



Kinsmen

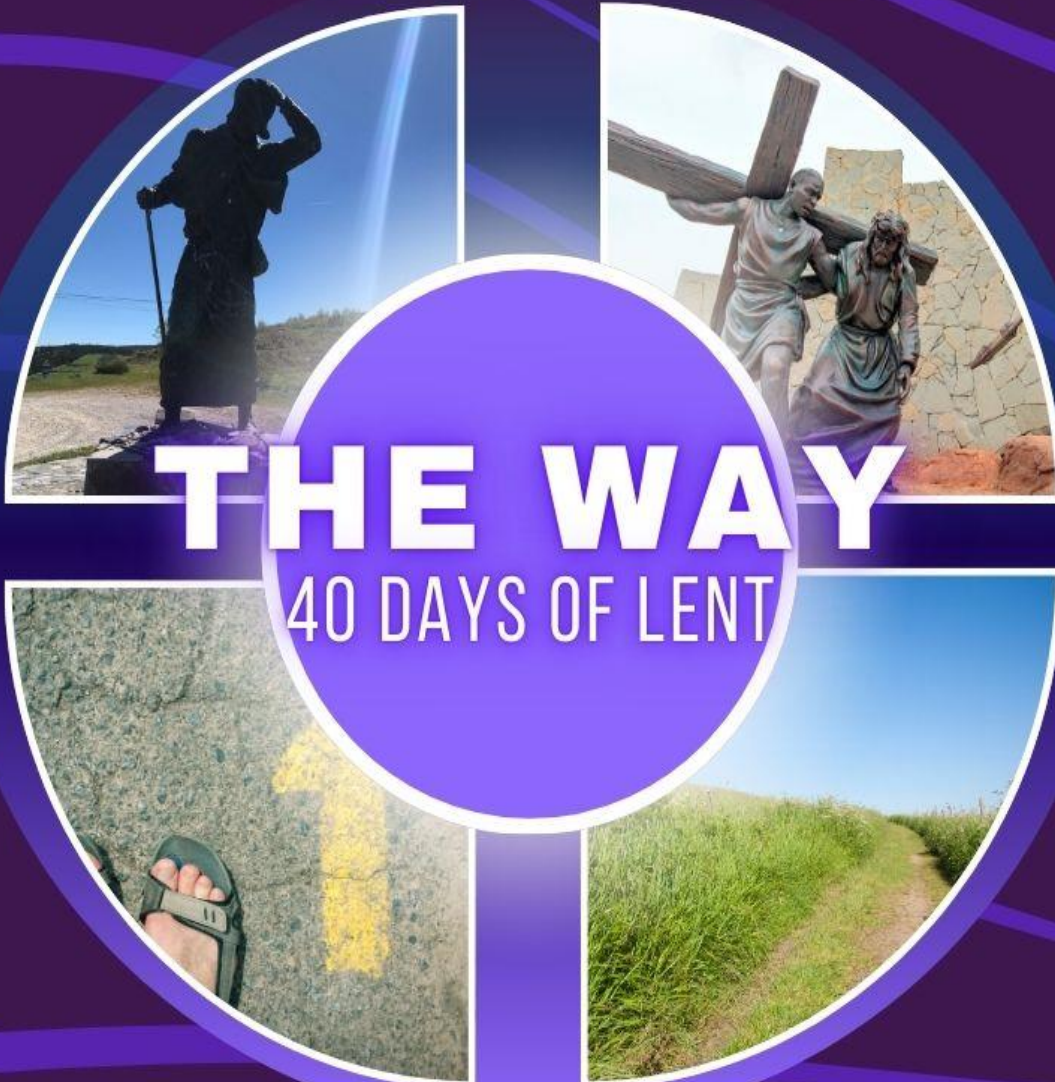
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rooted in Faith. Relevant to Life.

March 2025

CONNECTION

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March 2025

Grace and Peace be with you all this season of walking with our Lord to the cross!

I want to invite you all to be part of this journey at Kinsmen as we begin the 40 days of Lent on Ash Wednesday, culminating with Holy Week and the Great Three Days of Christ's betrayal, crucifixion, and resurrection. As Lutheran Christians we are people who understand God through the lens of the cross. All we think, say, and do is shaped by our new standing with God; our *justification*, as Luther explains our salvation. Justification is a blessing for our lives, having been made right by the gift of grace offered through Jesus' selfless death, and sealed in trust forever by the empty tomb.



As you prepare to enter Lent, know that you are entering into a profoundly *liminal space*. By that, I mean that I have always experienced Lent as if existing in an entirely different place. That place is where the brokenness of our humanity and the patient love of the divine are extremely close. Almost as if we are being compressed into the familiar nature of Jesus' humanity and the profound comfort of his divinity. God prepares this space to squeeze the dark corners of our consciences into the light and inspire us with a glimpsing image of what life is like on the other side of our resurrection.

Come encounter the God who hung on the cross for you by bearing your witness to the amazing love of God as we gather this Lent. Open your hearts, your minds, and your spirits to embrace what can only be described as holy mystery. I'll see you this Lent, as we accompany one another to the foot of the cross, which holds the savior of the entire world!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. Russell".

Pastor Jay

LENT BEGINS

*with Ash Wednesday
on March 5*



Sermon Series: The Way

Beginning March 8/9

The forty days, called Lent, are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we embark. It is THE WAY. Join us for this 6-week sermon series that will conclude with Palm Sunday and Holy Week.



Dates	Sermon Title	First Reading	Gospel
March 8-9	Confession and Temptation	Rom 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
March 15-16	Covenants and Sacrificial Mission	Gen 15:1-12, 17-18	Luke 13:31-35
March 22-23	Repentance and Patience	Isa 55:1-9	Luke 13:1-9
March 29-30	Lost and Found	2 Cor 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
April 5-6	Gratitude and Generosity	Psalm 126	John 12:1-8

Lent Midweek Meal and Worship

Beginning March 12

Want to come to midweek worship but don't have time for your evening meal? Join us for a pizza and salad supper in the Coffee House from 5:30 – 6:45 PM before the midweek Lent worships beginning March 12.

Contact Lynnae Schatz (lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org) with questions.

Midweek worship this Lent will include special speakers each sharing stories from their faith journey. We will be using Holden evening prayer.

March 12: Lene Bruheim

March 19: Sandra Gutierrez

March 26: Noah Jyrkama

April 2: Tess Long



Community of Hope Lay Chaplains Commissioned March 1/2

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 1 and 2, we will commission all Lay Chaplains. The newly trained Lay Chaplains are: Krista Guerrero; Claudia Mullins; Richard Blumberg; Wendi Gordon; Janet O’Bryant; Lynn Scheiber; and Beena Thomas.

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@klch.org).



Abendmusik Presents: Monarch Chamber Players Friday April 4 @ 7PM

Mark your calendars for the first Abendmusik event of 2025! Monarch Chamber Players are a group of Houston-based musicians who specialize in fun, engaging classical music concerts. They tour around Houston performing in different configurations. For the concert in April, they will be presenting piano quartets—3 string players and a piano.

The concert will include music by Gabriel Fauré and Houston composer Emma Wine!

As always, Abendmusik concerts are free and open to the public.



JOIN US FOR
BOOK CLUB
*March 27
in the Coffee
House.*

**BENEATH A
SCARLET
SKY**
A NOVEL
MARK SULLIVAN

Kinsmen has a book club that meets once a month to discuss a book that is chosen by the members.
We read a variety of genres and all are welcome.
Our March book is Beneath the Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan.

Breakfast at Kinsmen

Sundays from 9-11AM

There will be no Sunday morning breakfasts during the month of March. Donuts will be available in the Coffee House.

Might you be willing to cook? Interested in cooking future breakfasts?

Contact [Lynnae Schatz](mailto:Lynnae.Schatz@klch.org) at lschatz@klch.org.

Breakfast

Donuts this Month

And Coffee!

in the Coffee House

55+ Ministry

Tuesday, March 4th Pancake Supper

5:30pm – 6:30pm in the CLC (gym)

All (women, men, children, teens) are invited.

A love offering will be collected.

Please register [HERE](#) or go to <https://kinsmenlutheran.org/special-events>



Monday, March 10th @ 12:30pm

Lunch at Lambeau's Sports Bar and Grill

Please register [HERE](#) or go to <https://kinsmenlutheran.org/special-events>

Join a Group or Class

We have groups and classes resuming and many new opportunities to join a Bible Study or common interest group.

Go to www.bit.ly/KinsmenGroup to find a group or class you would like to be a part of.



Naomi Bible Study: Faithfulness

Tuesday, March 4 at 10AM

We invite women of all ages to join us for the Naomi Bible study, which meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 10AM in the Coffee House in the Community Life Center.

We are currently studying Faithfulness. On March 4th, we will consider Faith in the Depths: Psalm 22. David testifies that God is God and worthy of praise, even as David is in despair. It's no wonder that Jesus cried out to God during the crucifixion using these very words. In our worst times, this psalm gives us a way to contemplate God's holiness.

You will find Naomi to be an informal, caring group of women. We welcome you to join our discussion and sharing. Please join us on March 4th at 10:00! For any questions, please contact Pastor Jay Shailer.

We welcome you to our discussion! Please join us on March 4th at 10:00! For any questions, contact [Pastor Jay Shailer](#).

Small Catechism Class

Sundays at 9:45AM beginning March 9

Join Pastor Jay during the season of Lent to take a dive into our Lutheran Christian Tradition. Each week we will be discussing a section of the Small Catechism. Whether you were a straight A student in confirmation class or slept through the entire thing there's a place for you to ask questions and contemplate our understanding of God's grace given to us in Jesus' death and resurrection.

Class will be Sundays, March 9th through April 13th during the education hour in Room #12/13.

THE SMALL CATECHISM

Sunday Morning Class w/ Pastor Jay
9:45am - 10:45am | Room 12/13

Mar 9th: 10 Commandments

Mar 16th: The Creed

Mar 23rd: The Lord's Prayer

Mar 30th: The Sacrament of Baptism

April 6th: The Sacrament of the Altar

April 13th: Blessings/Prayers

The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

Beginning in March

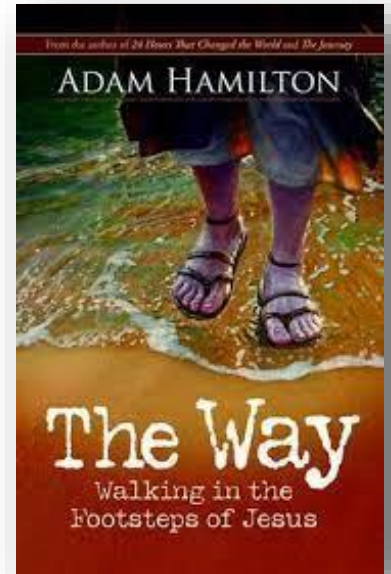
The Lenten season is a perfect time to deepen our walk with Christ. Kinsmen family, the Discipleship Team invites you to a Lenten season group launch of Adam Hamilton's book, *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*. Join one of a number of small groups that will be traveling with Adam Hamilton as he retraces the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

In this study, Hamilton shares his travels to the places described in the four gospels in an attempt to put the life of Jesus Christ in a fresh perspective. Each of the six sessions will focus on a geographic area of Israel:

1. The Jordan River and the wilderness, where Jesus was baptized and tempted
2. Capernaum, where Jesus healed
3. The mountains, from which Jesus proclaimed the kingdom
4. The Sea of Galilee, where Jesus calmed the storm
5. Samaria, where Jesus associated with sinners and outcasts
6. Jerusalem, where Jesus experienced his final week culminating with his crucifixion and resurrection

Using historical information, archaeological data, and stories of faith, Hamilton follows in the footsteps of Jesus from his baptism to the temptations to the heart of his ministry.

There are a variety of dates, times, and locations for this study launching on March 9th. Sign up in the narthex this weekend or sign up [HERE](#).



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, March 4 from 5:30—6:30PM

On Fat Tuesday—also called Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras—the traditional evening meal includes pancakes. Why is this? This custom dates back to days when Lenten fasts were strictly observed and fat, sugar and eggs forbidden during the 40-day fast of Lent.

So, join in the fun and celebrate by eating pancakes on Tuesday, March 4 from 5 PM – 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.

A love offering will be collected to help offset expenses.

Please RSVP using the link below so that we know how many pancakes to prepare. <https://bit.ly/2025PancakeSupper>

Questions? Contact Colette Edwards (cedwards@klch.org)



Preschool Prayer Milestone

Saturday, March 1 at 10AM in Room B114

Prayer isn't just folding your hands and speaking words – it's so much more! As Lent approaches, let's learn together about prayer!

Preschoolers (ages 3-4ish – we are flexible!) bring your adults and let's learn together. Siblings are always welcome! Contact Sara Ray at sray@klch.org for more information.



Lent Activity

Sunday, March 2 at 9:45AM

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5. How will your family mark this time of fasting, giving, and praying? We have an idea! Our Lent Jars will help encourage you to fast, give, and pray together as a family.

Join us in Rooms 12 & 13 to make these jars together on Sunday, March 2 at 9:45AM. This activity replaces Sunday School, and we hope adults will attend with their children. Everyone is welcome!

Contact [Sara Ray](#) with any questions!



Summer Camp at Lutherhill

Summer 2025 for 1st - 8th Grades

Summer Camp at Lutherhill is a great summer activity for kids in 1st through 8th grade!

Contact [Sara Ray](#) with any questions!



Camp Hope—Save the Date!

June 9-13; June 16-20; June 23-27

Camp Hope a day camp run by the Kinsmen youth and is for children currently in Pre-K (entering Kinder in fall 2025) 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 at www.kinsmenlutheran.org/camp-hope



Be a part of the 2025 Camp Hope Staff

Students currently in 7th-12th grade

Camp Hope Staff Applications are available here: <https://bit.ly/CampHopeStaff25>

7th & 8th Graders only need to fill out an application.

High School youth will fill out an application and be interviewed. Interviews will begin this month.

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 to Pastor Jay at jshailer@klch.org if you have any questions!

Kinsmen Children's Academy

Kinsmen Children's Academy – now enrolling!

Registration is now open for the 2025-26 School Year! Join us as we grow children for a life rooted in faith in our full-time, year-round preschool for ages 0-4. We have over 50 years of quality childcare experience!

Go to www.kinsmenlutheran.org/early-learning or contact Sara Ray (sray@klch.org)



Chair Yoga

Mondays and Fridays

Join in on the fun for a suggested donation of \$5 per class every Monday and Friday morning from 10:30–11:30AM. The class is great! The class has moved during the restroom remodel to the Coffee House.

Questions? Contact [Lynnae Schatz](mailto:Lynnae.Schatz@klch.org) at (lschatz@klch.org).



Pickleball

March 13 & 27 at 6:30PM

Join in on the fun on Thursday, February 13 and February 27 at 6:30PM. All equipment is provided. Dress comfortably.

Questions?

Contact [Lynnae Schatz](mailto:Lynnae.Schatz@klch.org) at lschatz@klch.org or Ken Mersiovsky



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 lower than normal due to the poor weather in January and February.

Schedule your appointment
today at:
<https://bit.ly/March9BloodDrive>



March 9 from 8AM - 12:30PM

Lutheran World Relief

Personal Care Kits

Collected March 5 - April 17

Personal Care Kits are one of LWR's most requested items and make a simple yet profound difference to families struggling in poverty.

In a world filled with strife, the demand for kits grows every year and LWR relies on our generous hearts to make sure those with the very least are not forgotten. Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help.

Making Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits is a simple, fun and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need. LWR Personal Care Kits are specifically designed to help people cope with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.

Personal Care Kit items will be collected in the narthex from Ash Wednesday, March 5 through Maundy Thursday, April 17. We will assemble them on Good Friday, April 18.



Noisy Offering - March 8/9

Lutheran World Relief

For many years, Kinsmen has faithfully supported Lutheran World Relief in their response to natural disasters and other humanitarian crises around the world--from the earthquake in Turkey, the invasion of Ukraine, and wildfires in Maui. Now, from North Carolina to California, your love is a beacon of hope for families in crisis. In North Carolina, winter weather has made life even harder for those who have lost their homes in the flooding and destruction caused by Hurricane Helene. In California, wildfires destroyed numerous communities.

THANK YOU to everyone who has already supported relief efforts. It's ONLY because of you that we can help at all — let alone mobilize quickly, help in multiple places at once and have the greatest impact possible!

Your gift is a lifeline for neighbors who are feeling overwhelmed and helpless. Your act of compassion and kindness provides them with immediate aid and ongoing support. When you give now, this is what you make happen:

- For those most in need, you provide hot meals, essential household supplies and support for transportation costs, so they can travel out of harm's way.
- You help deliver LWR Quilts and Kits to our partners in and around Los Angeles, so they can provide comfort for evacuees and families who have lost their homes.
- You make the long road to recovery and rebuilding possible.

In North Carolina, your generosity continues to meet neighbors with critical support including clean water, hot meals, household items and building supplies, cash assistance and LWR Quilts & Kits.

In southern California, you're supporting local partners to provide support for local churches on the front lines, tarps and essential supplies, cash assistance and LWR Quilts & Kits.

Thank you for extending God's love where it is needed most.

Food Distribution—Sign up to Volunteer

March 1 & 15

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



Visit <https://kinsmenlutheran.org/food-distribution> - to volunteer. Contact [Lynnae Schatz](#) if you have any questions.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

March 3, 8 & 24

There are three dates for quilting in March. Kinsmen will be quilting for Lutheran World Relief on Monday, March 3 from 1 – 3 PM, Saturday, March 8 from 9 – 11:30 AM and Monday, March 24 from 1-3 PM. Training is provided. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! Contact Connie Jackson or [Lynnae Schatz](#) at lschatz@klch.org for more information.



Redeemed Ministries, a Kinsmen Partner

Kinsmen mission partner Redeemed Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry serving survivors of sex trafficking. Redeemed operates an 8-bed restorative care home on the north side of Houston. As the longest-running home in the state of Texas, Redeemed has led the way in individualized, trauma-informed, client-centered care.

REDEEMED

Save the date!

Are you looking for a way to serve Christ and make a difference in the lives of survivors? Learn more about the mission and vision of Redeemed Ministries, the healing process of the ladies they serve, and how you can make a difference in their journey. Save the date! Redeemed will provide information and volunteer training at Kinsmen on Thursday, May 15, from 12:30-4:30. Mark your calendar now and look for more information coming soon.

As Redeemed often closes its messages...

In His grip,

Vicki Bigham, Kinsmen Champion for Redeemed



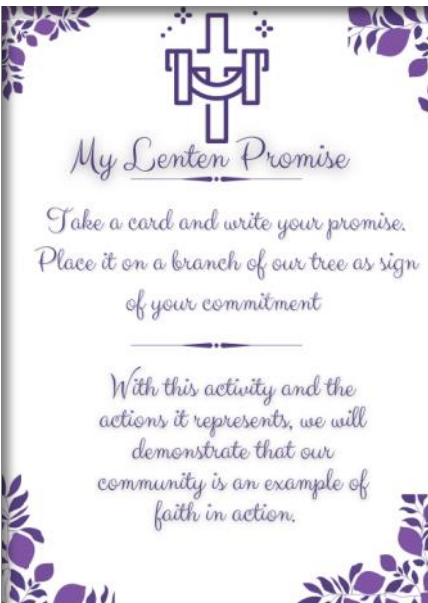
Dia de la Candelaria

On the day of La Candelaria (February 2), we shared a special blessing. At the end of the Sunday service, we shared tamales, that individuals made according to their tradition. The tamales were filled with different flavors and with dough of different colors which celebrated the diversity within Hispanicity. It was a time to share and enjoy with the family.



New Member Class

On Sunday, February 9th, we had our new member class in Spanish. There were 17 people in attendance which exceeded our expectations. We were able to get to know each of the participants more deeply, their history, their talents and skills to involve them more in the work of the congregation. Very soon we will celebrate each of them as they join Kinsmen/Sagrada Familia as members.



Lenten Tree

During Lent, we invite you to participate in our traditional, Lenten Tree, which will be located in the Sanctuary .

How can you participate?

Take a card, located at the foot of the tree and write your Lenten promise, here are some ideas:

- Visit a sick person.
- Volunteering.
- Ask for forgiveness, don't hold a grudge
- Comfort someone sad, invite to share
- Invite someone to join you for coffee or lunch



March Birthdays

Timothy Stolz	3/01	Natalie Hughes	3/08	Donna Roberts	3/16	Christian Lester	3/25
Sheri England	3/02	Ava Hughes	3/08	Nikita Grimes	3/17	Kathryn Malone	3/25
Daniel Goodell	3/02	Evan Anderson	3/09	Dani Pulcifer	3/17	Ruby Remmert	3/26
Tom Liewer	3/03	Brian Haas	3/09	Barbara Hey	3/18	Melissa Stewart	3/27
Melissa McAnear	3/03	Brandon Vasquez	3/09	Patricia Benesh	3/18	Lena Rogers	3/27
Jalaiah Nwachukwu	3/03	Robert Badger	3/09	Stephanie Vincent	3/19	Hunter Brown	3/27
Carrie Biggerstaff	3/03	Dale Funke	3/10	Erin Sutter	3/19	Margaret Collins	3/28
Grace Henze	3/04	Clifford Snyder	3/10	Joshua Simpson	3/19	Lantz Toney	3/28
Gloria Plata	3/04	Owen Long	3/10	Henry Long	3/19	Matthew Gillette	3/28
Kimberly Davis	3/06	Colton Toney	3/12	Alan Raschke	3/20	Gary Henry	3/28
Noah Jyrkama	3/06	Lynn Molinaro	3/12	Mason Wall	3/20	David Harms	3/28
Alison Jyrkama	3/06	Donna Smith	3/12	Brittany Bayer	3/22	Gabriella Nemoto	3/28
James Herwig	3/06	Carol Clark	3/13	Santiago Arias	3/22	Daniel Jones	3/29
Melissa Morgan	3/06	Kyle Woods	3/13	Vicki Awbrey	3/22	Michelle Connor	3/29
Michael Wangsmo	3/06	Brenda Henning	3/14	Sarah Mosqueda	3/23	Michael Cook	3/30
Caroline Peltier	3/06	Emily Alderman	3/14	Eric Nelsen	3/24	Tina Rueda	3/30
Casey Aulenbach	3/07	Judith Tennant	3/14	Grace Merkel	3/24	Carol Hyun	3/30
Angela Novacek	3/07	Colin Hope	3/15	Adrian Armstrong	3/24	Linda Brinz	3/31
Ashley Draper	3/07			Kelly England	3/25		

**KINSMEN BUDGET UPDATE - CHURCH ONLY
OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS FOR January 2025**

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Total Income	263,714	245,231	(18,483)
Total Expenses	180,952	172,375	(8,577)
Net	82,763	72,856	(9,906)
Year-to-Date (2025)			
Total Income	263,714	245,231	(18,483)
Total Expenses	180,952	172,375	(8,577)
Net	82,763	72,856	(9,906)

GIVING UPDATE

Thankoffering	Budget	Actual	Variance
January 2025	210,958	197,638	(13,321)
2024	210,958	197,638	(13,321)

Restroom Renovations

The bathroom renovations continue to move forward. As you may be aware, some out of scope issues (structural and plumbing/hot water heater) not originally anticipated were discovered during demolition. If you are able, please consider giving to help finish the project. You can denote your gift towards the renovations either on your check or online (<https://kinsmenlutheran.org/give/>). *choose thankoffering and leave a note "restrooms" in the note section.*



GLIMPSES OF SHARING GRACE

CARE MINISTRY

February 2025	
Flower Deliveries	41
Prayer Shawls	1

GLIMPSES OF GRACE

January 2025	
Noisy Offering	\$2,000.90
General Mission Support	\$17,456.26
Designated Mission Support	\$150.00
KCA Scholarships	\$382.50
January TOTAL	\$19,989.66
YTD TOTAL	\$19,989.66

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

MIDWEEK LENT

Wednesdays
7PM

Kinsmen Staff

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

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Gonzalo Montes, Custodian

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Kelsea Tipping, Young Adult Ministry Coordinator
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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

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Membership

Interested in learning more
about Kinsmen?

Contact Pastor Beth or Lynnae Schatz
for more information.

