



Kinsmen

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rooted in Faith. Relevant to Life.

March 2024

CONNECTION

12100 Champion Forest Drive
Houston, TX 77066
281.444.3126



**Maundy
Thursday**

March 28
7PM



**Good Friday
worship**

March 29
12 PM
7 PM



**Easter
Sunday**

6:15	Sunrise
8:00	Traditional
9:30	Outdoor
11:00	Contemporary
12:30	Misa en Español

No worship on
Saturday



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March 2024

Dear Beloved Kinsmen,

This month we continue "The Walk" sermon series, group experiences and spiritual practices.

At the same time, Pastor Jay and I are teaching a class on *Making Sense of Martin Luther*. This class is offered again and again to remind us of the core Lutheran theological teachings. One of these core teachings is on *justification by grace through faith*. That's the understanding that we are saved by God's grace and not by our own works or accomplishments.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." - Ephesians 2:8

The contrast often made is between "Up religion" and "Down religion." Up religion says we have to do certain things to be worthy of God's love or saving activity—it is up to us to "climb up" to God. As Lutherans we reject this understanding. We affirm "Down religion" because we know that it is God who has "come down" and continues to save us. God says we are enough and beloved just as we are. God has saved us without any of our own efforts. We have been justified (made right and worthy of God's love) through what God did through the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. This is so simple and hard for us to grasp—that there is nothing we HAVE to do to gain God's love. Instead of "have tos" we can focus our lives on "get tos." We get to give thanks and praise.

This is an important reminder as we are engaging in spiritual disciplines and practices. We do these practices not to gain favor with God or so that God loves us more. We

engage in spiritual practices (like worship, prayer, study, giving and serving) to strengthen and deepen our faith as we grow in awareness of God's love for us and the whole world.

This core teaching is also an important reminder as we enter Holy Week at the end of this month. Together we will hear and witness the depths of God's love made known to us on the cross. This is a holy time when we focus on the self-giving divine love that can be difficult for us to comprehend or imagine.

"God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

As we walk and witness Jesus during Lent and as we deepen our faith, we can remember that God frees us FROM fears of not being and doing enough and God frees us FOR loving God and one another. This is the heart of the good news!

Blessed Lent and Holy Week and Happy Easter!

Peace,



Beth Warpmæker

Senior Pastor, Kinsmen Lutheran Church

P.S. Please note the exciting Church Council News about voting to call Pastor Adriana Johnson-Rivas.

Sabbatical News

After 25 years of service in ministry, Pastor Beth recently shared her desire to take a 3-month Sabbatical in 2025. We are excited to announce that both the Kinsmen Church Council and the Personnel Team unanimously approved the request. During her well-deserved Sabbatical, Pastor Beth will be focusing on four themes – Releasing, Reflecting, Reconnecting, and Reenergizing. Pastor Jay, staff, and the Personnel Team have begun discussing how Kinsmen's congregation can parallel some of these themes simultaneously.

Peace in Christ,

Jennifer Kaurich – 2024 Kinsmen Church Council President

Peter Abt – Chair of Personnel Team

From the Church Council President

I am happy to share with the congregation that on February 20th Sandra Gutierrez, Co-chair of the Latino Pastor Call Committee, made a recommendation to the Church Council that a call be issued to Pastor Adriana Johnson-Rivas. After discussing the recommendation and answering all Council member questions, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Call Committee’s recommendation.

The Council has decided to bring Pastor Adriana’s nomination to a congregational vote on Sunday, March 24th at 12PM.

An informal meet and greet will be held the day prior on Saturday, March 23rd at 6:30 PM. The congregation will have an opportunity to ask Pastor Adriana questions during the meet and greet. (We are aware this is Palm/ Passion Weekend.) We have provided Pastor Adriana’s bio on page 4 for those who have not had the pleasure of meeting her yet or would like to learn more about her.

Pending the congregational vote, a Double Installation is scheduled for Pastor Jay Shailer and Pastor Adriana Johnson-Rivas will be held on Sunday, April 14th at 3 PM.

Peace in Christ,
Jennifer Kaurich, 2024 Kinsmen Church Council President

The Church Council is bringing Pastor Adriana Johnson-Rivas to the congregation for a vote.

We will be voting on whether or not to call her as the Latino Ministry Pastor.



Saturday, March 23 at 6:30PM

**Meet and Greet
Pastor Adriana**

Sunday, March 24 at 12PM

**Congregational meeting
to vote**

Sunday, April 14 at 3PM

Installation Service for Pastors Jay and Adriana

**pending congregational vote*

Send us your Selfies!!

With Pastor Jay here and the possibility of a new pastor 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 Thank you!



Pastor Adriana Johnson-Rivas



Pastor Adriana Johnson-Rivas was born in Medellin, Colombia, a city the entire country recognizes as "the city of eternal spring." Medellin is a city that boasts a vivid bouquet of romantic flowers year-round.

Pastor Adriana was born into a large family with 2 brothers and 5 sisters all under the watchful eyes of two hardworking and loving parents. In Colombia she studied to be a teacher, but never had a chance to complete her education and develop a career. It wasn't until 1986 when she decided to follow some of her sisters to the US to look for other opportunities. This is where she met the father of her two sons, Kenneth Alexander and Kelly Dustin Johnson.

Pastor Adriana had the opportunity to practice what she learned in Colombia when she began teaching Catechism classes to both youth and adults at Prince of Peace. Before she accepted the position of SALM, (synodically authorized lay minister) she served as a volunteer at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, teaching the children and adults for almost 8 years. She had the opportunity to study in the Institute of Evangelism of Prince of Peace "La Escuelita" during its two year run. This built the foundation of knowledge needed to initiate the Hispanic mission development "Light of Christ" in La Porte, Texas, which developed between June 2005 to May 2006.

In 2009 due to the health of the former Pastor, Pastor Adriana was put in charge of Prince of Peace. To properly fill this role, she enrolled in the TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) program at LSPS (Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest) in Austin, Texas. In 2013, she was ordained at Principe de Paz where family, friends, members, and colleagues alike shared that grand moment in her life. It was all made possible by hard work, brilliant teachers, and above all, a sweet and merciful God.

In Spring of 2014, the president and the council of St. James asked her to help them in the mission development of Santiago Apostol because the Deacon, Aura Suarez, moved to Miami with her husband, and they needed a pastor in the mission development. Initially, the thought was to do it for a few months, but because of the lack of Latino pastors, she stayed for nearly three years. It was a wonderful experience and a great time of learning. In 2017, Pastor Adriana was called to start another mission, Sagrada Corazon in Pasadena. This was about 20 minutes from Principe de Paz. During that time, she was fortunate and blessed to be the bridge between Lutheran World Relief and many families who were affected by Hurricane Harvey.

At the end of January 2023, Pastor Adriana took the Interim contract position with the Kinsmen/ Sagrada Familia to continue the mission development. She has now completed a full year in this wonderful place. The moment she found out that she could apply for the position as a mission developer, she consulted with her family as well as with colleagues and friends who have supported her. Most importantly, she consulted with God and his Spirit in order to make a good decision. She believes she has followed the necessary steps to complete this discernment process, but she always repeats and reminds herself that God is the one who has the last word, and she will humbly accept it.

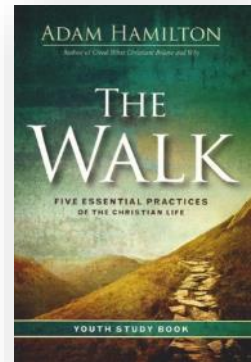
JOIN US FOR

Special Worship on Wednesdays and midweek group Study During Lent

Meal · Worship · Study

Midweek Worship

On Wednesdays during Lent, a brief worship service using Holden Evening Prayer will be followed by a shortened group study on "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton.



Wednesday Evening Schedule:

- 6:00 - 6:45 - Simple pizza dinner in the Coffee House
- 7:00 - Holden Evening Prayer Worship Service in the sanctuary
- 7:30 - 8:30 - Watch video and discuss the topic of the week

Dates		Sermon Title	First Reading
March 6	Midweek Lent Worship	Here I am Send me (The Walk)	Joshua 24:15; Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 20:26-28
March 13	Midweek Lent Worship	Where your treasure is... (The Walk)	Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35
March 20	Midweek Lent Worship	Going Fishing, Reflecting Light (The Walk)	Matthew 4:18-20; Matthew 28:19-20

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

God Pause Luther Seminary devotions: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause>

YouVersion Bible app: <https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app>

Moravian Daily Texts emails: <https://www.moravian.org>

Richard Rohr daily meditations: <https://cac.org/daily-meditations>

Easter Lilies

Help us beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday by purchasing an Easter lily in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The cost of each lily is \$12.

You may order your lilies at: <https://bit.ly/EasterLily24>

The deadline to order and be recognized at Easter is Monday, March 25.

Thank you for your gracious generosity.



Lent Sermon Series: The Walk

How do we walk with Christ—daily following him, growing in faith, and faithfully serving him? In the Gospels, Jesus modeled for us the Christian spiritual life and gave us five essential spiritual practices. The image of walking with God is a way to imagine deepening our faith as an ongoing activity. So we engage in these core activities or practices at all times, but Lent is a good time to do this intentionally. On Sundays we will explore this through worship and readings. During the week we will engage in various groups and/or midweek worship where we will explore each spiritual practice: worship and prayer, listening and paying attention, serving, giving, and reflecting the light.



Dates		Sermon Title	First Reading	Gospel
March 2-3	Lent 3	Walking in God's wisdom	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
March 9-10	Lent 4	Walking in the wilderness	Numbers 21:4-9	John 3:14-21
March 16-17	Lent 5	Walking with a new covenant	Jeremiah 31:31-34	John 12:20-33
March 23-24	Palm Sunday	Walking to the cross	Mark 11:1-11	Mark 14:1-15:47

Calling all Aggies, Music Lovers, Aggie Music Lovers and Lovers of Aggie Music! Abendmusik presents the Texas A&M Women's Choir as part of their spring tour.

The concert is March 22 at 7:00pm and admission is free.

If you are interested in volunteering to help during the afternoon with dinner or coordination, or volunteering to help with the concert, please contact Robert Lewis at rlewis@kinsmenlutheran.org

March 22

ABENDMUSIK
WORSHIP & THE ARTS AT KINSMEN

Martin Luther/Lutheranism

Sundays at 9:45AM until March 24

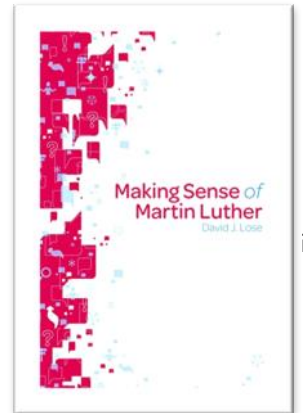
This class explores how Luther's understanding of God's life-changing gospel informs day-to-day faith and life in the world today. This will be a video and discussion class led by Pastors Beth and Jay. To get the most out of the class, you are encouraged to download the book on Kindle or order in paperback on Amazon or Augsburg Fortress. Having a book is recommended, but not necessary. Register here: <https://bit.ly/Luther2024>

March 3: The Present-Tense God—Law and Gospel

March 10: The Ambidextrous God—The Two Kingdoms and God's Ongoing Work in the World

March 17: Called for Good—Vocation, Sinning Boldly, and the Respiratory System of the Body of Christ

March 24: God Hidden and Revealed—Luther's Theology of the Cross and the Sacraments and *Semper Simul*—Sin, Forgiveness, and "Becoming Christian"



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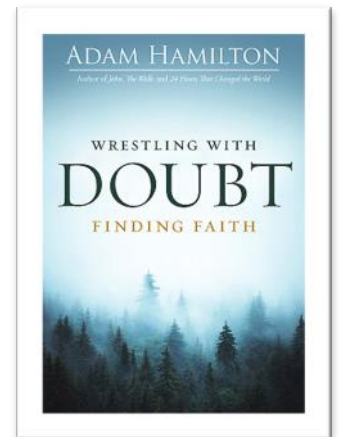
Wrestling with Doubt

Sundays at 9:45AM beginning April 7

Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God.

This will be a 6-week video and discussion class led by Pastors Beth and Jay. They will use the resources by Adam Hamilton. To get the most out of the class, you are encouraged to download the book on Kindle or order it on Amazon. Having a book is recommended, but not necessary.

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



Easter Flowering Cross

On Easter Sunday, March 31, you are invited to be part of the Flowering of the Cross, an ancient and meaningful tradition that represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus' death to joyful celebration of the resurrection.

As you prepare for Easter worship, purchase or pick fresh flowers and greenery from your garden or yard and bring them to church.

When you arrive for any of our services, place your flowers on the cross that will be located in the narthex (entrance area to the sanctuary).

Together we will transform a barren cross, a reminder of Jesus' death, into an Easter symbol. Covered with fresh, living flowers, the cross serves not only as an emblem of Jesus' resurrection but also of the continuing presence of Christ among today's Christians. Together, let us make this Easter a celebration of new life!



Naomi Bible Study

Women of all ages are invited to join us on **March 5th at 10:00AM** in the Coffee House in the Community Life Center.

We are currently studying Scripture and Nature, exploring how Biblical stories of the natural world help us to grow our love for and commitment to God, other people and our beloved earth. In March, we will look at Creatures: our siblings in praise and trust. Jesus invites us to consider the birds, but we'll get to know Biblical critters beyond the sparrows. We'll look at Biblical animals (some adorable, some terrifying) from ravens and lions to a big fish, paired creatures on the ark, and that sneaky serpent in Eden. Stories of human and animal interactions in Scripture help to reorient our relationships with the non-human world, while pulling us into deeper trust in God.

We would love to see you on March 5th. 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.

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

Discipleship Path: Sensitive Evangelism

Take the next step!

We want to help you grow in sharing your faith or what we call, Sensitive Evangelism, and the season of Easter is a great time to take the next step! By "sensitive" we mean that we are both sensitive to where people are in their life's journey and sensitive to how the Holy Spirit opens up opportunities to both share good news and be good news. What's your next step(s) to grow in sensitive evangelism and sharing your faith?

Grow as a P.R.A.I.S.E Disciple (Passionate Worship, Radical Hospitality, Adventurous Service, Intentional Faith Formation, Sensitive Evangelism, Extraordinary Generosity) through the Discipleship Path at Kinsmen.

The Discipleship Path connects you to concrete ways to grow in your faith. Take the inventory here to determine what your next step might be: <https://bit.ly/SensitiveEvangelism>.



Weekly Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10AM

The weekly women's Bible Study meets on Thursdays in the Community Room. We are studying "Sermon on the Mount" by Jen Wilken and will continue with that study through Lent.

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

Men's Bible Study

Mondays at 7PM

This Bible Study meets on Monday nights at 7PM
We are using [The Walk](#), by Adam Hamilton.

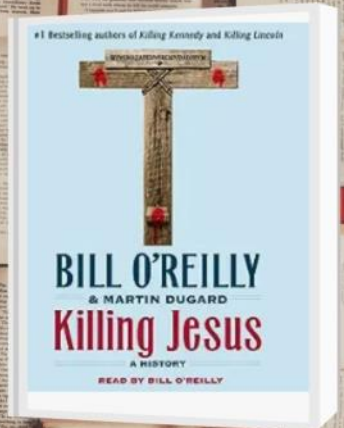
JOIN US FOR
BOOK CLUB

March 21 at 7PM
in the coffee house.

Kinsmen has a Book Club that meets on the
3rd Thursday of the month.

Our March book selection is Killing Jesus
by Bill O'Reilly.

We will meet in the Coffee House at 7PM on
March 21 to discuss the book.
All are welcome!



March

Killing Jesus
by Bill O'Reilly

April

The Color of Water
by James McBride



WHEN

Monday, March 11 at noon
Sam's Seafood & Steak
12758 Grant Road

Monday, April 15 at noon
Red Robin
22455 Highway 249

Monday, May 13 at noon
Giuseppe's Restaurant & Pizzeria
8320 Louetta Road

kinsmenlutheran.org/special-events
for more information

Blest be the Tie that Binds

Saturday, March 9 & 24

Kinsmen will be quilting for Lutheran World Relief on Saturday March 9 from 9 - 11:30 AM and Monday March 24 from 1- 3:30 PM.

All are welcome. Training is provided. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

(lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org) for more information.



Mental Health Matters

March 6 and 20

The Mental Health Matters Initiative is an independent, community mental health group with trained facilitators who come together to share our experiences & provide emotional support to one another. Individual Lay Chaplain visits & community resources are provided upon request.

Mental Health Matters meets virtually the 1st and third Wednesdays of the month - March 6 & 20 at 7:30 PM

March 6 – Special Event: Kim Williams & Patti Suler “ Continuing The Conversation “will return for a virtual speaker presentation

March 20 - Special event: Men's Mental Health: Q&A Speaker panel with Billy Pickett, Derek LaHair, & Mike Prejean

Sign up at: <https://bit.ly/MHMZLink>

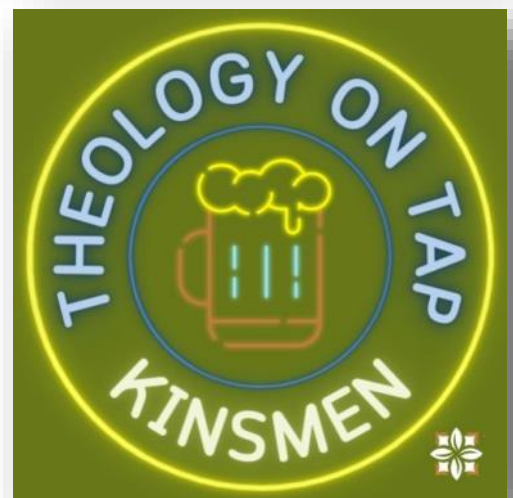


Young Adult Ministry

Beginning April 25

Everyone needs to talk about the ups and downs of life, and how God might (or might not) fit into it. Kinsmen's Young Adult ministry is beginning a new monthly discussion gathering to do just that. The last Thursday of every month we'll meet at 11-Below Brewing at 7PM to grab a beer and share a table together. This group is welcome to all young adults of any background, faith tradition, and traditions of no faith, especially those who have been hurt by the faith of others. No questions are out of bounds, and all thoughts will be respected.

Please get a hold of Pastor Jay if you have any questions at jshailer@kinsmenlutheran.org



Camp Hope—Save the Dates

June 10-14; June 17-21; June 24-28

Camp Hope a day camp run by the Kinsmen youth and is for children currently in Pre-K (entering Kinder in fall 2024) through 7th grade. Youth currently in 8th grade and older can apply to be part of the Camp Hope Staff.

Registration for campers will be open later this month!



Be a part of the 2024 Camp Hope Staff

Students currently in 7th-12th grade

Camp Hope Staff Applications are available here:

<https://bit.ly/CHStaff24>

High School youth will fill out an application and be interviewed. Interviews will begin this month. 7th & 8th Graders will only need to fill out an application.

Camp Hope serves as a platform for developing leadership skills among middle school, high school, and young adult participants at Kinsmen. While navigating the challenges of leadership at Camp Hope, you might be surprised by the transformative work that God can accomplish through you.

Pastor Jay and Sara strongly encourage all interested and qualified individuals to apply and interview, regardless of potential conflicts with summer plans.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions!

Good Friday Service Project

March 29 from 10AM—Noon

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we can use our day off school and work to do GOOD for our community! There will be projects for all ages and abilities, including helping assemble the LWR Personal Care Kits, tying fleece blankets, setting up for Easter Breakfast, and decorating lunch bags!



KCA Holiday Care

March 11-15

We will be open for Holiday Care from 9:30AM to 3:30PM, February 12-16.

Please contact Dennisse Mejia-Cruz (dmejia-cruz@kinsmenlutheran.org) before March 8 if you are interested in care for school-aged kids during Spring Break. The cost is \$125 for 9AM - 4PM. Before and after care are available.

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



Kinsmen Children's Academy

Now Enrolling!

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

Go to www.kinsmenlutheran.org/kca for more information, or contact Sara Ray (sray@kinsmenlutheran.org)



Thursday, March 21 at 6:30PM. Come join in the fun!
Contact Ken Mersiovsky or [lynae Schatz](mailto:lynae.schatz@kinsmenlutheran.org) for more information.



LUTHERHILL SUMMER CAMP

Travel with your Kinsmen friends
to Lutherhill for a week this
summer!

Register your 1st-8th grader today!

Sunday, July 7 to Friday, July 12
(1st graders leave on Wednesday)

JOIN US!

Register at: www.lutherhill.org





SWAT (Students With A Testimony)

S.W.A.T. is a ministry for high school students. All are welcome to experience family.

We meet twice a month for fellowship, bible study, and checking in with one another.

Our next two gatherings will be **March 3** and **March 24** at 12:15PM in the Loft. We hope to see you there!

For further information, please contact Kristen at kschulze@kinsmenlutheran.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:kschulze@kinsmenlutheran.org).

LENT ACTIVITIES

MAR 13

*3 stations, to donate, pray, listen,
heal and anoint*



MAR 20

*We prepare for Easter
Filling Easter eggs for our children*



WEDNESDAY OF LENT AT 7:00 PM



ESL CLASSES



WORSHIP



WORSHIP



FELLOWSHIP

Community of Hope Lay Chaplains Commissioned

March 2/3

Kinsmen is a Community of Hope International Center. Community of Hope awakens us to the awareness of God in our lives and in our communities. Community of Hope offers a school for Lay Chaplain training. The "school" is comprised of a 14-week training course (42 hours) where the Lay Chaplains come to recognize and understand their spiritual gifts and the value of relationships. As the chaplains grow together, they experience the unfolding of pastoral identity and the ministry of presence begins. Lay Chaplains are trained to listen with the ear of their heart.

During worship on March 2 and 3, we will commission all Lay Chaplains.

The newly trained Lay Chaplains are: Ken Mersiovsky; Androulla Ward; Diane Allen, Sunya Lewis and Michelle Shaffer.

If you are interested in learning more about Community of Hope International or are interested in having a Lay Chaplain visit you, contact Lynnae Schatz (lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org).

"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



Kinsmen Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build Day

Saturday March 23

Let's work together to get kids into a bed of their own. Kinsmen will be building Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) beds on Saturday March 23rd and we are looking for volunteers for the bed building process. No skills or prior experience needed. SHP will have 15 different work stations from handing wood off, cutting, drilling, sanding, assembling, and branding. SHP provides all the tools and the training to help you complete the work efficiently and safely. SHP welcomes builders as young as 8 years old. Those who are 8-16 years old, should be accompanied by an adult.

Sign up today using this link: <https://x.gldn.io/e/LrBSZ1voiHb>

If Saturday, March 23rd doesn't work for you or you are interested in helping more, you may volunteer to build at a Community Build on Saturday, March 9. This is a two shift Build and sign ups for March 9 are here:

1st Shift = <https://x.gldn.io/e/UbGVLwY36Gb>; 2nd Shift = <https://x.gldn.io/e/EoSAGu536Gb>

Thank you for your time and consideration





Noisy Offering—Houston Campus Ministry

March 9-10

You as a congregation have made Houston Campus Ministry among the students, faculty, and staff possible through your selfless and faithful generosity and stewardship of the gifts and talents God has given you.

As a ministry we also tend to the physical and more tangible needs of our community, specifically hunger and food insecurity, in response to Jesus' commandment to feed the hungry (Matthew 25:35). The 2019-2020 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) reports that "Overall, 23% of undergraduates and 12% of graduate students are experiencing food insecurity." This is the first study of its kind to be conducted at a federal level through the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), and I am sure future reports from this entity will detail even higher rates of food insecurity and homelessness as a reflection of the COVID-19 pandemic and steep rate of inflation over the course of the last several years.

These numbers and statistics represent students who attend the University of Houston, Texas Southern University, HCC, San Jacinto College, Lone Star College, and the University of Houston – Downtown, and students that engage with HouMin's community and programming on a regular basis.

In an effort to respond to the needs of students, HouMin has committed to providing meals at bible studies and worship several times a month and has joined other ministries and departments at the University of Houston in sponsoring a large free lunch on Wednesdays in the A.D. Bruce Religion Center at the University of Houston. These "Free Wednesday Lunches," as they're known on campus, have been held since at least 2021 and feed an average of 300 people a week!

Again, thank you for your continued support of Houston Area Campus Ministries, HouMin, through the sharing of your time, talents, resources, and prayer. When you support HouMin you are supporting students who are eager for community, connection, and cultivating a deeper understanding of their faith. You are doing the Matthew 25 work we are called to do as Christians. You are supporting significant conversations over iced tea and coffee about the concerns of students' hearts, their class schedules, relationships, and discernment processes.

You are being the hands and feet of Christ. Your support matters and makes a difference.

I am so grateful that HouMin has Kinsmen as a mission partner in the ministry that is happening across all of Houston's public colleges and universities!

With hope and a thankful heart,

Pastor Morgan Gates

Kinsmen Delivery Day with Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Saturday March 9th and/or 23rd, 2024

We have the opportunity to get 100 kids into a bed of their own this month with your help. SHP will be delivering beds on Saturday March 9th and March 23rd and are looking for delivery helpers to assist our delivery leaders assembling beds at the kids' home. No skills or prior experience needed. Sign up using the link(s) below.

March 9 - <https://x.gldn.io/e/PQMma30U6Gb>

March 23 - <https://x.gldn.io/e/5MbFEg836Gb>

Thank you for your time and consideration.





**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Personal Care Kit Items

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

- ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- ONE sturdy comb
- ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional)



Amazon Wish List

**You can order from our Amazon Wish List
and have it sent directly to Kinsmen!**



Please bring donations by Thursday, March 28

Give the gift of life this Lent.

Jesus gave His life for you. Won't you consider giving the gift of life this spring? Blood supply is typically low during the spring due to Spring Break.

Schedule your appointment today at:
<https://bit.ly/March10BloodDrive>



March 10 from 8AM - 12:30PM




Kinsmen

ENDOWMENT FUND

From the Generosity Team

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

Charitable Giving from your IRA

If you are 73* and have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you are required by law to withdraw a certain amount of money from the account each year — this is known as your required minimum distribution (RMD). Many people find that they don't need the extra income, but they're required by law to take it. Making a gift to charities (like Kinsmen) directly from your retirement account in the form of a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) may allow you to meet your RMD requirement without increasing your taxable income.

If you are an IRA owner age 70½ or older, starting in 2023, the SECURE 2.0 Act (passed in December 2022) provided you with a new way to give using your retirement assets. This option lets you choose to make a one-time distribution of up to \$53,000 (in 2024) from your IRA to create a new charitable gift annuity (CGA) or charitable remainder trust (CRT). This unique version of a QCD also counts toward your RMD if one is due. (Check with your financial advisor for other important retirement provisions in the SECURE 2.0 Act.)

*The age to begin taking RMDs from retirement plans is now 73 as of January 1, 2023 (up from 72).

Call for Project Proposals from Endowment Fund Allocations!

The Kinsmen Generosity Team is now accepting proposal requests to fund ministries and special projects apart from the Kinsmen Lutheran Church's annual budget from the Kinsmen Endowment Fund. These ministries and projects may be internal to Kinsmen, supporting our surrounding community, or of national & global outreach, but must be connected in some way to the values, vision, and purpose of Kinsmen Lutheran Church.

Projects to be considered would typically fall within the \$1,000 - \$5,000 range, but other amounts may be possible. A completion of a grant application is **not guaranteed** to be fully or partially funded. Please complete and return the Kinsmen Endowment Fund Grant Application Form by October 1st for consideration in 2024 to Pastor Beth Warpmaeker.

The Grant Application Form is available on the Endowment Fund web page: <https://kinsmenlutheran.org/endowment/>.

If you have any questions about the Kinsmen Endowment Fund or the Grant Application Form, please contact Melissa Turnquist at mturnquist95@gmail.com or Pastor Beth Warpmaeker.

Peace in Christ,

Melissa Turnquist, *Generosity Team Chair*

Generosity Team Members: Loretta Castaño, Andrew Hanson, Jen Nash, Ed Newhard, David Bartholomew, Melissa Turnquist, Richard Vermilyea, Pastor Beth Warpmaeker, and Brad Young.

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



March Birthdays

Sheri England	3/02	Natalie Hughes	3/08	Jaqueline Beeskau	3/16	Kelly England	3/25
Daniel Goodell	3/02	Ava Hughes	3/08	Donna Roberts	3/16	Christian Lester	3/25
Tom Liewer	3/03	Evan Anderson	3/09	Nikita Grimes	3/17	Kathryn Malone	3/25
Melissa McAnear	3/03	Brian Haas	3/09	Barbara Hey	3/18	Ruby Remmert	3/26
Jalaiah Nwachukwu	3/03	Brandon Vasquez	3/09	Patricia Benesh	3/18	Melissa Stewart	3/27
Carrie Biggerstaff	3/03	Robert Badger	3/09	Stephanie Vincent	3/19	Lena Rogers	3/27
Grace Henze	3/04	Dale Funke	3/10	Erin Sutter	3/19	Hunter Brown	3/27
Gloria Plata	3/04	Clifford Snyder	3/10	Joshua Simpson	3/19	Margaret Collins	3/28
Robert Roth	3/05	Owen Long	3/10	Henry Long	3/19	Lantz Toney	3/28
Liz Pierce	3/05	Colton Toney	3/12	Alan Raschke	3/20	Matthew Gillette	3/28
Kimberly Davis	3/06	Lynn Molinaro	3/12	Mason Wall	3/20	Gary Henry	3/28
Noah Jyrkama	3/06	Donna Smith	3/12	Brittany Bayer	3/22	David Harms	3/28
Alison Jyrkama	3/06	Carol Clark	3/13	Santiago Arias	3/22	Daniel Jones	3/29
James Herwig	3/06	Kyle Woods	3/13	Vicki Awbrey	3/22	Michelle Connor	3/29
Melissa Morgan	3/06	Brenda Henning	3/14	Sarah Mosqueda	3/23	Michael Cook	3/30
Michael Wangsmo	3/06	Emily Alderman	3/14	Stefanie McIntosh	3/23	Tina Rueda	3/30
Caroline Peltier	3/06	Judith Tennant	3/14	Emma Wooden	3/23	Carol Hyun	3/30
Casey Aulenbach	3/07	Keeley Wooden	3/14	Eric Nelsen	3/24	Linda Brinz	3/31
Angela Novacek	3/07	Anna Lindblom	3/15	Grace Merkel	3/24		
Ashley Draper	3/07	Colin Hope	3/15	Adrian Armstrong	3/24		

GLIMPSES GRACE

KINSMEN BUDGET UPDATE - CHURCH ONLY OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS FOR January 2024

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Total Income	192,778	142,475	(50,303)
Total Expenses	189,338	142,933	(46,405)
Net	3,440	(457)	(3,897)
Year-to-Date (2024)			
Total Income	192,778	142,475	(50,303)
Total Expenses	189,338	142,933	(46,405)
Net	3,440	(457)	(3,897)

GIVING UPDATE

Thankoffering	Budget	Actual	Variance
January 2024	123,900	92,527	(31,373)
2024	123,900	92,527	(31,373)



GLIMPSES OF SHARING GRACE

CARE MINISTRY

February 2024	
Flower Deliveries	66
Prayer Shawls	3

GLIMPSES OF GRACE

January 2024	
Noisy Offering—Living Water International	1,798.96
General Mission Support	8,928.67
Designated Mission Support	324
KCA Scholarships	277.50
Good Samaritan Fund	-
January TOTAL	11,329.13
YTD TOTAL	11,329.13

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.

This month's dates are March 1 and 15 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 - EVENTS - to sign up to volunteer. Contact [Lynnae Schatz](#) if you have any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Food Distribution	March 2 and 16	VOLUNTEER
Naomi Bible Study	March 5	CONTACT PASTOR BETH
Mental Health Matters	March 6 & 20	https://bit.ly/MHMZLink
Kinsmen Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Delivery Day	March 9 or 23	See page 17
Quilting	March 9 & 24	CONTACT LYNNAE
Noisy Offering	March 9-10	MAKE AN OFFERING
Blood Drive	March 10	MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
55+Lunch	March 11	MORE INFORMATION
Book Club	March 21	
Pickleball	March 21 at 6:30PM	CONTACT LYNNAE
Kinsmen Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build Day	March 23	REGISTER
Meet and Greet Pastor Adriana Johnson-Rivas	March 23	
Congregational Meeting	March 24	
Order Easter Lilies	Deadline March 25	ORDER HERE
Good Friday Service Project	March 29 at noon	
Sunday School—Making Sense of Martin Luther		https://bit.ly/Luther2024
Sunday School—Wrestling with Doubt	Begins April 7	REGISTER
Old Testament Overview Study	Sundays at 9:45AM	REGISTER
Weekly Lectionary Study	Wednesdays at 10AM	REGISTER
Men's Bible Study - Monday Nights	Mondays at 7PM	REGISTER
Women's Bible Study - Thursday Mornings	Thursdays at 10AM	
Discipleship Path	Take the Inventory	HERE
Lent Midweek Worship - Wednesdays in Lent	Wednesdays at 7PM	
Lent Donations	Ends March 28	https://bit.ly/LWRcarekits24

Volunteer for Meals on Wheels!

Monday - Saturday

Morning Shifts

HOT MEAL DELIVERY

From NAM's 3 Meals on
Wheels Locations:

- NAM Main Office
- West Side Office
- Bear Creek



To sign up email
volunteer@namonline.org

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. Jay Shailer, Pastor of Discipleship
jshailer@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

Robert Lewis, Organist
rlewis@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.