 2024**. More information can be found [here](https://www.lutherhillministries.org). Interested? Contact [Kristen Schulze](mailto:Kristen.Schulze@lutherhillministries.org)



**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:Kristen.Schulze@elca.org).

## Noisy Offering – November 18/19

### Central African Republic

One hundred years ago, in March of 1923, after an 18-day boat trip from France to Douala, the first missionaries walked another 26 days on foot paths to get to their destination, the Mboula Station where they received a very warm welcome. Eventually the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic emerged. The Lutheran Church is growing faster in Africa than anywhere else in the world, yet its resources are limited.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic (CAR) is a thriving community of over 55,000 Lutherans in more than 300 congregations who are, perhaps, the one abiding light and promise of hope throughout the land. CAR is located in the heart of Africa and is one of the poorest countries in the world. CAR is a country that struggles to survive amidst poverty, disease, political upheaval. In the midst of political instability, CAR Lutherans develop leaders through a seminary that trains pastors, a Bible school that offers training in evangelism and agricultural activities, and a village-based program that educates children in 20 villages who have no other school access.

These 20 village schools have thatched roof shelters, which parents must repair annually. In honor of the centennial celebration, we invite you to join other congregations in the Gulf Coast Synod raise money to build permanent schools that do not require annual maintenance. These schools provide education to remote villages and teach literacy so that youth have better opportunity for not only employment but also in participating in the decision-making process that will hopefully bring stability and prosperity to this nation. As we celebrate this month the partnership between our synod and the ELC-CAR, let us continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in CAR and let us gather monies to continue to provide classrooms and so much more.




*Holiday*  
**FAIR TRADE  
MARKET @ KINSMEN**

**FRIDAY, DEC. 1**  
**2 - 6PM**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 3**  
**9AM - 2pm and 5-6:30PM**

*Hand crafted gifts from  
around the world*





## 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 November are November 4 and 18 from 8:00 AM—11:00 AM or when the food is gone. 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](https://kinsmenlutheran.org) - EVENTS - to sign up to volunteer.

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



## Thanksgiving Feast Volunteers

Your help is needed for this year's Thanksgiving Feast. There are plenty of ways you can help beginning on Monday, November 20. Visit the sign up sheet here: <https://bit.ly/ThanksgivingFeastVolunteers>

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

## Run/Walk for Your Turkey

What are you doing Thanksgiving morning, November 23?

Join in the fun with a 5K or 10K Run/Walk for your Turkey at 8 AM.

Register today at <https://kinsmenlutheran.org/turkeyrun>

#KinsmenRun4Turkey. All proceeds benefit the Thanksgiving Feast.

**Race day** is Thanksgiving Day, November 23 at 8 AM. The race will begin at Kinsmen Lutheran Church (12100 Champion Forest Drive, Houston, 77066).

**Packet Pick Up** will be at Kinsmen Lutheran Church on November 19 from 1 - 4 p.m.

### Race Registration

- Deadline: Nov. 19 - \$30.00





# THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY FEAST

## THANKSGIVING DAY

November 23, 2023  
11AM - 1:30PM

Kinsmen Lutheran Church  
12100 Champion Forest Drive  
Houston, Tx 77066

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

## Why We Give

By Jen and Mike Nash

We have been members of Kinsmen Lutheran Church for 20 years. We joined as a young couple barely into their 30s and have raised two children (Colgan and Aidan) here at Kinsmen. Jen is currently serving on Church Council and teaches the 3-4 year old Sunday School classes and Mike is serving on the Spanish-speaking pastor call committee. We have been very blessed to grow as a couple and as a family as a part of Kinsmen.



One of the biggest decisions we made about 10 years ago was regarding our Thankoffering. We had thought we were quite generous but we found ourselves questioning our giving during Lent. Jen has served as the Treasurer (and will again soon) and Mike has sat on the Finance Committee, so we have a pretty good idea of what it takes to keep Kinsmen running and growing. Through prayer, quiet reflection and a few reviews of the checkbook ledger ... we made a choice to significantly increase our thankoffering during that Lent period.

Fast forward about a decade, and we are still giving at that higher percentage and have tried to increase that every year. What we didn't realize when we started on the journey of being more generous was the positive impact it has on us. We have watched our church campus grow and thrive in the neighborhood. We get to serve and worship side-by-side with the amazing staff, and take opportunities to serve in ministries with them. We still notice the amount every month when we balance the checkbook but that serves now a reminder to us of the value of giving those 'first fruits'.

## Take Action On A Cause You Care About!

If you have a Thrivent membership, you have the opportunity to help transform the places where you live and work. Start with an idea to support a cause you care about. Maybe you'd like to help Kinsmen or your kids' school or support a local charity. This is your chance to take action. Simply choose a nonprofit organization you're passionate about, ask a representative there for their top needs, and offer to lead a volunteer team in a fundraiser, service project or educational event.



Then, visit [thrivent.com/actionteam](https://thrivent.com/actionteam) to complete and submit your project application. Once your application is approved, they will send you a kit containing T-shirts for volunteers and a Community Impact Card loaded with up to \$250 in seed money to kickstart your project. If you need help deciding on a project at Kinsmen, contact Pastor Beth, Sara, or Lynnae. Generosity is meant to be shared, so complete your Thrivent Action Team application today.

NAM Holiday Toy Bags will be arriving  
this month. Be watching for more  
information.





# November Birthdays

Floyd Blackwell	11/01	Natalie Rall	11/10	Tim Jackson	11/18	Shawn McAnear	11/23
Gregory Ray	11/01	Judy Hellman	11/10	Robert Rall	11/18	Anna O'Neal	11/23
Archie Coote	11/01	Sharon Smith	11/11	Virginia Bladel	11/18	Marilyn Bradsby	11/24
Vicki Beecher	11/01	Roslyn Potcinske	11/11	Lisa Ebner	11/19	Lara Nott	11/24
Pamela Roth	11/02	John Miller	11/12	Chase Wolter	11/19	Hope Agard	11/24
Morgan Shelor	11/02	Don Alewine	11/12	Sophia Herwig	11/19	Abigail Clifford	11/24
Anne Morrow	11/03	Weldon Kuhn	11/12	Patrick Covington	11/19	Anne Jackson	11/25
Zoe Kolkhorst	11/04	Lori Holloway	11/13	Timothy Stolz	11/19	Ashley Kobmann	11/25
Johnathan DeLuca	11/04	Lisa Nott	11/13	Lexi Sanchez	11/19	Ashley Moore	11/25
Katrina Hock	11/05	Gretta Karker	11/14	Leia Sanchez	11/19	Nancy Gealow	11/26
Charlotte Landgraf	11/05	Carleigh Sartor	11/14	Karen Crisler	11/20	Mike Nash	11/26
Brian Williamson	11/06	Evelyn Ann Mills	11/14	Margaret Richardson	11/20	Emily Rawcliffe	11/26
Mark Hanson	11/06	Michael Ford	11/15	Kirsten Williamson	11/21	Sue Durrett	11/27
Amanda Taylor	11/06	Trudi Trainor	11/15	Robert Kirkwood	11/21	Katie Kolkhorst	11/28
Harlan Martens	11/07	Katelyn Ford	11/15	Hayleigh McAteer	11/21	Jana Ray	11/28
Karen Nielsen	11/08	Beth Hilpert	11/16	James Hughes	11/21	Margie Fanaff	11/28
Marie Douglas	11/08	Laurel Adams	11/16	Ethan Sewell	11/21	Kristian Simpson	11/28
Linda Martens	11/09	Janice Gumm	11/16	Bradley Young	11/22	Ray Bradsby	11/29
Kaela Moseley	11/09	Samantha Lyons	11/17	Norma Cox	11/22	Tina Metting	11/30
Matthew Jones	11/09	Miranda Blackbourn	11/18	Karla Harms	11/22	Brenda Sewell	11/30
Gabriella Leija-Avalos	11/10	Marilyn Blackbourn	11/18	Jaxon Turner	11/22		



# GLIMPSES of GRACE

There are various ways you can support Kinsmen Lutheran Church in your day-to-day life and especially as you do your Christmas shopping. Consider using retail donation programs, especially for Kroger and Randalls.

KINSMEN BUDGET UPDATE - CHURCH ONLY OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS FOR September 2023			
	Budget	Actual	Variance
Total Income	157,573	124,269	(33,304)
Total Expenses	168,566	144,730	(23,835)
Net	(10,993)	(20,642)	(9,469)
<b>Year-to-Date (2023)</b>			
Total Income	1,454,226	1,336,853	(87,373)
Total Expenses	1,440,016	1,404,687	(35,329)
Net	14,210	(37,834)	(52,045)

GIVING UPDATE			
Thankoffering	Budget	Actual	Variance
September 2023	96,017	81,750	(14,267)
2023	871,442	787,212	(84,230)

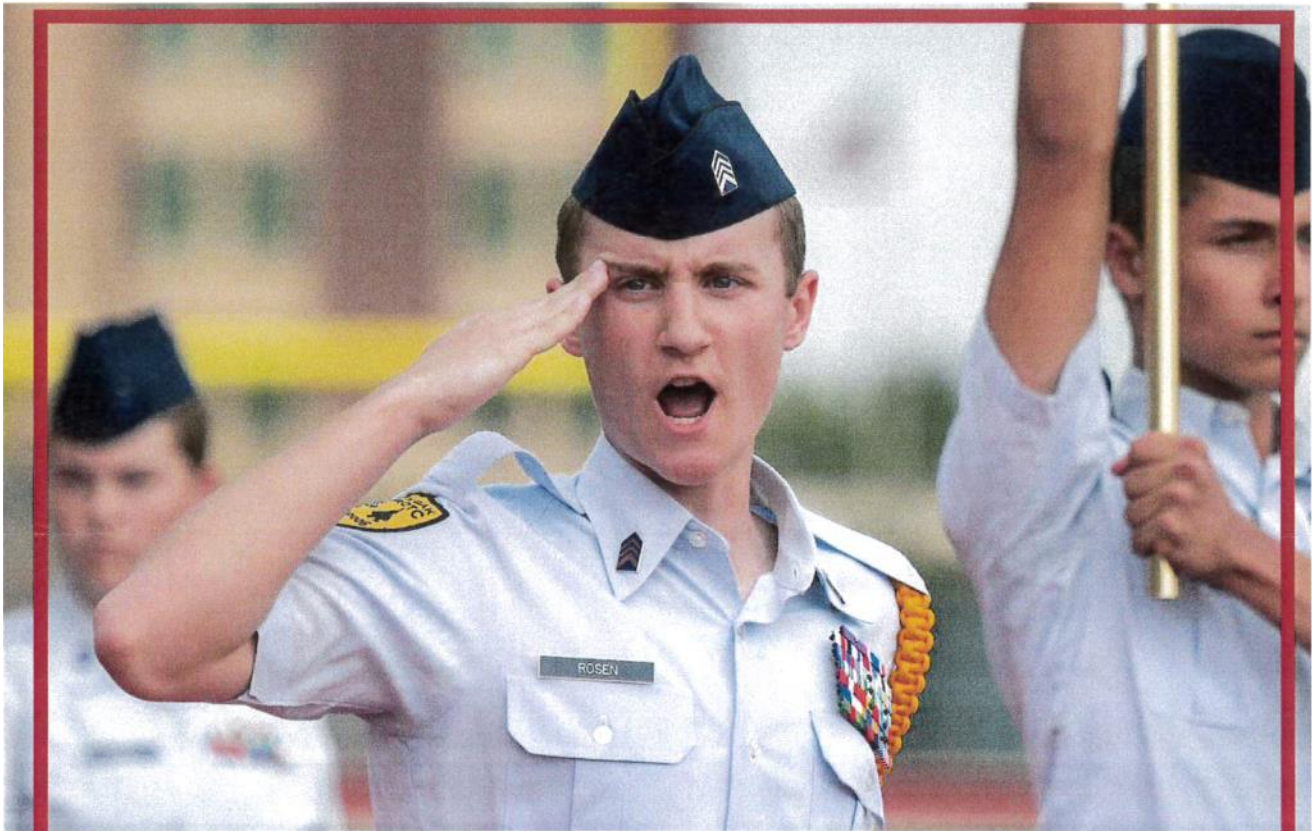
GLIMPSES OF SHARING GRACE CARE MINISTRY	
October 2023	
Flower Deliveries	37
Prayer Shawls	1

GLIMPSES OF GRACE	
September	
Noisy Offering— Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service	2,376.05
General Mission Support	7,846.50
Designated Mission Support	328.50
KCA Scholarships	137.50
September TOTAL	10,688.55
YTD TOTAL	107,791.73

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Mental Health Matters	November 1, 15, & 29	
Playground Playdate	November 4	
Budget Discussion Open House	November 4 & 5	
Family Stewardship Milestone	November 5 & 12	<a href="#">CONTACT SARA</a>
Food Distribution	November 4 & 18	<a href="#">VOLUNTEER</a>
Naomi Bible Study	November 7	
Old Testament Overview Study	Sundays at 9:45AM	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
When the Game is Over—Adult Sunday School	Sundays at 9:45AM	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
Weekly Lectionary Study	Wednesdays at 10AM	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
Men's Bible Study - Monday Nights	Mondays at 7PM	
Spanish Class	Thursdays at 6:30PM	
Women's Bible Study - Thursday Mornings	Thursdays at 10AM	Resuming January 2024
Consecration Weekend	November 11 & 12	<a href="#">FILL OUT INTENT CARD</a>
Annual Congregational Meeting	November 12	
SWAT	November 12 & 26	<a href="#">RSVP</a>
55+ Lunch	November 13	<a href="#">CONTACT COLETTE</a>
Noisy Offering	November 18 & 19	<a href="#">MAKE AN OFFERING</a>
Small Group for Parents of Young Children	November 19	<a href="#">INTERESTED?</a>
Thanksgiving Eve Worship	November 22	
Thanksgiving Feast	November 23	<a href="#">VOLUNTEER</a>
Run for Your Turkey	November 23	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
Intergenerational Family Activity	November 26	
Euchre	November 27	<a href="#">CONTACT COLETTE</a>
Pickleball	November 30	<a href="#">CONTACT LYNNAE</a>
Book Club	November 30	
Hanging of the Greens	December 1	<a href="#">CONTACT LYNNAE</a>
Holiday Fair Market	December 1 & 3	
Advent Tea	December 4	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>



===== ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ =====

YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED

*23rd Annual Veterans Day Ceremony*

NOV. 10, 2023 | 9:30 AM

KLEIN MEMORIAL STADIUM  
HOME SIDE @ LYONS SCHOOL ROAD  
16607 STUEBNER AIRLINE RD | KLEIN, TX 77379

A GRAB & GO STYLE LIGHT BREAKFAST WILL BE PROVIDED AS GUESTS LEAVE THE STADIUM.

CAN'T ATTEND? JOIN ONLINE FOR LIVESTREAM:

[WWW.KLEINISD.NET](http://WWW.KLEINISD.NET)

# 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.