



Kinsmen

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rooted in Faith. Relevant to Life.

February 2026

CONNECTION

12100 Champion Forest Drive
Houston, TX 77066
281.444.3126

Ash
Wednesday

February 18

Worship at 12PM and 7PM

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In our world filled with so much suffering, violence, division, and uncertainty, one might ask: Is God's grace still relevant? Well, I think the season of Lent is a great time for us to explore this question.

Granted, Lent can feel like a tug-of-war for Lutherans. On one side, we're invited to give something up—chocolate, scrolling, or other comforts. On the other, Ephesians 2:8 reminds us: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works." So how do these two things fit together? Grace is not something we earn; it is already ours in Christ. Lenten disciplines, then, are not a way to win God's favor but a way to notice our need for God's love.

This makes me think of one of my favorite children's books *The Runaway Bunny*. A little rabbit imagines running away in increasingly elaborate ways—becoming a fish, a bird, a sailboat. Each time, the mother responds with an even more imaginative promise: she will become the fisherman, the tree, the wind. No matter how far the bunny runs, the mother is already there. The point is not the bunny's cleverness or effort, but the mother's relentless, pursuing love.

Lent can remind us of all the ways we run away like the bunny. So many things distract us from God's love. (Maybe that's why there's a new trend called "App-stinence" where people limit the time they spend looking at the apps on their phones.) And if you watch the news and current events, you can see how some of the distractions like hatred, power and greed have been elevated to the status of idols and gods themselves. Lent, then, is a season where we name, diminish, and remove the distractions.

This is a season of self-examination. Ashes, confession, and fasting all point us toward the truth about ourselves: we are finite, easily distracted, and prone to trust in things other than God. Giving something up can sharpen our focus and awareness. When we feel the absence of what we've surrendered, we may notice how tightly we cling to comfort or control. In that sense, Lenten practices can function like a mirror, showing us our deeper need for God.

It's not a time for us to think: "If I do this, if I give that up...God will love me." No. Instead it's a time where we are reminded, before we do anything, that God has already made the promise: "I love you and I will always come and find you." God's grace isn't waiting for us only in the end; it is supporting us and strengthening us, all along the journey of life. And when we live in God's grace, this enables us to reflect God's forgiving kind of love. So yes, in response to my first question, God's grace is and always will be a pretty relevant message—for today and everyday—for the season of Lent and every season.

During Lent, our *Faces of Grace* sermon series will remind us that grace appears in many forms: in scripture, in the sacraments, in acts of neighborly love, and even in the quiet disciplines we practice. The series invites us to recognize that God's grace is not abstract or distant; it has a face and it meets us exactly where we are.

Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, we know that nothing can keep God from searching for us and loving us. That is the everlasting relevant good news of God's precious and amazing grace.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Beth, Senior Pastor
Kinsmen Lutheran Church



Church Council News



Kinsmen Family,

I wanted to share a quick follow-up on the staff transition news from December. The Synod has recommended Pastor Arthur Murphy as our Interim Pastor following Pastor Jay's departure. The Church Council has voted to approve and we're excited to have him begin this role in its official capacity on February 24. Pastor Arthur was previously at Kinsmen as an intern and we are eager to have him working with us again. Please join us in welcoming Pastor Arthur back to Kinsmen and helping support our shared ministry.

In Christ,

Andrew Hanson

2026 Church Council President

Meet Interim Pastor Arthur!

Hi Everyone! I'm Pastor Arthur Murphy and I'm thrilled to be joining you in February as an Interim Pastor. An interim pastor is someone who provides continuity whenever a church is between pastors. I look forward to being with you! While I was in seminary, I served Kinsmen as an Intern Pastor, and so I already know some of you who were members and staff at Kinsmen in 2012. After graduation and ordination, I served as a Senior Pastor for seven years at St. James/Santiago Apóstol Lutheran Church in the Oak Forest neighborhood of Houston. During that time, I got to know Pastor Beth, who invited our congregation to join you for Thanksgiving Feasts and other great Kinsmen events. For over two of those years, I had the pleasure of working with Pastora Adriana Johnson Rivas, who served both Santiago Apóstol and Principe de Paz Lutheran Church, before joining you at Kinsmen. I look forward to working with them—and you—again, and especially meeting all of you who have joined Kinsmen since 2012! Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself and let me know how we can best do ministry together. I can't wait to see what God is calling us to be and do at Kinsmen this year!



Send Us Your Selfies!

With a new Interim pastor coming on staff, it would be good for him to have a photo directory to look through and learn names. Please email us your individual selfies or photos [HERE](#), or to office@kinsmenlutheran.org, so we can update our photo database. Thank you!



Lent Sermon Series: Faces of Grace

Grace is not an idea—it's experienced in transformational encounters. God's grace meets real people in real moments—curious seekers, wounded outsiders, the overlooked, the grieving, and the fallen. From Nicodemus in the night to a Samaritan woman at the well, from a man born blind to a family standing at a tomb, we see grace that invites, restores, opens eyes, and raises the dead. We will hear and see that grace is not an abstract idea, but the living face of Christ turned toward us in love. Join us in worship and in a group during this season of Lent.



Date	Season	Sermon Title	First Reading	Gospel
February 21/22	Lent 1	Jesus: Grace and Temptation	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
February 28/ March 1	Lent 2	Nicodemus: Uncontrollable Love	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
March 7/8	Lent 3	The Samaritan Woman: Fully Known and Loved	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
March 14/15	Lent 4	The Blind Man: Grace That Helps Us See	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
March 21/22	Lent 5	Mary, Martha, and Lazarus: Love Meets Us in Grief	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
March 28/29	Palm/Passion Sunday	Crowds and Disciples: Grace Welcomed and Rejected	Palm/Passion Sunday Narrative	Palm/Passion Sunday Narrative

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18

Lent is a season when the church focuses on the continual process of conversion for everyone. It is a solemn and penitential period. Lent is grounded in and modeled after the forty days Jesus spent in the desert, tempted by the devil. As people of faith, we lay aside those practices and material goods that lead us into temptation. We do this not to ennobel ourselves of our own sanctity, but rather to gather with the whole Christian community as it practices its participation in the death of Christ—that we might know the alleluia of the resurrection with Christ. (From Sundays & Seasons)





Drive Through Ashes

If you are unable to join us for our Ash Wednesday worship service, “drive through” ashes will be available in the North parking lot from 7-9:15AM and the South parking lot from 3-5PM.



JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

5:30 PM
Pizza & Salad in the Coffee House.
Movie Group Study in the Conference Room

7 PM
Worship

Midweek Lent Worship & Meal

February 25—March 27 at 7PM

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 – 6:45PM before the midweek Lent worships beginning February 25. We will be using Holden Evening prayer for the Midweek Lent worships.

Contact [Lynnae Schatz](#) with questions.

Abendmusik Presents:

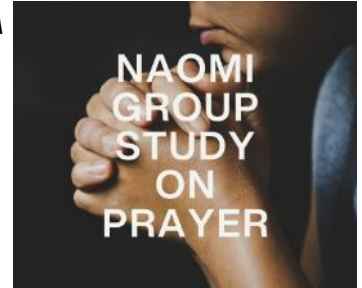
Black History Month with Resident Hous

Join us on February 27 at 7:30 pm for a concert celebrating Black History Month! This concert will feature a performance by Resident Hous, conducted by our very own John-Alan Gourdine. The concert will feature music by Black composers and representing many Black musical traditions. Join us afterward for a reception with snacks and drinks! Resident Hous is a new choir sponsored by the Sankofa Collective, which is a Houston-area theatre and arts company. Abendmusik concerts are always free and open to the public!



Naomi Women's Bible Study to Focus on Prayer

We invite women of all ages to meet with us on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM in the Coffee House in the Community Life Center. In February and March, we will be discussing prayer. Prayer is an important part of our relationship with God and one of the ways we respond to God speaking in our lives. At the same time, we may carry all kinds of baggage or heavy questions about prayer: Am I doing it "right?" Do I pray enough? Is prayer always done with words? We will look to Scripture as a guide to explore some different ways we can pray. Looking to the Apostle Paul, Mary, the Psalms and more, we'll learn about embodied practices of prayer based on breathing techniques, the use of beads, and praying in different postures. Bible readings are combined with application to issues in our lives, community and world. Studies have some leader-led direction but there is always a lot of sharing. Naomi Bible Study is informal with a caring group of women. Join us on February 3rd. We hope to see you there! For any questions, contact [Pastor Beth Warpmaeker](#).



Introduction to Kinsmen

If you have been worshipping at Kinsmen and you would like to learn more about our church, or if you think you might be interested in becoming a member, we invite you to consider attending the Introduction to Kinsmen class. This class will meet on February 1 and February 8 at 9:45AM in the Coffee House. Pastor Beth teaches this class. Participation in the class does not commit you to church membership but is an opportunity for you to find out more about the life and ministry of Kinsmen. Contact [Lynnae Schatz](#) if you'd like more information!



Making Sense of Martin Luther Class

Beginning February 22 at 9:45AM

Every year during Lent we try to schedule a class that looks at the basics of Lutheran Theology. This year the class will explore 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 Arthur. To get the most out of the class, you are encouraged to download the book on Kindle or order it in paperback on Amazon or Augsburg Fortress. Having a book is recommended, but not necessary. Register [HERE](#) or go to <https://bit.ly/Luther2026>!



Scout Sunday

February 1 at 11AM

Scout Sunday – Scouting America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting.

This year Kinsmen will be celebrating on February 1. Kinsmen is involved in scouting. We have chartered Pack and Troop 440 for 50 years. We have also chartered the Crew 440 for 15+ years and finally, we have chartered the girls Troop 444 since girls were allowed into the Scouting America Program.



Join a “Faces of Grace” Movie Discussion Group during Lent

Grace is not an idea— it’s experienced in transformational encounters. During the Lenten season, the sermon series will focus on Faces of Grace, where we will explore how God’s mercy shows up in unexpected people, difficult moments, and ordinary lives. It calls us into lives of hope, courage, and love.

But what does grace look like in real life? Through film, Scripture, and conversation, our Lenten group focus will explore how God’s mercy shows up in suffering, forgiveness, courage, and hope. God’s grace is bigger than our mistakes, deeper than our pain, and more present than we could ever imagine.

We will be offering a 6-week group study with two movie options focused on grace:

Amazing Grace (2006) — Based on actual events, this powerful historical drama tells the story of an 18th-century English politician.

William Wilberforce and his faith-driven struggle to end the British slave trade, show how God’s grace empowers courage, justice, and perseverance.

I Can Only Imagine (2018) — This is the true story behind the music group Mercy Me’s beloved song that brings ultimate hope to so many. It tells about a powerful journey of forgiveness and reconciliation, revealing how God’s grace can heal deep wounds and transform everyday relationships.

Meet with members of your Kinsmen family and discover how grace shapes daily life. We’ll explore how God’s mercy meets us again and again, often in ways we don’t expect.

Groups begin meeting the week following February 22.

Join a “Faces of Grace” group during Lent by registering [HERE](#) or going to <https://bit.ly/FacesofGraceGroups>

Blessings,

The Discipleship Team



Looking for Group Leaders—It Could Well Be You!

The Discipleship Team is excited to share the focus of our Lenten Group Launch on Faces of Grace. You could be a leader of one of these groups! Are you willing to invite a group to get together, watch a movie and discuss God’s grace? It could be in the morning, afternoon, evenings, Sunday during the Bible study hour, whenever works. It could be in your home, at church OR online only. Invite women, men, young parents, a mixed group, Kinsmen member OR non-Kinsmen members as you choose. It can be in an existing group or a new one you create. It only involves a 6-week commitment. No need to be concerned about the responsibility of teaching—simply facilitate a discussion and we will provide the materials and training. If you’re interested in being a leader, contact [Pastor Beth](#) or Vicki Bigham to find a time for training.



Chair Yoga

Mondays & Fridays at 10:30AM

Chair Yoga meets every Monday and Friday from 10:30-11:30AM in the narthex. The suggested donation is \$5 per class. Have questions or concerns? Contact [Lynnae Schatz](#) or Terri Beeler.

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.

Happy February, friends! Here are the dates of our next meetings:

- February 4 - 7PM to 8:30PM - in-person at the Coffee House
- February 25 - 7PM to 8:30PM - online via Zoom - <https://bit.ly/1mentalhealthmatters> (date change due to Ash Wednesday)

Also, starting in March, Mental Health Matters will meet in person twice a month! Questions? Contact Sarah Hornstein or [Lynnae Schatz](#).

55+ Ministry

Upcoming Dates

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

- Monday, February 9 at Mo's Irish Pub
138 Vintage Park Blvd
- Monday, March 9 at R&R Craft House Grill
12910 Malcomson Rd

Contact [Colette Edwards](#) for more information.



Pickleball

Thursday, February 12 & 26 at 6:30PM

Pickleball - Join in on the fun on Thursday, February 12 and February 26 at 6:30PM. All equipment is provided. Dress comfortably. Questions? Contact [Lynnae Schatz](#) or Ken Mersiovsky.



Pancake Supper

Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras, Pancake Day, Carnival, Shrove Tuesday or the Day before Ash Wednesday.

On Fat Tuesday or whatever name you call it, 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.

No matter what you call it, come for supper. Join us for the traditional pancake supper on Tuesday, February 17 from 5 – 6:30PM.

Everyone is welcome! Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

Please help us prepare by letting us know you are coming. Here's the registration link: <https://bit.ly/pancakesupper26>.

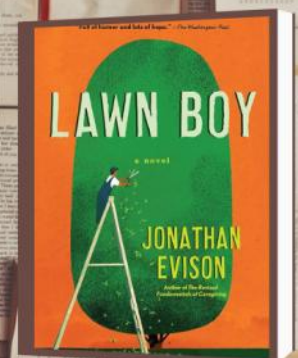
A love offering will be collected to help offset the expenses.



JOIN US FOR
BOOK CLUB

Thursday, February 19
at 7PM
in the Coffee House.

Kinsmen has a book club that meets once a month. We read and discuss a variety of genres, and all are welcome. Our February selection is *The Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison. *The Lawn Boy* is an important, entertaining, and completely winning novel about social class distinctions, about overcoming cultural discrimination, and about standing up for oneself.



Playground Playdate

Saturday, February 7 at 10 -11:30AM

Join us on the preschool playground for a time of I spy! How many hearts can you find on the playground? And we will have a special heart-shaped snack!



Family Lent Activity

February 8 at 9:45AM

Join us as we learn about the season of Lent and make a craft together! Families of all ages and sizes are welcome to join us – no kids required!

See you in the Community Room! Questions? Talk to [Sara Ray!](#)

Middle School/High School Ministry

Mini-Mission Lock In—February 13-14

Come join us for a day of service, fun, and fellowship! We will meet at Kinsmen at 8:30 AM on **Friday, February 13**, serve in the community, and come back to Kinsmen for a night of fun, games, and late-night worship. We will spend the night at Kinsmen with pick up time at 8:00AM Saturday morning. This event is for middle and high school students and friends are always welcome. Register by clicking

[HERE](#) or go to <https://bit.ly/minimission2026>.

Questions? Contact [Kristen Schulze!](#)



High School Ministry Driver's License Milestone February 15 & 22

Kinsmen has a Milestone Ministry where we celebrate those memorable moments that might be firsts in our lives. One of those milestones for teens is learning how to drive. So, what does driving have to do with our faith? This is a question that we will discuss together. We will meet for caring conversation on Sunday, February 15 from 2-3:30PM. We will then recognize and celebrate this milestone on Sunday, February 22 during the 11AM Worship Service. The target audience is 10th and 11th grade students and their parents, but anyone who is learning to drive is welcome. Please register [HERE](#) or go to <https://bit.ly/HSMdriversmilestone>. Questions? Contact [Kristen Schulze!](#)



Driver's License Milestone

Session: February 15 from 2-3:30PM
Celebration: February 22 during 11AM Worship

Driver's license

What does driving have to do with our faith?



**PRESCHOOL
Prayer
MILESTONE**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 AT 10AM

Preschool Prayer Milestone Saturday, February 28 10-11AM

Preschoolers, bring your parents and join us for your milestone! During this season of Lent, we will learn together about new ways to pray. Older and younger siblings are welcome to join us for this time together.

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/CampHopeInterest>



**CAMP HOPE
2026**

REGISTRATION COMING SOON!

JUNE 8-12, 15-19, & 22-26

Blest Be The Tie That Binds

Kinsmen will be quilting for Lutheran World Relief on Saturday February 14 from 9 - 11:30AM and Monday, February 23 from 1- 3:30PM. Training is provided, no experience required! All are welcome! Contact Connie Jackson or [Lynnae Schatz](#) for more information.



Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

We are excited to Kick off 2026 with several opportunities to volunteer with us in 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 Delivery Saturday, February 7

8:30AM Registration: <https://x.gldn.io/e/sCY6CKiWuZb>

Bed Building Saturday, February 14

7:50AM Registration: <https://x.gldn.io/e/t4LOM4lWuZb>

10:20AM Registration: <https://x.gldn.io/e/wrqathoWuZb>

Bed Delivery Saturday, February 21

8:30AM Registration: <https://x.gldn.io/e/uG3mzPrWuZb>

Bed Delivery Saturday, February 28

8:30AM Registration: <https://x.gldn.io/e/19sxkkKWuZb>

St. Olaf Choir 2026 Winter Tour

The St. Olaf Choir, conducted by Anton Armstrong, will perform in 5 Texas cities from Feb. 4–9 during their 2026 Winter Tour. For more than a century, the St. Olaf Choir has set the gold standard for choral singing, performing for millions around the world. This year's program will include sacred and secular choral standards, traditional hymns, new compositions, spirituals, and more! More information is provided below.

Click [HERE](#) or go to <https://bit.ly/olafchoir2026> to get tickets!

<p>Austin, Texas Wednesday, February 4, 7PM St. Martin's Lutheran Church</p>	<p>San Antonio, Texas Thursday, February 5, 7PM University Methodist Church</p>	<p>Houston, Texas Saturday, February 7, 3PM South Main Baptist Church</p>	<p>Waco, Texas Sunday, February 8, 3PM Jones Concert Hall, Glennis McCrary Music Building Baylor University</p>	<p>Dallas, Texas Monday, February 9, 7:30PM Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center</p>
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February Food Distribution

Sign Up to Volunteer on February 7

Kinsmen Lutheran Church, in partnership with Bridging for Tomorrow and the Houston Food Bank, is able to distribute food the 1st Saturday of the month. Could you help? There are a variety of areas to serve! Food Distributions take place at Bridging for Tomorrow (5359 W. Richey Road). Sign up to help using this link: <https://bit.ly/februarydistribution>

Contact [Lynnae Schatz](#) if you have questions or would like more information!



Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits Collection

February 18—April 2

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. Personal Care Kits were handed out by LWR following the floods in Central Texas last July.

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. These kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.

Items needed for the personal care kits are:

- Light-weight bath-size towel – dark color recommended
- Bath-size bars of soap in original wrapping
- Adult-size toothbrush
- Sturdy comb
- Metal nail clippers

LWR Personal Care Kit items will be collected in the narthex from Ash Wednesday, February 18 through Maundy Thursday, April 2. The kits will be assembled on Good Friday, April 3.



LENT IN KIND DONATIONS

Personal care kits will provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, basic hygiene tools to our brothers and sisters in need.

- Bars of soap (4-6 ounces, any brand, in original wrapping)
- Bath towels (light-weight, maximum 52"x27", dark color recommended)
- Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)
- Metal nail clippers
- Combs

**ITEMS WILL BE COLLECTED
FEBRUARY 18 - APRIL 2!**

**We will assemble kits on
Good Friday, April 3**

Financial Peace University (FPU)

It's Not Too Late To Register!



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 began Tuesday, January 27 and meets 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>



Upbring Gala

Kinsmen members' generosity empowers Upbring to surround children, families and communities with initiatives and services that change the course of their lives. Kinsmen members are invited to join Upbring for the Healing Hearts Gala on Saturday, February 21 at 6:00PM. Funds raised will directly impact children and families through Upbring's life-changing programs in the Greater Houston Area. Gather your friends and family to sponsor a table or purchase tickets today! Register for the Gala [HERE](#) or go to <https://bit.ly/healinghearts2026!>

Details:

High Roller VIP Reception | 5:30PM

Hyatt Regency Houston Galleria

2626 Sage Road

Houston, TX 77056

Noisy Offering: Redeemed Ministries

February 7 and 8



Redeemed Ministries provides restoration services to adult survivors of domestic sex trafficking through a trauma-informed, holistic healing program made possible by the support of our community partners. Our mission is to create sustainable, long-term solutions that empower women to heal, rebuild, and thrive. Redeemed Ministries is a Christ-centered organization serving survivors of sex trafficking in the Houston area. In 2010, we opened the first safe house for survivors in Houston and were among the first in the nation to do so. Since then, Redeemed has remained committed to serving survivors with excellence, dignity, and compassion.

We serve domestic survivors of commercial sexual exploitation through a trauma-informed, holistic program offered completely free of charge. Our services support both residential and independent clients. Residential clients may live in our safe house for up to two years, during which they receive comprehensive, wrap-around care. This includes case management, professional counseling, life skills education, sobriety support, and additional individualized services tailored to each woman's needs. Residents also participate in educational classes and therapeutic activities such as expressive art and equine-assisted therapy during the week, with time for rest and recreation in the evenings and on weekends. These structured rhythms help foster healing, stability, and personal growth. The women we serve are healing from extreme sexual trauma and often experience Complex PTSD. Our program is designed to reduce trauma symptoms, promote emotional and physical healing, and prepare residents to reintegrate into their communities as healthy, independent individuals. After one year in the program, residents may begin working outside the safe house. At approximately 18 months, we assist them in purchasing a reliable vehicle—an essential step toward long-term independence. Access to stable income and reliable transportation removes two major vulnerabilities that traffickers frequently exploit. Upon successfully completing the full two-year program, residents are eligible to transition into our Graduate Housing Program, eliminating the risk associated with unsafe or unstable housing. Our ultimate goal is to provide sustainable resources that significantly reduce recidivism. We have found that women who complete the program and remain connected to Redeemed Ministries are far less likely to relapse than those who leave early or attempt recovery on their own. In addition to serving survivors, Redeemed Ministries is deeply committed to equipping staff and volunteers with the knowledge and training required for this work. We prioritize ongoing education to ensure our team is prepared to serve clients with professionalism and care. Redeemed's Executive Director, Laura Evans, also serves as adjunct faculty with the Institute for Shelter Care, a national organization that trains emerging programs preparing to open residential care homes. Redeemed Ministries believes that people change people. While your story is unique from the person next to you, each of us has faced moments when we needed the compassion and help of others. That same help is what the women at Redeemed are offered as they recover from the trauma of sex trafficking. While they cannot erase their past, your support helps them build a better future. Thank you for your time, generosity, and prayers for Redeemed Ministries and the women they serve!

Celebration of Redeemed Ministries Accomplishments in 2025

Redeemed Ministries, Kinsmen Mission Partner focused on survivors of sex trafficking, celebrated a number of "wins" in 2025:

- 16 survivors served
- 2 graduations celebrated
- over 150 case management meetings
- over 300 counseling and therapy sessions
- over 300 addiction recovery support classes
- and classes on....

trauma and trafficking, finance, cooking, communication, codependency/boundaries, trauma and the brain, Bible studies, health and wellness, peer support, software and coding, and more!

- Vicki Bigham

Redeemed Ministries Champion at Kinsmen



Rosca de Reyes



The *Rosca de Reyes* is a cherished custom during the celebration of the Epiphany, especially in Latin American countries and Spain. This ring-shaped sweet bread symbolizes the crown of the Three Wise Men and is traditionally decorated with colorful candied fruits, representing the jewels of their crowns.



One of the most meaningful details is the hidden figurine, which represents Baby Jesus being kept safe from King Herod.

According to tradition, whoever finds the figurine becomes the host for the next celebration: Candlemas Day on February 2, where tamales or other festive dishes are shared with family and friends.

This tradition is more than just a culinary delight—it's a way to bring people together, celebrate faith, and keep alive a cultural heritage that has been passed down for generations.



What a beautiful tradition!

The ESL Program at Kinsmen started again on January 15.

ESL

We invite friends and family who want to learn or improve their English to join our classes. Also, if you would like to serve as a volunteer teacher, this is your opportunity!

For more information, contact acuina@klch.com Let's learn together and build community!



Outreach

During Christmas, we celebrated *posadas* in three homes in our neighborhood as a way to draw closer to our community. It was a deeply spiritual experience and, at the same time, full of joy, giving us the privilege of connecting with new people



These *posadas* reminded us that the true meaning of Christmas is lived in community, in love, and in hope.

La Candelaria

La Candelaria is celebrated on February 2 and commemorates two events: the presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple and the purification of the Virgin Mary forty days after Jesus' birth, according to the Law of Moses.

The name "Candlemas" comes from the candles, which symbolize the light of Christ, and for this reason, many churches bless candles during this celebration. This feast marks the end of the Christmas season.

It is a festivity that combines the religious and the cultural, highlighting light, faith, and community.



News

We are excited to restart the Community Garden initiative for our community with the support of Bridging for Tomorrow!

February 16: Weather permitting we will begin by cleaning and preparing the soil for planting.

Would you like to join this wonderful initiative?

Contact: [Adriana Cuina](#) or [Lynnae Schatz](#).

Together, let's grow more than plants—let's grow community!



Whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

— 2 Corinthians 9:6



February Birthdays

Anika Semanchik	2/1	Linda Thomas	2/7	Bradley Biggerstaff	2/15	Ian Wietstruck	2/23
Luke Reder	2/1	Michael Patton	2/7	Liz Orosco-Stolz	2/16	Season Davis	2/23
Velsie Borja	2/1	Allyson Orta	2/8	Gloria Bernardino	2/16	Ken Mersiovsky	2/23
Lila Rodenhauser	2/1	Bill Thompson Jr.	2/8	Jude Grimes	2/16	Michael Hamric Jr.	2/24
Garrett Best	2/2	Kathy Turnquist	2/8	Brett Kulhanek	2/18	Gayle Lyons	2/24
Oliver Goodell	2/2	Claudia Mullins	2/8	Richard Pravata	2/18	Jacob Awbrey	2/24
Henry Goodell	2/2	Caila Roberts	2/9	Jacob Warpmaeker	2/18	Molly Rall	2/25
Kailey Cutbirth-Foreman	2/3	Max Silva	2/10	Steven Schatz	2/19	Renate Jordan	2/25
Rachel Goodell	2/3	Oscar Caraveo	2/10	Sophia LeMay	2/19	Joy Coote	2/25
Stacy Jackson	2/3	Travis Horn	2/11	Erin Beecher	2/19	Chris Monrad	2/25
Bertha Lopez	2/4	Patsy Fretwell	2/12	Clinton Ray	2/19	Carter Monrad	2/25
Elaine Monrad	2/5	Carol Simpson	2/12	Bob Parliament	2/20	Ann Gilmore	2/25
Liam Ray	2/5	Connie Simpson	2/12	Ashley Moragne	2/20	Nelia Tidler	2/25
David Lehmann	2/6	Camila Broussard	2/12	Andrew Wise	2/20	Karen Wood	2/26
Joan Ebner	2/6	Celene Nucette Gotera	2/12	Michael Prejean	2/21	Alicia Baker	2/26
Craig Sutter	2/6	Margo Watson	2/14	Lydia Mathis	2/21	Max Rivera	2/27
Al Holzman	2/6	Connie Jackson	2/14	Natalie Horn	2/21	Melissa Gribb	2/28
Mauricio Gonzalez	2/6	Ellen Wangsmo	2/15	Edith Chuta	2/22		
Suzanne Nott	2/7	Jason Huff	2/15	Teresa Cook	2/22		

GLIMPSES OF GRACE

Noisy Offering/Bright Stars of Bethlehem	\$1,081.10
General Mission Support	\$9,983.19
Designated Mission Support	\$138.00
December TOTAL	\$11,202.29
YTD TOTAL	\$128,937.70

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.

KINSMEN BUDGET UPDATE OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS FOR December 2025

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Total Income	184,624	173,784	(10,840)
Total Expenses	154,456	160,151	5,695
Net	30,168	13,633	(16,535)
Year-to-Date (2025)			
Total Income	1,931,502	1,841,513	(89,989)
Total Expenses	1,931,502	1,928,728	(2,774)
Net	0	(87,215)	(87,215)

GIVING UPDATE

Thankoffering			
December 2025	132,958	113,551	(19,408)
2025	1,276,500	1,135,802	(140,698)

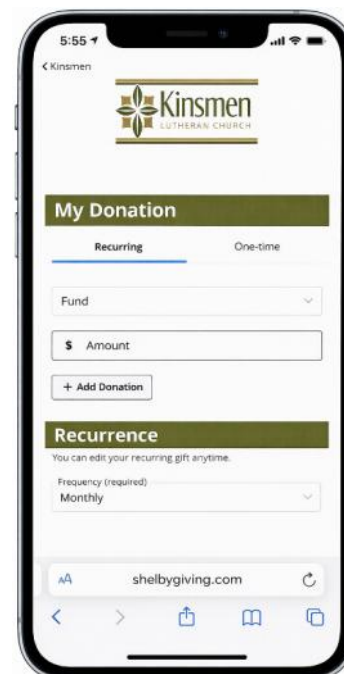
GLIMPSES OF SHARING GRACE

CARE MINISTRY

January 2026	
Flower Deliveries	79
Prayer Shawls	5

Donating Through a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)

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



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
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CONNECTION

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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

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Membership

Interested in learning more
about Kinsmen?

Contact Pastor Beth or Lynnae Schatz
for more information.

