



Kinsmen

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rooted in Faith. Relevant to Life.

January 2026

CONNECTION

12100 Champion Forest Drive
Houston, TX 77066
281.444.3126



Light to All Nations

A New Sermon Series Beginning January 3/4

Inside This Issue

Pastor's Word
page 2

Bible Studies
pages 5-6

Noisy Offering
page 15

Birthdays
page 18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas (it's still Christmas through Epiphany on January 6) and Happy New Year!! (although Advent is the beginning of the church year. ;-))

As the holiday lights fade, we often look inward and to ourselves for light and hope. We make resolutions and big plans full of hope for what this next year will be like. But when that enthusiasm wains a bit, it can feel even more dark, especially if we're turned inward looking only to ourselves.

Recently, I quoted a passage written by Joan Chittister about darkness in my sermon: "Darkness is that period of life when nothing seems to be going as we expected. The value of a dark time is that it insists that we become new, even to ourselves. It is a time that challenges us to recreate ourselves in the image of the Spirit who calls us to become everything we can be...To fail to trust the light that is coming when this period is over, is therefore to fail to trust the continuing new dawns of life. But if we can possibly learn to trust darkness, to understand that life is a pattern of starts and stops, of celebrating the past, of coming to terms with the present, of believing the future to be kind, then we can come to understand that the dark parts are only those closing down moments, like flowers at night, till the sun shines once more...It is the...point at which we learn to understand that ... God is [indeed] at work in our lives." In other words, the Light of Christ is always shining in the darkness—even when we can't perceive it—but we can always trust that the SON will rise again! –(John 1:5 paraphrased)

For this reason, we will begin 2026 with the sermon series: "Light to All Nations." Drawing from Isaiah's visions of hope and justice and Matthew's witness to Christ's birth and baptism, we will discover how God's Light breaks into the darkness, transforms our lives, and sends us out to reflect that Light to others. We will see that this light is not limited or exclusive, but meant for every nation and every corner of God's world. And, like the Magi, we will offer our gifts trusting that God is leading even when the path is unfamiliar.

With Pastor Jay's departure, some of the gifts offered in the next few months will be those of guest preachers. Thank you to Pastors Steve Stutz, Arthur Murphy, and Mark Warpmaeker who are lined up to help. In addition, Kristen Schulze, along with many volunteers, will help with youth ministry during this Interim time. Please welcome them all (back) during this time of transition as we, together, proclaim the Light of Christ to all!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Pastor Beth, Senior Pastor
Kinsmen Lutheran Church



The Kinsmen staff would like to say
Happy New Year and Thank You for the
Pastor and Staff Christmas gifts!

Update From the Long-Range Vision Team

The Long Range Vision Team's purpose is to research the demographics in the community, get an understanding of the community's needs, and discern in which ways we might be able to respond in Jesus' name in the next 5 years. We want to understand what is going on within Kinsmen and the community around us so we can understand what God is calling us to do in the future. To do this, we have formed smaller work teams to focus on capturing our Congregational Identity (who we are - history, culture, values), Congregational Internal Context (our needs and strengths), and Congregational External Context (our neighbors and their needs). Congregational Feedback, Census Data, Internal Data, and Community Interviews are the four work teams. The Congregational Feedback work team has been carefully reviewing the input shared by Kinsmen's members through in-person interviews, online surveys, and the short questionnaires distributed during our annual congregational meeting. We are conducting an in-depth analysis of this information to identify key themes that can help guide Kinsmen's future—specifically how our members perceive Kinsmen congregation's strengths, resources, challenges/weaknesses, attitudes, and overall perceptions. Thank you to those who gave feedback. If you have additional input, please contact one of these members of the team: Jason Awbrey, Terri Beeler, Keith Cook, Tami Covington, Sandra Gutierrez, Jennifer Kaurich (Chair), Steven Long, Linda Martens, Mike Nash, Kim O'Neal, Mark Rodenhauer, and Pastor Beth Warpmaeker.

Church Council News

A Message from Kinsmen's Outgoing and Incoming Church Council Presidents:

As you are aware, Pastor Jay has recently accepted a call in Florida, and his last day at Kinsmen was Sunday, December 21st. The Council has enjoyed our time working with Pastor Jay, and wish him, Ali and their boys Godspeed and best wishes in his future call. The Council and Executive Team are working closely with Pastor Beth and staff to ensure we will have adequate pastoral coverage through Advent, Christmas, and into next year, including bringing in additional, temporary Pastoral support as needed. This has been going well so far, with most of our near-term needs already addressed. We will continue to work with Pastor Beth and the Synod to identify a more "permanent" interim resource for early 2026, with some potential leads already identified. We ask that you please continue your support of Pastor Beth and the Kinsmen staff, including considering any additional volunteer opportunities at church which could help lighten their load in the interim.

Thank You and God Bless,

Brad Young

2025 Kinsmen Church Council President

Andrew Hanson

2026 Kinsmen Church Council President



OFFICES WILL BE
CLOSED
JANUARY 1

Sermon Series: Light to All Nations

As we experience the long nights of winter and step into a new year, we will reflect on God's light that breaks into and shines brightest in seasons of darkness. This sermon series draws from Isaiah's visions and Matthew's witness to Christ's birth and baptism. We'll hear how the light and hope of Christ is for all people. We'll discover how Christ's light leads, restores, and shapes us for lives of faithful service. We'll also be reminded that the light of Christ is meant to shine through us into the world. Join us for this 6-week sermon series that begins the weekend of January 3rd and 4th.



Dates	Sermon Title	First Reading	Gospel
January 3/4	"A New Light Shines"	Isaiah 60:1-6	Matthew 2:1-12
January 10/11	"Light for All Creation"	Isaiah 42:1-9	Matthew 3:13-17
January 17/18	"Following the Light"	Isaiah 49:1-7	John 1:29-42
January 24/25	"Light That Calls Us to Serve"	Isaiah 9:1-4	Matthew 4:12-23
January 31/February 1	"Light that Blesses"	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
February 7/8	"The Light Shines Through Us"	1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Matthew 5:13-20

Flower Angel

Ever sit in church on Sunday and wonder where the flowers on the altar came from? They might have come from the person sitting next to you. Kinsmen is blessed with its own Flower Committee. The Flower Committee takes donations of \$25 in honor of, in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a family milestone and uses the donations to create the beautiful altar and narthex arrangements. After the worship services the arrangements are moved to the cooler in the flower room. On Mondays, a team of rearrangers break the floral pieces down to make smaller arrangements of flowers that are delivered to Kinsmen members and friends.

If you have donated flowers for that week one of the smaller arrangements will be delivered to you. The smaller arrangements may be delivered to the hospitalized, the homebound, the sick, the grieving, those celebrating the birth of a baby, and/or even for "just because" reasons. Your \$25 donation for flowers does a lot of work. It beautifies the Sanctuary for the worship services, it can honor a loved one's memory, it can celebrate a loved one's achievements, it can be given to the Glory of God, it can remind a Kinsmen member that others are thinking of them and praying for God's healing grace to come to them in a time of need. You may donate online (kinsmenlutheran.org under the worship tab) or sign up on the chart located in the narthex. Thank you for sharing grace!



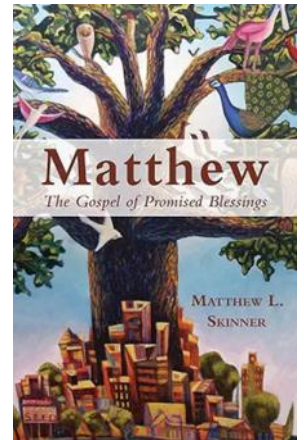
P.S. If you are interested in being involved in the arranging and/or re-arranging of flowers contact [Lynnae Schatz](#). Training is provided.

Gospel of Matthew Bible Study

Sundays at 9:45AM Beginning January 11

Pastor Beth and John Turnquist will facilitate this 6-week study on The Gospel of Matthew. This will be the primary gospel we focus on in 2026. This study will look at the themes, topics, and tensions at the heart of Matthew's story about the life and work of Jesus. The resource we will use, written by Matt Skinner, has chapters that focus on blessing and comfort, judgment and retribution, the meaning of discipleship, Jesus' vision for the Church and world, conflicts and complaints, and how the Gospel of Matthew speaks to believers today.

Register for this class here: <https://bit.ly/MatthewClass>.



Weekly Lectionary Study Group

Wednesdays at 10AM

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 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 meet on Wednesdays at 10:00AM.

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

Naomi Circle

Resumes in February

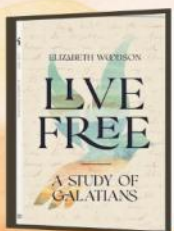
The Naomi Bible Study group celebrated Christmas and our deep bond with one another in a December gathering. We look forward to the new year! We will not meet in January but will enjoy connecting with other women as we celebrate Women's Little Christmas on January 5th, resuming our studies in February. We invite women of all ages to meet with us in the new year



at 10:00AM 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, beginning on February 3rd! It will be here before you know it! For any questions, contact [Pastor Beth Warpmaeker](#).

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

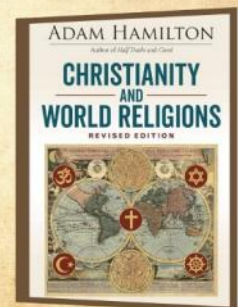
Beginning again on January 8th
at 10AM in the Community Room



This group meets from 10AM-12:30PM
and is facilitated by Krista Guerrero

Upcoming Bible Study Beginning January 11

This class will be
facilitated by Skip Brinz
and will be taking place
at 9:45AM in Room C128
(formerly Room 19)



Kinsmen's Marriage Milestone Dinner and Program

Completely!

A Celebration Of Love And Marriage

Saturday, January 31 at 6:30-9:00PM



Registrations for this event are required.

The registration deadline is Monday, January 26 at 5:00PM

Cost is \$25 per person.

Marriage Milestone Dinner & Program

Whether you've been married 6 days or 60 years, come celebrate the love you have for each other. We'll gather at 6:30PM for a lovely catered dinner. Feel free to bring a bottle of wine if you like. Our program begins at 8:00 in the sanctuary. Warren Hanson has been a member of Kinsmen since moving here to marry his wife Becky. He is a nationally known author and illustrator, and an accomplished musician. His program will be songs that he has written, and readings from one or two of his books. You may feel like each one is about YOUR love, and YOUR marriage. That special gift that you share with each other so "Completely!" Registrations are needed for this event.

To Register click [HERE](#) or visit this link: <https://bit.ly/marriagemilestone2026>.

Discover Your Gifts January 4 at 9:45AM

Like the Magi, we all have gifts to offer the newborn King! To begin 2026, we can each explore the gifts and talents God has given to us. On January 3rd and 4th, we will explore this briefly in worship, but we will also have an opportunity to dig into this more deeply at a class on January 4 at 9:45AM. We look forward to seeing you in the Conference Room! Pastor Beth and the Discipleship Team will review some of the online resources and books available to Discover Your Spiritual Gifts and see how God might want to use those gifts in 2026.



Travel to Greece

Pastor Beth will be taking a group trip called "Journeys of the Apostle Paul and the Greek Islands" April 15-26, 2026. The cost WITHOUT airfare will be \$3,890. The itinerary will begin in Thessaloniki and Philippi. It will travel south to Athens and Corinth and then it will include a 4-day cruise to a few islands including Patmos with a visit to Ephesus in Turkey. There are already 28 people signed up so, please let Pastor Beth know if you are interested in traveling with this group in April 2026 or register [HERE](#).



An Evening of Reflecting with Pastor Beth



Join us as Pastor Beth reflects on meaningful questions such as how she first felt called to ministry, the women who have shaped her faith, the unique joys and challenges she has experienced, how women can better support one another in the church and in their callings, and what she wishes more women knew about their identity in Christ.

Kinsmen Lutheran Church
12100 Champion Forest Dr.
Houston, TX 77066

January 5 • 6:30-8:30pm
Cost: \$20 (meal included)

2026 Women's Little Christmas



Scan or click QR code to
register

Chair Yoga

Might one of your New Year's Resolutions include something related to physical fitness? If yes, Chair Yoga is a perfect place to start. 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 meets in the narthex.

Questions? Contact [Lynnae Schatz](#).

55+ Ministry

Upcoming Dates

Join us for lunch at 12:30PM on the following dates:

- Sunday, January 11 in Kinsmen's Community Room
This will be a potluck luncheon.
- Monday, February 9 at Mo's Irish Pub
138 Vintage Park Blvd
- Tuesday, February 17 in Kinsmen's Gym
Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner
- Monday, March 9 at R&R Craft House Grill
12910 Malcomson Rd

Contact [Colette Edwards](mailto:cedwards@klch.org) (cedwards@klch.org) for more information.



**CHAIR
YOGA**

10:30 AM

MONDAYS AND
FRIDAYS

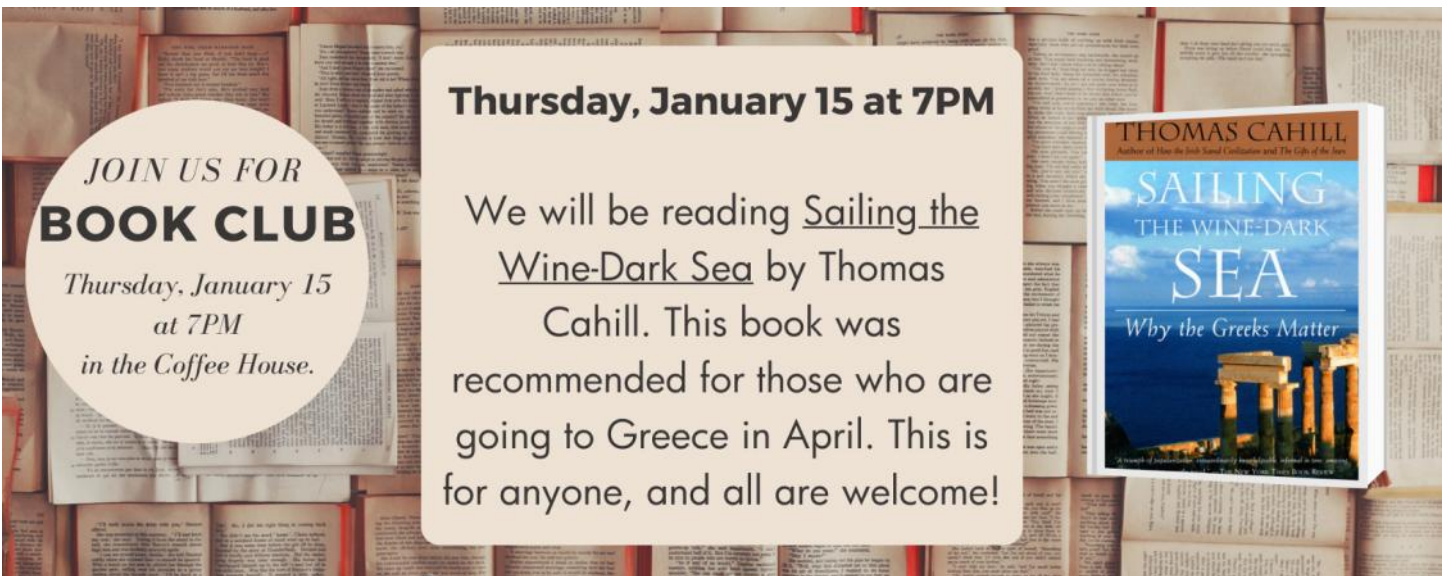
*suggested donation of \$5/class



**Kinsmen
55+
Monthly Lunch**

55+ Ministry

Sunday, January 11th
at 12:30PM
in Kinsmen's Community Room



**JOIN US FOR
BOOK CLUB**

Thursday, January 15
at 7PM
in the Coffee House.

Thursday, January 15 at 7PM

We will be reading Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea by Thomas Cahill. This book was recommended for those who are going to Greece in April. This is for anyone, and all are welcome!

THOMAS CAHILL
Author of *How the Irish Saved Civilization* and *The Gift of the Sea*

**SAILING
THE WINE-DARK
SEA**
Why the Greeks Matter

Mental Health Matters Initiative

Living with a mental health condition—or simply navigating everyday life—can be challenging, stressful, and at times, lonely. The Mental Health Matters Initiative offers a supportive space twice a month (once in person and once online) where you can share what’s on your mind or simply connect with others who understand. Each gathering is facilitated by a trained mental health peer specialist, creating a welcoming environment where you’re not alone.

The next Mental Health Matters meetings:

- January 7 - in-person at the Coffee House
- January 21 - online via **Zoom**
Register for a Zoom session: <https://bit.ly/1mentalhealthmatters>



Pickleball

Thursday, January 8 & 22 at 6:30PM

Pickleball - Join in on the fun on Thursday, January 8 and January 22 at 6:30PM. All equipment is provided. Dress comfortably. Questions? Contact [Lynnae Schatz](#) or Ken Mersiovsky.



Abendmusik Presents: Monarch Chamber Players

Friday January 9, 2026 at 7PM

Last spring, Kinsmen partnered with the Texas Commission on the Arts to present a concert by the Monarch Chamber Players. Now we’ve invited them back to warm the coldest time of year with a concert of music for clarinet, cello, and piano.

Monarch Chamber Players is a Houston collective of performers who specialize in accessible concerts filled with excellent music making. This concert features Brahms’s masterful Clarinet Trio, Op. 114 as well as pieces by Louise Farrenc and Daniel Schnyder. Afterward, join the musicians and your fellow audience members for a reception. This concert is presented with the help of the Texas Commission on the Arts. All Abendmusik events are free to attend and open to the public.



Faith Formation Retreat Friday, January 23-25

(Leave Houston around 5PM Friday, return to Houston around 12PM Sunday).

This year we are combining our Confirmation Retreat (6th, 7th, and 8th graders) and our Communion Retreat (3rd, 4th, and 5th graders) for an awesome Faith Formation Retreat at Lutherhill! Retreats at Lutherhill are an awesome way to get to know Kinsmen people, so we thought we'd make it an even bigger gathering! There will be two "tracks" so the kids will be learning about Confirmation or Communion separately, but we will have time together as a Kinsmen family as well. For more details about this event or questions, contact [Sara Ray](#).



Kinder and 1st Grade Milestone The Church Year!

Parents and kids, let's learn together about the seasons and colors of the church year. Younger and older siblings are welcome to participate with us! We will have snacks, but please have lunch before you come.

The event will be taking place on Saturday, January 10 from 12-1:30PM.

Summer Camp at Lutherhill Summer 2026

Join us for a summer adventure at Lutherhill!

Travel with your Kinsmen friends for a fun-filled week at Lutherhill this summer. Camp is open to students entering 1st–8th grade, with plenty of opportunities for faith, friendship, and unforgettable memories.

Lutherhill Summer Camp will be taking place Sunday, July 26 – Friday, July 31 (1st graders will return home on Wednesday)

Register your camper today! If you have any questions, please contact [Sara Ray](#) if you have any questions.



Kinsmen Children's Academy

Now enrolling!

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 for more information, or contact [Sara Ray](mailto:Sara.Ray@klch.org) (sray@klch.org).



Playground Playdate

Saturday, January 10 at 10AM

We will meet on the playground 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!

Camp Hope—Save the Date!

Summer 2026

Camp Hope 2026 will be June 8-12, June 15-19, June 22-26.

Camp Hope is a day camp run by the Kinsmen youth and is for children currently in Pre-K (entering Kinder in fall 2026) through 7th grade. Youth currently in 8th grade and older can apply to be part of the Camp Hope Staff. Registration for campers and applications for staff will be open this spring! To be the first to hear when registration or staff applications are open, click [HERE](#) or go to <https://bit.ly/CampHopelnterest>



Loving and Giving to Redeemed

During the Christmas season, we celebrated the birth of Jesus, a story of hope, love, and peace. It was also a time for us to extend that love to Kinsmen Mission Partner Redeemed Ministries.

On November 29, Sue Loudermilk and her daughter Jennifer and Kelsea Tipping joined me at the Redeemed Education Center to decorate for Christmas.

The Naomi Women's Bible Study, as part of its holiday gathering and celebration, chose to make donations to Redeemed in lieu of a gift exchange. With monies collected, we were able to purchase gifts for the Sparrows currently living in the Sparrow safe house—cozy blankets with uplifting messages, hair braiding/styling mannequins for practice, and a gift card for the women to use as desired.

And on December 3, I had fun leading a Christmas card making workshop for the women. Their creativity and appreciation was inspiring!

Our Support Matters

I want to share a note from one of the Sparrows who recently graduated from the program: "The safe house staff welcomed me with loving arms and a compassionate heart, helping me learn that good and healthy relationships are possible. Ultimately, the staff helped me begin discovering who I am, not only to myself but also to God, while overcoming my past traumas and turning them into victories."

When Ana first arrived at Redeemed, she was angry and afraid. She desperately wanted to be cherished, but the lies she was told cut deeply and severely damaged her self-worth. Slowly, she adjusted to her new safe environment and received critical resources that helped her begin to trust, to heal, and to imagine a new future. Ana is now working with confidence and inspiring others with her courage and tenacity. A newfound joy has replaced her anger, and she knows she has true and lasting value. Her journey would not have been possible without the steadfast care of the Redeemed community.

And Redeemed would not be able to accomplish its meaningful work without support from Kinsmen and others. Thank you for any donation you have made, any volunteer time you have given, and for every prayer you have lifted for these women and the team who is guiding and supporting their escape from trauma into a God-filled life of freedom and hope. Thanks from Redeemed and my personal thanks to our Kinsmen family.

Choose grace,
Vicki Bigham



Financial Peace University (FPU)

Begins January 27, 2026



FPU is a money-management course taught by one of America's most trusted financial advisors, Dave Ramsey. During the nine weekly video classes, Dave and his teaching team will walk you through the basics of budgeting, dumping debt, charitable giving, planning for the future, and much more. Each class takes you through "baby steps" to get you (or your family) in control of your money, rather than it controlling you. Kinsmen volunteers (with gifts in personal finance) will be facilitating these video-based classes.

Some of the feedback we have received from students who have taken the course over the years include:

- "Before this class, I never felt "in control" of my finances. Now, I have a plan and confidence that I will make good decisions."
- "FPU has given me the tools I need to plan a budget and build wealth on an hourly salary. I am much more at ease about my finances."
- "We are now credit card debt free and committed to stay that way. We have most benefitted from learning God's principles of money. Thank you for offering this class. You are making a difference in the community and your congregation."

How much? The cost is \$80 per person or couple for the 9-week course with a rebate at the end. (This is less than the online cost, so register with us.) One book is included in the cost. If you attend 7 out of the 9 classes, you will receive a refund of \$20 bringing the course to \$60. (Even then, scholarships are available if needed.) Also, childcare will be provided if communicated ahead of time.

Who? This is not only for Kinsmen members. Anyone is invited to attend!

When? The class begins Tuesday, January 27 from 7:00-8:30PM. The last class will be March 24 (or March 31 if a Spring Break is needed).

Where? Kinsmen's Coffeehouse

Register here: <https://bit.ly/2026FPU>

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities



We are excited to Kick off 2026 with several opportunities to volunteer with us in January and February. No skills or tools needed for any of our events. Make sure to sign up on our SHP link below if you would like to attend. Thank you for all the support you give to our mission of "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!".

Bed Building Saturday, January 10

8AM Registration: <https://bit.ly/44QFskN>

10:15AM Registration: <https://bit.ly/4q40Bk4>

Bed Delivery Saturday, January 17

8:30AM Registration: <https://bit.ly/44MPzHt>

Bed Delivery Saturday, January 24

8:30AM Registration: <https://bit.ly/48Z2RTJ>



LIVING IS Giving
From a heart filled with gratitude, a wellspring of generosity flows.

Kinsmen LUTHERAN CHURCH
2026 Annual Giving Intent
12100 Champion Forest Drive
Houston, TX 77066
281-444-3126
kich.org

NAME(S)
CELL PHONE
EMAIL
ADDRESS

My/Our intention to the mission of God's church through Kinsmen for 2026:
\$
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 on or before November 16.

Ways to give
✉ Mail to the church
📱 Give online at kich.org
📄 Scan QR Code for online intent card

Kinsmen Generosity Team

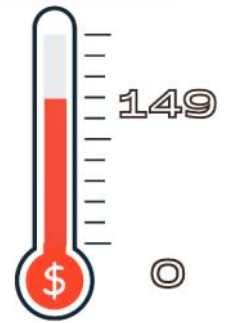
Giving Intent Cards for 2026

We appreciate your past generosity. As you consider your giving for 2026, remember that as Christians, we believe everything we have is a gift from God, and we give back in response to His generosity. This enables us to support God's mission at Kinsmen and share His grace. As you prayerfully decide on your level of giving, let your faith guide you – whether that leads you to a first-time intent card submission, tithing for a month, increasing by 7%, or some other growth opportunity. Through this process, God will provide guidance and encouragement.

As the Apostle Paul wrote: "You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity."
(2 Corinthians 9:11)

Our goal for Intent Cards this year is 180. So far, we have received 149 Intent cards (or online responses) from different families! If you have already turned one in, THANK YOU! If not, please fill out the online card here: <https://bit.ly/Annual2026Intent> OR mail it to the church at any time.

GOAL: 180 CARDS



Grace and Peace,
The Generosity Team

Food Distribution

Help is needed at Food Distribution on January 3. Could you help? Food Distributions take place at Bridging for Tomorrow (5359 W. Richey Road). Sign up to help [HERE](#) or go to <https://bit.ly/januarydistribution>.



Blest Be The Tie That Binds

Kinsmen will be quilting for Lutheran World Relief on Saturday January 10 from 9 - 11:30AM and Monday January 26 from 1 - 3:30PM. All are welcome and training is provided—no experience required! Contact Connie Jackson or [Lynnae Schatz](#) for more information.



Thanksgiving Feast THANK YOU!

The 16th Annual Thanksgiving Feast served 644 meals. The 14th Annual Run/Walk for your Turkey had 82 registrants. A special thank you to the volunteers who made the events possible and the following sponsors:

- Pie Donors
- Fleet Feet
- Klein Funeral Home
- Thrivent Action Grants
- Woodlands Realty—Cindy Watson
- New Seasons Catering
- Star Cinema Grill
- Troop 440/444
- Gringo's
- Taste of Texas
- Chick-fil-a
- 1-800-Striper



Noisy Offering: Living Water International

January 10/11

It is our custom to collect a Noisy Offering for a Mission Partner on the second weekend of the month. This month's beneficiary is Living Water International. Water is vital part of everyday life that many take for granted. Read the inspiring story below of a grandmother in Sierra Leone and the importance of Living Water International in her life.

In the Gondoma community of Sierra Leone, there was no safe water nearby, forcing women and children to endure the difficult trek to the stream. For someone like Gladis, a 63-year-old mother, who had been suffering from chronic pain for the past three years, collecting water was even more painful. She did not have family living nearby and, with the task being so physically taxing, she often had no choice but to ask others for help. Assistance was not always available,

leaving her to undertake the collection journey despite the pain it caused. When Living Water Sierra Leone came to the community and installed a hand pump right at the doorstep of Gladis' door, she felt as though she was dreaming. Gladis shared, "I am thankful every day for this water. It's more than just water; it's a chance for me to live without pain and without the burden of constant dependence. I am free again."

Not only did Gladis regain her independence with access to safe water nearby, but also a restored sense of self-worth. Appointed by her community to serve as a member of the WASH committee, she now oversees the well and has been entrusted to help maintain it. Reflecting on her new role, Gladis shared, "Being a caretaker means that I am not just receiving help but also giving back. I feel important. I feel like I have purpose again."

Let's get Noisy for Living Water International this month! Thank you for sharing grace!



Celebrando LA NAVIDAD



This year, our Christmas in the Neighborhood event brought together many community members for a celebration filled with joy and solidarity.

- Gifts for children: toys were distributed thanks to the generous donation from Flas.
- Christmas photobooth: Families captured special moments to remember.
- Health and education: Adults received valuable information, and 20 free lab tests were provided.
- Strategic partnerships: The University of Houston expressed interest in collaborating with Kinsmen on its bilingual program.



Christmas in the Neighborhood by the Numbers

- Attendance: 280 people
- Blood tests: 20
- Toys distributed: 130
- Flas volunteers: 7
- Sagrada Familia volunteers: 9



Friendly Nativity

For the second year in a row, our interactive nativity scene was a hit among the little ones, who enjoyed playing with the figures while learning about the meaning of Christmas.



La Guadalupe



We honored the Latin American tradition of the Virgin of Guadalupe with music, food, mariachis, and a piñata.





January Birthdays

Dennis Ivey	01/02	Christine Heggeseeth	01/12	Terri Beeler	01/15	Phoenix Gwamanda	01/22
Julie Johnson	01/02	Jack Howard	01/12	Susan Sachnik	01/16	Spencer Walker	01/22
Michael Nott	01/03	James Hock	01/12	Amy Woods	01/17	Joshua Kaurich	01/23
Veronica Mosqueda	01/05	Keith Cook	01/12	Leigh Anne Hahn	01/17	McKenzie Miller	01/24
Gigi Davis	01/05	Daniel Holsberg	01/12	Patrick Covington	01/17	Sin-Ming Flora Lee	01/25
Dani Hakala	01/06	Darlene Boggs	01/13	Madelyn Adank	01/17	Mark Rodenhauser	01/25
Chris Turner	01/06	Grace Mielke	01/13	Julie Peltier	01/18	Karen L Schulze	01/26
Judy DelMonte	01/06	Eva Gerber	01/14	Randall Morgan	01/18	Sue Junker	01/27
Charlie McMahan	01/08	Ann Simpson	01/14	Anna Keeling	01/20	Barton Garlin	01/28
Jackie Kloppenburg	01/08	Junior Sales	01/14	Liz Fidler	01/20	Terry Richter	01/28
Gary Mullinix	01/08	Linda Johanson	01/15	Alex Fidler	01/20	Brian Biggerstaff Jr.	01/28
Anjali Yalamanchili	01/08	Susan Rovang	01/15	Karen Miller	01/21	Mitch Rall	01/29
Bruce Novacek	01/10	Abbie Wietstruck	01/15	Tanya Klages	01/21	Jennifer Kaurich	01/30
Ben Sachnik	01/10	Madeline Wietstruck	01/15	Rex Schraeder	01/22	Sylvia Orosco	01/31
Josephine Lyons	01/10	Carolyn Barfield	01/15	Max Schraeder	01/22	April Ruen	01/31

GLIMPSES OF GRACE

Noisy Offering/Hope Center Houston	\$1,752.96
General Mission Support	\$7,028.96
Designated Mission Support	\$187.00
November TOTAL	\$8,968.92
YTD TOTAL	\$117,735.41

KINSMEN BUDGET UPDATE OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS FOR November 2025

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Total Income	154,629	126,879	(27,750)
Total Expenses	149,914	143,619	(6,294)
Net	4,716	(16,740)	(21,456)
Year-to-Date (2025)			
Total Income	1,746,878	1,667,729	(79,149)
Total Expenses	1,777,046	1,768,577	(8,469)
Net	(30,168)	(100,848)	(70,680)
GIVING UPDATE			
Thankoffering			
November 2025	102,958	80,847	(22,111)
2025	1,143,542	1,022,251	(121,291)

GLIMPSES OF SHARING GRACE

CARE MINISTRY

December 2025	
Flower Deliveries	50
Prayer Shawls	2

Donating Through a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)

If you have a donor-advised fund (DAF), consider donating to Kinsmen!

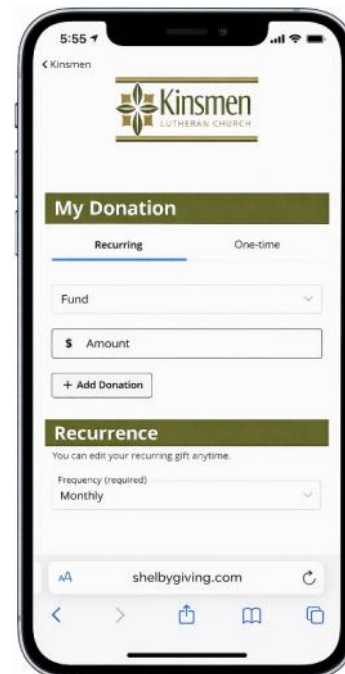
Donate through Shelby Giving

Giving financial gifts through Shelby Giving provides a fast, convenient and secure way for you to give one-time gifts or recurring donations by credit card (American Express, Discover, Mastercard or Visa) or by electronic check through your bank account. To make an electronic check payment, you will need to provide the bank routing number and account number that appears at the bottom of a check.

If this is your first experience with Kinsmen's online giving system, click "Sign In" and then "Register for an Account." This will create your profile with a password and securely store your information so that it is unnecessary to re-enter it with each gift.

4 EASY STEPS:

1. Go to this website: <https://bit.ly/ShelbyGive>
2. Sign In, Register for an Account, and Create your user profile.
3. Choose to pay by credit card or bank account and fill in the appropriate account information.
4. Choose the fund, the amount and click submit to make an online gift.



IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

INFORMAL WORSHIP

Saturdays
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@klch.org —Ext. 118

**Rev. Adriana Johnson-Rivas,
Pastor of Latino Ministries**
ajohnson-rivas@klch.org — Ext. 119

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

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

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

Anh Truong, Accounts Payable Clerk
atruong@klch.org

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

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

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

Ruben Aranda, Custodian

Gonzalo Montes, Custodian

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

Robert Lewis, Organist
rlewis@klch.org

Hannah Macon, Children's Choir Director

Kelsea Tipping, Office Manager
ktipping@kinsmenlutheran.org—Ext. 110

John-Alan Gourdine, Alleluia Choir Director
jgourdine@klch.org

CONNECTION

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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.



Office Hours

Monday—Thursday
9 AM—5 PM
Friday
9 AM—12 PM

Contact Information

281-444-3126 Phone
281-444-1733 FAX
office@kinsmenlutheran.org

Membership

Interested in learning more
about Kinsmen?

Contact Pastor Beth or Lynnae Schatz
for more information.

