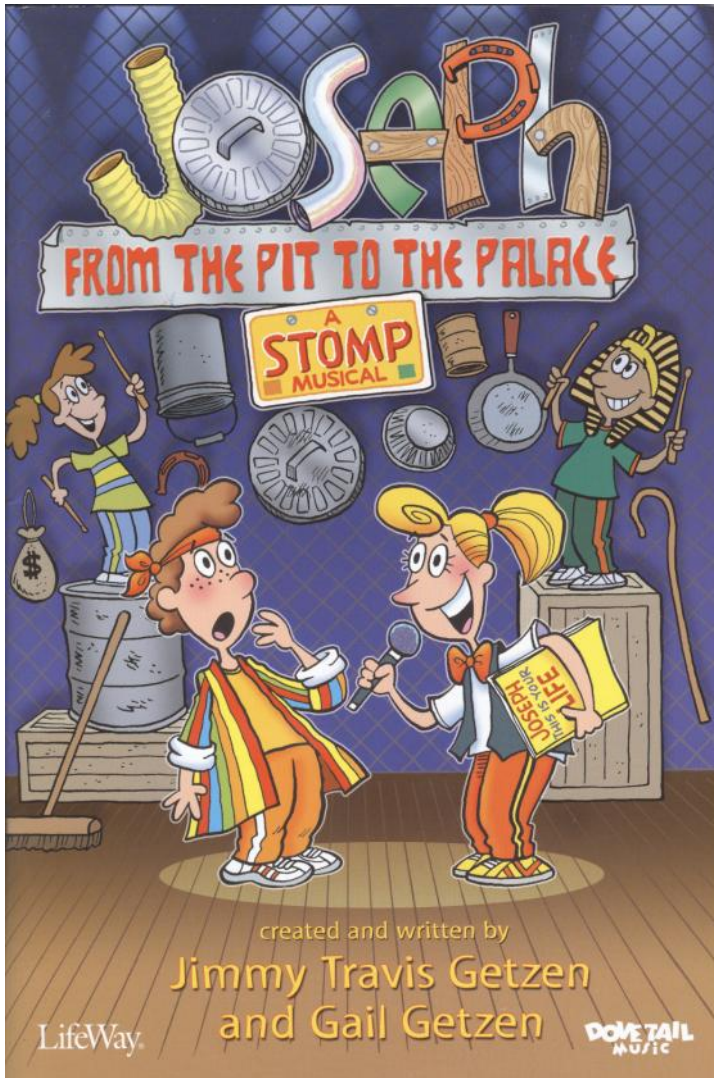




12100 Champion Forest Dr.
Houston, TX 77066
281-444-3126 P
281-444-1733 F
kinsmenlutheran.org



Inside This Issue	
A Note From Pastor Jeff	2
... She Doesn't Look a Day Over 20!	2
Moments of Grace from Peru	3
September Noisy Offering	4
Ain't Life Grape?	4
If You Missed the Boat ...	5
The Best of the Rest	6
September Birthdays	7
Youth News	8 - 11

JOSEPH: FROM THE PIT TO THE PALACE

Kinsmen's children's choirs are proud to present this stomp-endous musical about the life of Joseph on **Saturday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m.**



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JEFF

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let us no longer pass judgment on one another... Romans 14:13

The ELCA has been in the national news because of the adoption of a social statement on human sexuality and new ministry recommendations that would allow congregations who choose to do so, to call pastors who are gay or lesbian living in life-long monogamous relationships. I am disappointed and disagree with the decision. Both Pastor Mark and I welcome direct face-to-face conversations with people on all sides of the issue. I also fervently pray my disappointment will not preclude anyone seeking my counsel or pastoral care.

Mike Foss, the pastor who followed me at St. Mark, shared a conversation he had with a colleague. The gist of the conversation was that it was time to listen to one another respectfully — especially when we disagree. Instead of the shrill sound of either anger or dismay, his friend was simply asking for dialogue and room in the church he loves. St. Paul lobbies for that in his

letter to the Romans. St. Paul is never afraid of sharing his opinion! But there was also a humility for the sake of the Gospel that led Paul, again and again, to suggest dialogue when diatribe filled the air. St. Paul understood that there are some things that are non-negotiable in our faith — but there are many points at which faithful persons can and do disagree.

The ELCA is a large, big-tent, diverse denomination that includes a multiplicity of viewpoints. Now more than ever it needs the witness of congregations like Kinsmen. Those brothers and sisters who have an opposing viewpoint from mine, do not view this disagreement as based on the authority of Scripture, but rather in interpretation and application. For instance, other denominations on the basis of their interpretation and application of Scripture do not allow women to serve as pastors and on church councils, or other Christians who do not belong to their church to receive the sacrament of communion. I strongly disagree with those interpretations and applications as well.

Although I disagree with the decision, it need not be church dividing just as disagreements within our families and country need not divide us. Nothing changes at Kinsmen. Jesus is still Lord, the Bible is still God's inspired Word and our ministry is still about witnessing to God's love in Jesus Christ through inspiring worship, experiencing family and sharing grace. And that on occasion means respectful disagreement between brothers and sisters in the faith.

If you have any questions or would just like to talk please know that both pastors' doors are open, and we would be more than willing to sit down and talk. For now, I would ask for three things: prayer, patience and if needed — direct conversation with either pastor. I invite you to join me in the following prayer: Lord, help me live the grace you've given me in relationship with those with whom I disagree. Amen.

In Christ,

Jeffery Alvestad, Pastor

... BUT SHE DOESN'T LOOK A DAY OVER 20! KINSMEN ORGAN PROVIDES BEAUTIFUL SOUNDS FOR 25 YEARS



Psalms tell us to make a joyful unto the Lord, to play upon the timbrel and harp ... and even the trumpet. The writers of the Psalms didn't know about the organ, because it wasn't invented until the third century B.C., but surely it would

have been added to the list.

This year, Kinsmen's pipe organ turns 25-years-old. It was first used for worship on Sept. 23, 1984, with "Praise to the Lord" the first hymn played. On Sunday, Sept. 27, our congregation again will sing this hymn to celebrate this wonderful instrument.

Our pipe organ was built by the Schlicker Organ Company of Buffalo, N.Y. It is a mechanical action, or tracker organ, with 26 ranks (a row or set of a particular kind of pipe such as an eight foot flute), 20 stop knobs, two

keyboards and a pedal board all built to the standards of the American Guild of Organists. A tracker organ is the kind of action found on all pipe organs built until the end of the 19th century. Pipe organs are individually built and tailored to fit the acoustics and placement in the room. Usually, it takes two to three years to build and install.

Our church organ became a reality thanks to the generosity and leadership of many Kinsmen members who valued the long-musical tradition of the Lutheran Church that began with Martin Luther.

MOMENTS OF GRACE FROM PERU



In July, 2009, Kinsmen members Terry Richter and Julie Schensted, along with Director of Administration, Susan Converse, participated with 29 other adults on a mission trip to Peru.

We were fortunate to be joined in Peru by David Wunsch, bilingual Lutheran missionary to Argentina. In addition to his language skills, he was very familiar with the political and socio-economic situations in various parts of South America. He spoke about these facts and he talked to us of "moments of



grace," which we all experienced throughout our trip. I would like to share some of



my moments.

The first thing that strikes you is the openness and friendliness of the people. In spite of their poverty, extreme in some cases, they welcomed

us with hugs and kisses and words of welcome. Each time a child would hug us or an adult would kiss our cheeks and whisper words of encouragement in Spanish, it was a moment of grace.

Two things need no translation – music and humor. We taught the people songs in English and Spanish and they taught us songs in Spanish. One of the most special moments was when Godfrey, from Africa, taught all of us a song in Swahili. That was a true moment of grace – English and Spanish speaking believers singing about Christ's love in Swahili. Little funny things would happen and we would all laugh together. Godfrey, who has his hair in dreadlocks, walked into one church setting and a surprised little girl exclaimed, "Michael Jackson!" Spanish and English speaking people laughed together and enjoyed each others' company with no additional language needed.

We visited about five different churches, and in one church, we experienced the baptism of a young man and the confirmation of about five adults. Experiencing these celebrations in other countries and in a different language is a real blessing. We worked together on projects, made crafts and cookies with the children, ate meals and prayed together. It is a true moment of grace to feel that we are indeed "one church in Christ."

-Susan Converse

In Peru, I found the standard of living has more to do with the heart than what they have. They were honored to have us see how they live in their very sparse homes. The women cooked for us and served us at the different churches, delighted to have us eat and share their traditional food. Humility abounds on both sides, but the realization was that we were exactly the same "in Christ." The time we spent

with the people of Peru totally marked the head and heart, surpassing the language barrier easily. Working with the children was a total delight. They were excited to work with us on art projects, to compete with us playing games and requested that we take their pictures when they saw our cameras. Worship with the children was extraordinary. They loved being there. We shared in baptism and confirmation.



The greatest thing I took away with me is their richness in "the Kingdom of God." The value in their lives is so embedded in the church community which they fully own in attitude and the strength to go on. I feel so blessed to have been a part of this experience, especially all of the kisses and hugs. What I took away was encountering a proud people who are not in any way defined by their poverty, but by their belief in the "Kingdom."

-Julie Schensted

SEPTEMBER NOISY OFFERING LOOKING FOR SUPPORT; VOLUNTEER TEACHERS

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ in Kinsmen,

Greetings from Kiho Song, the only Korean pastor in the Synod, who is developing a Korean ELCA mission church with Christ the Servant LC in west Houston as a base. My entry ministry is an ESL (English as a Second Language) program offered to Koreans for free. The program started on August 4, with 29 students in two classes. So many Koreans applied that the program couldn't accept them all; therefore, 28 applicants are now on the waiting list. So far, it has been a great success. I'm doing this ESL ministry mainly for three purposes: 1) to show God's love and care to those who are living in the English-speaking American society in relative inconvenience and isolation due to poor English skills, 2) to publicize to the Korean community in Houston the start of my mission church, "Jesus the Friend Korean Lutheran Mission" and 3) to develop good relationships with potential members of my mission church.

I started this ministry of development from scratch on my own initiative, convinced that God has called me to be God's hand in this work of God. (By the way, after graduating from the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, one of the eight ELCA seminaries, and getting assigned to this Synod, I was ordained

in Kinsmen in June, 2007, by the former bishop of the Synod and also the former senior pastor of Kinsmen, the Rev. Paul Blom.) Among supporters are Christ the Servant, Zion, Covenant, Brenham Mission Society and many personal supporters in Texas and Calif. Kinsmen is one of the first churches to join in supporting this Korean outreach ministry. I hope St. Martin's, Living Word and several other churches will join soon. The Synod and also the ELCA headquarters, or EOCCM (Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission), officially approved me as an ELCA mission developer. From July 30 through Aug. 1, I attended an ELCA mission developer training in Denver, Colo., at their expenses.

I don't think I myself made all these things happen. Creating something out of nothing can't be human work — only God can do that. I value Kinsmen's mission-mindedness. And I love Kinsmen, especially because your sanctuary was my "burning bush."

Peace and grace to Kinsmen and all its members!

Pastor Kiho Song
9013 Gaylord St., Apt. 51
Houston, TX 77024
Home Telephone: 713-468-2977

P.S. The ESL program is an ongoing one, so it always has a continuing need for volunteer teachers. Classes meet at Christ the Servant, 2400 Wilcrest Dr., from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Teachers teach one month in rotation, which means that a teacher can teach one month on with one or two months off. We use an ESL textbook (Touchstone) and training in teaching with the textbook will be provided. If you are interested in teaching at least one month, please contact me at 713-839-6522 or at pastorksong@gmail.com.

On Sept. 12 & 13, monies will be collected at all worship services to benefit the Korean Outreach Ministry.

GLIMPSSES OF GRACE – AUGUST –	
Noisy Offering: Interfaith Hospitality Network	\$1,826.00
Synod/ELCA	\$8,762.00
NAM Food Pantry:	\$210.00
Monthly TOTAL	\$10,803.00
2009 TOTAL	\$98,597.50

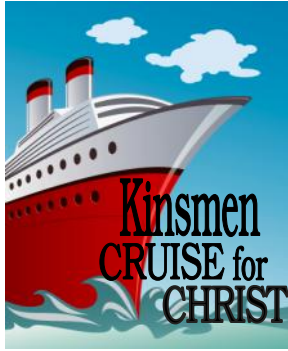


Bernhardt Winery
9043 County Road 204
Plantersville, Texas
www.bernhardtwinery.com

Ain't Life Grape?

Sunday, Sept. 20

Join us for fellowship and a sunset toast at the Bernhardt Winery in Plantersville. The cost is \$5, which is the cover charge to be paid at the winery. The Kinsmen bus will leave at 5 p.m. Contact Lynnae Schatz for more information or to register, as a R.S.V.P. is required.



If you missed the boat ...



THE BEST OF THE REST

KINSMEN TO HOST STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR THIS OCTOBER

Dr. Eugene Grimm, who served as a stewardship specialist for the ELCA for over 20 years and author of "Generous People," will visit Kinsmen Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 24 & 25 as guest pastor and to provide a stewardship seminar from 1-3:30 p.m. on Saturday in the Sanctuary.

Dr. Grimm plans to conduct a two-part seminar including: "Stewardship, Taking the Quantum Leap" and "The 10 Basic Principals of Stewardship." This promises to be an educational, faith-building session that shouldn't be missed.

All Kinsmen members and guests are welcome to attend the seminar, and staff and stewardship committees of other Synod congregations are welcome also.

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

Join us each week from 6-7 p.m. in the Community Life Center.

Sept. 2: Spaghetti/Chicken Spaghetti

Sept. 9: Italian Baked Chicken

Sept. 16: Fish

Sept. 23: King Ranch Chicken

Sept. 30: Beef/Chicken Fajitas

\$6 Adults (11 years and older)

\$3 Children (3-10 years)

FREE Children (3 years and younger)

TEXAS IMPACT PRESENTS ADVOCACY CAMP 2009

This citizen leadership development program, which will be held at Covenant Lutheran Church, provides up-to-the-minute information on public policy issues and faithful advocacy. Workshop topics will be immigration, health care, environment, criminal justice and more. Cost is \$25, which includes food and program materials. Register at www.texasimpact.org or by calling 512-472-3903.

LUTHERHILL FAMILY RETREAT COMING THIS FALL

Meaningful life doesn't come easy. Experience a weekend of family camping at Lutherhill on Nov. 6-8. (Lutherhill reports that a family can be any size!) Bishop Mike Rinehart will be leading the Bible study. We will board the Kinsmen bus at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6, and return around 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 8. The cost for the weekend is \$70 per person for those 13 years and older and \$40 per person for those under 13. Contact Lynnae Schatz if interested in attending.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS RESUME

The most important thing in music is not to win, but to take part — just as the most important thing in life is not only the achievement but what you learn and share along the way. The music is yours. Pass it on.

Regular rehearsals for the Sunshine Singers and Morning Glory Children's Choirs will resume on Sunday, Sept. 27. The Sunshine Singers (4-years-old through 1st grade) meet in the Choir Room (Room 10) on Sunday from 4-4:45 p.m. The Morning Glory Choir (2nd through 5th grade) meet in the Choir Room on Sunday from 5-6 p.m. Rhythm instruments, hand chimes and hand bells are used throughout the year. For questions, contact Lynnae Schatz.

SCOUTS

With the beginning of a new school year, so begins a new year in scouting. Rally nights will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 1, at 7 p.m. at Greenwood Forest Elementary, Wednesday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Elementary and Thursday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. in the Great Room. In the upcoming year, the pack has a couple of camp outs and field trips planned, as well as other activities like Pinewood Derby and a fishing trip. Plus scouts can participate in district and council events like Push Mobile, Cuberee (with shooting activities and archery) and

Scout Days with the Aeros, Astros, Dynamos and Texans. There will be plenty of events and activities for the scouts and their families. For information about scouting, please e-mail pack440@comcast.net.

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

All Sunday school classes will begin on Sept. 13, including two new adult classes. Yvonne Dean will be leading a 9:30 a.m. class, with Bruce Elijah teaching John Ortberg's, "God is Closer Than You Think" at 10:30 a.m. Both of these classes will be held in the Conference Room (Room 15).

WOMEN OF FAITH PRESENTS A GRAND NEW DAY

Women are invited to this two-day event, held Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13 & 14, at Houston's Toyota Center. Experience heartfelt, hilarious messages, gripping drama and amazing music. Cost, which includes transportation, is \$99 per person. Visit www.womenoffaith.com/houston to learn more. There is limited tickets for this event, so contact Joan Horner if interested in attending.

FALL FAMILY FEST IS SUNDAY, SEPT. 20

Join Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for an old-fashioned picnic at Kaiserhof Retreat Center in Tomball from 2-6 p.m. Food, entertainment and fun are guaranteed! Registrations are limited and must be made no later than Thursday, Sept. 10, at www.thriventfallfest.eventbrite.com.

NORTHWEST ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES' "JEANS AND JEWELS 2009" EVENTS

The luncheon and style show will be held Thursday, Sept. 24, at Shirley Acres. Tickets are \$50 each, with tables starting at \$500. The gala will be held Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Woodlands Waterway Marriott. Tables start at \$1,750, with individual tickets costing \$175. Contact Tanecia at 281-885-4608 or tsnid@namonline.org for more information.



September Birthdays

Joan Horner	9/1	Dan Kulhanek	9/13	Shirley Lund	9/22
Leila Straube	9/1	Virginia Blackwell	9/13	Joshua McMahan	9/22
Axel Olsen Jr.	9/1	Mark Smith	9/13	James McMahan	9/22
David Schuelke	9/1	Deborah Holzman	9/13	Lory Quist	9/23
Bobbie Kridner	9/1	Jerid Brown	9/14	Alexandra Karker	9/23
Barbara Jacobs	9/2	Patti Herwig	9/14	Richard Clark	9/23
Darlene Menk	9/2	Nancy Burt	9/14	Bob Frank	9/23
Hunter James	9/2	Harold Chapman	9/15	Christie Hall	9/24
Gary Kolkhorst	9/2	Mike Pate	9/15	Christopher Malachosky	9/24
Wilma Abel	9/3	Gary Dannhaus	9/16	Armani Brown	9/24
Spencer Hall	9/3	Cheryl Butcher	9/16	Amari Brown	9/24
Alexander Hoffman	9/3	David Stern	9/16	Cassandra Miller	9/25
Paul Thomas	9/3	Richard Hess	9/16	Shannon Wolter	9/25
Jennifer Nash	9/3	Taylor Clark	9/16	Mason Mc Anear	9/26
Amy VanHoose	9/4	Diana Draper	9/17	Gretchen Wietstruck	9/26
Carol Blue	9/4	Laura Pate	9/17	Michael Woods	9/26
David Fretwell	9/4	Cynthia Rosendale	9/17	Michael Schensted	9/26
Bill Roth	9/5	Trevor Young	9/17	Wendy Ristow	9/27
Dennis Berger	9/6	Galen Miller	9/18	Ione Reder	9/27
Breean Kulhanek	9/7	Jennifer Williams	9/18	Amanda Dogotch	9/27
Steven Snyder	9/7	Amanda Bair	9/18	Harry Van Deilen	9/27
Norman Gerber	9/8	Russell Richey	9/18	Christopher Greene	9/27
James Nolan	9/9	Ryan Bench	9/18	MacKenzie Zbranek	9/27
Elizabeth Osmon	9/9	Christopher DeWitt	9/19	Sharon Jeremenko	9/27
Bill Burkland	9/9	Cathy Weber	9/19	Numan Ismail	9/28
Emma Matson	9/9	Alexandra Harvey	9/19	William Hardy	9/28
John Latiolais	9/9	Riley Ristow	9/20	Gregory Quist	9/28
John Ritchey	9/10	Kolena Robertson	9/20	Nancy Petrucciani	9/28
Marc Jensvold	9/10	Julia Hymel	9/20	Ryan Keeling	9/29
Ethel Kregel	9/11	Mark Rizzo	9/20	Jessica Cillis	9/29
Craig Strickler	9/11	Pauline Lileng	9/20	Rachel Swerdon	9/29
Don Gregory Simpson	9/11	Taran Jensvold	9/20	Patricia Bunkers	9/30
Connor Wysocki	9/11	Carol Knudson	9/21	Andrea Kinler	9/30
Donna Treptow	9/12	James Vogt	9/21	Anna Meyer	9/30
Beth Elkington	9/12	Christian Vindiola	9/21	Joni Fisher	9/30
Brian Shurbet	9/12	Kevin Hughes	9/21	Danny Montalvo	9/30
Donna Wittnebel	9/12	Colton Perry	9/22	Judy Abshire	9/30
Robert Weber	9/12	Kathy Sutter	9/22	Sue Dunshee	9/30
Michael Jones	9/12	Parker Perez	9/22		
Loretta Castano	9/12	Mary Jane Alderman	9/22		

*This list is compiled from church records.

If your name is missing or the information listed above is incorrect, please notify the church office.

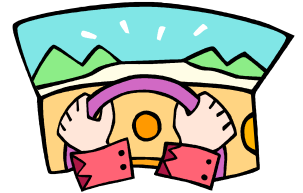
Kinsmen Lutheran



Tenth Grade Milestone — Driver's License

What does driving have to do with your faith?

On **Sunday, Sept. 27**, and **Sunday, Oct. 4**, we are going to explore the opportunities and responsibilities that accompany the privilege of driving.



All 10th grade youth and their parents will meet in the Community Room from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The Community Room is located on the first floor of the Youth and Family Building.

On **Sunday, Oct. 4**, youth, along with their parents, will be recognized, blessed and gifted at the 11 a.m. worship service. Save the date and make plans now to participate in this milestone! For more information, contact Pastor Mark England.



S.W.A.T.

S.W.A.T. is a Bible study for senior high youth. It is our goal through S.W.A.T. this year for senior high students to "experience friendship" through worship, Bible study, sharing faith, prayer and service.

STUDENTS WITH A TESTIMONY

S.W.A.T. is an acronym for Students With A Testimony.

The name is significant because we all have a story to tell and by showing others how God is working in our lives, we are able to share God's grace.

During the year, there will also be opportunities for fellowship and service. Jesus commands us in John 15 to love each other as He has loved us. It is our hope that through S.W.A.T. that we will discover friendships that are supportive, encouraging and Christ-centered.

S.W.A.T. on Wednesdays meets in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. for inspiring worship and then move to the Great Room for Bible study, caring conversations and community prayers. S.W.A.T. on Sundays (S.O.S.) meets in The Loft after the 9:30 a.m. worship service and before the 11 a.m. worship service.

We Can Change the World...



The following article was written in response to the presence of the Lutheran Youth Gathering in New Orleans. It is an example of the gratitude we felt all week during the Gathering.

Gratitude for the Lutheran teens who visited New Orleans The Kindness of Strangers

The end of July brought the biggest convention to town since Hurricane Katrina, but it wasn't doctors, lawyers or other professionals. In fact, it wasn't even adults. It was 37,000 teenagers and their chaperones from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), who filled hotels all over town for the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering, which they called "Jesus, Justice and Jazz."

Besides their worship events at the Louisiana Superdome and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, the teens spent much of their five days in New Orleans performing some 200 community service projects, including hosting a health fair in New Orleans City Park, building a two-mile hiking trail around the park's Goat and Scout Islands and adding new plants to the Botanical Garden. Elsewhere, they held reading fairs for children and painted and cleaned houses and schools. Some boarded buses and headed to the Falgout Canal Marina to replant marsh grasses; others converged on Holt Cemetery to weed, seed, restore tombstones and, in some cases, rebury the dead. At the end of their busy days, many of them found time to donate blood to the Red Cross. In all, our Lutheran visitors from all over the United States contributed a quarter of a million volunteer hours to the people of New Orleans — and, in many cases, thanked *us* for the chance to have done so.

We're humbled. Humbled at their generosity. Humbled at the sight of so many young people traveling so far to do so much hard work during their summer vacation. Humbled that the "Katrina fatigue" felt by so many Americans was replaced, for a few days, with an enthusiasm even some of us find hard to muster some days. Regardless of your faith, or lack thereof, these excited young volunteers were an inspiration, and just one of them accomplished more good than all the preachers and politicians in the world who saw Katrina as either perverse justice or crass opportunity.

Among the many small moments of grace between our young guests and the locals came last weekend at Betsy's Pancake House in Mid-City, which had its usual mix of Sunday morning regulars — sleepy folks with Saturday night faces and regal African-American churchwomen in their Sunday finery. Into Betsy's dining room came nine teenagers, led by a pastor and two chaperones, looking friendly but shy and a bit out of place. Tables were rearranged; coffee was brought. The waitress, with little prompting, welcomed them and told them the tale of the coffee shop during Katrina. The kids were more curious about grits. They opted for white toast instead.

Then, the waitress laid a \$20 bill on the table. "That man who just left paid for some of your breakfast," she said, and within a couple of minutes bills were being passed to the visitors from around the room — \$10 here, \$20 there, and the pastor's wife began to cry, saying "Thank you," to which the morning regulars replied, "No, thank *you*."

How do you thank someone for helping rebuild your city? It's a question with which we've all wrestled during the past four years, and the answer is: You can't. But the simple act of buying a stranger a breakfast said "Thank you" in myriad ways: Thank you for coming. Thank you for caring. Thank you for your sweat and your optimism, for your curiosity and bravery in traveling to a place so unlike your own home. And, when many in the rest of the country seem to have "gotten over" Katrina and can't understand why we can't, perhaps the real message was: Thank you for not forgetting.

Most of all, thank you for reminding New Orleans — a city that's so dependent on the kindness of strangers — that there still are people in this world who come to town and leave behind things more valuable than overflowing cash registers.

KINSMEN CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Welcome to Confirmation! Confirmation at Kinsmen is a three-year journey beginning in the fall semester of 6th Grade and ending in the spring semester of 8th Grade. We seek to provide these students with instruction in scripture and in the "basics of faith" that have been important to our Lutheran Christian Faith.

Year One

The Old Testament

Year Two

The New Testament

Year Three

Small Catechism



Experiencing Family

At Kinsmen, we value the small group experience. We think a small group can be fertile ground for faithful conversations and a good place to practice Christian community. We hope the small group is a place where your students will grow closer to other youth and deeper in faith.

Inspiring Worship

In Baptism, we promised to faithfully come to the services of God's house to hear the Word and share in the Lord's Supper. We expect your student to regularly worship with us at Kinsmen and share in the Sacraments. In addition to weekend worship, your youth will be expected to attend our Advent and Lenten mid-week services. We also encourage your youth to find a way to participate in worship support and leadership.

Sharing Grace

There will be opportunities to serve within and through the church. We think service in the name of Jesus is an experience that is very important to our confirmands. Youth will serve with their confirmation small groups and as individuals in this congregation.

Retreats

Our Lord Jesus modeled for us the importance of taking time away for prayer. We believe the bonds of friendship are strengthened when we take time away in retreat. For this reason, we strongly encourage 7th and 8th grade youth to attend @the Crossing in January. This is a new event and there will be more information to come. We also encourage all Junior High youth to attend Confirmation Camp at least once. Look for more information on these upcoming opportunities for retreat in the newsletter or on "The Messenger."

Our hope is that the confirmation experience will help our young people as they discern their readiness to make their own commitment to God in Christ Jesus.

During the Affirmation of Baptism, they will be asked;

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

We want to help each student be able to respond truthfully and authentically,
I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Confirmation small groups are held on Wednesdays from 7-8:15 p.m. and on Sunday mornings.

2009-2010 CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Aug. 26

Confirmation Kick-off
How To Identify A "Neighbor"

Sunday, Aug. 30

Cruise for Christ

Wednesday, Sept. 2

6th Grade: Creation
7th Grade: The Wilderness Temptations
8th Grade: I Am Who I Am

Sunday, Sept. 6

Labor Day Weekend

Wednesday, Sept. 9

6th Grade: The Human Condition
7th Grade: Jesus' Nazareth Sermon
8th Grade: The Lord's Name

Sunday, Sept. 13

6th Grade: Creation
7th Grade: The Wilderness Temptations
8th Grade: I Am Who I Am

Wednesday, Sept. 16

6th Grade: The Flood
7th Grade: Jesus Calls the First Disciples
8th Grade: Sabbath Day

Sunday, Sept. 20

6th Grade: The Human Condition
7th Grade: Jesus' Nazareth Sermon
8th Grade: The Lord's Name

Wednesday, Sept. 23

6th Grade: Abraham and Sarah
7th Grade: The Beatitudes
8th Grade: Father and Mother

Sunday, Sept. 27

6th Grade: The Flood
7th Grade: Jesus Calls the First Disciples
8th Grade: Sabbath Day

Wednesday, Sept. 30

6th Grade: Sarah, Hagar and Abraham
7th Grade: Gerasene Demoniac
8th Grade: Safeguard Life

Sunday, Oct. 4

6th Grade: Abraham and Sarah
7th Grade: The Beatitudes
8th Grade: Father and Mother

Wednesday, Oct. 7

6th Grade: Isaac and Rebekah
7th Grade: Feeding of the 5,000
8th Grade: Remain Faithful

Sunday, Oct. 11

6th Grade: Sarah, Hagar, and Abraham
7th Grade: Gerasene Demoniac
8th Grade: Safeguard Life

Wednesday, Oct. 14

6th Grade: Jacob and Esau
7th Grade: The Transfiguration
8th Grade: Protect Property

Sunday, Oct. 18

6th Grade: Isaac and Rebekah
7th Grade: Feeding of the 5,000
8th Grade: Remain Faithful

Wednesday, Oct. 21

6th Grade: Joseph
7th Grade: The Sending of the 70
8th Grade: Defend Truth

Sunday, Oct. 25

6th Grade: Jacob and Esau
7th Grade: The Transfiguration
8th Grade: Protect Property

All Confirmation - Reformation Bowl**Wednesday, Oct. 28**

6th Grade: Moses and Pharaoh
7th Grade: The Good Samaritan
8th Grade: Do Not Covet

Sunday, Nov. 1

6th Grade: Joseph
7th Grade: The Sending of the 70
8th Grade: Defend Truth

Wednesday, Nov. 4

6th Grade: The Ten Commandments
7th Grade: Healing the Bent-Over Woman
8th Grade: Commandments Conclusion

Sunday, Nov. 8

6th Grade: Moses and Pharaoh
7th Grade: The Good Samaritan
8th Grade: Do Not Covet

Wednesday, Nov. 11

6th Grade: Wilderness to Land
7th Grade: The Annunciation
8th Grade - Spiritual Gifts

Sunday, Nov. 15

6th Grade: The Ten Commandments
7th Grade: The Annunciation
8th Grade - Spiritual Gifts

Wednesday, Nov. 18

6th Grade: Judges
7th Grade: Birth of Jesus
8th Grade: Spiritual Gifts

Sunday, Nov. 22

6th Grade: Wilderness to Land
7th Grade: Birth of Jesus
8th Grade: Spiritual Gifts

Wednesday, Nov. 25

Thanksgiving Eve

Sunday, Nov. 29

Advent All Family Sunday School

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Advent Worship

Sunday, Dec. 6

Second Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, Dec. 9

Advent Worship

Sunday, Dec. 13

Third Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, Dec. 16

Advent Worship

Sunday, Dec. 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, Jan. 6

Confirmation Youth and Parents



WEEKEND SCHEDULE		
Saturday 5:30 PM Informal Worship with Communion	Sunday 8:15 AM & 11 AM Traditional Worship with Communion on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of each month 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Communion	9:30 AM Education Hour Classes for all ages (August - May) 9 - 11 AM Fellowship Breakfast Community Life Center

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 the church office.

KINSMEN STAFF

Reach a Staff Member directly by dialing 281-444-3127, plus their extension

- Rev. Jeffery Alvestad, Senior Pastor**
jalvestad@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 18
- Rev. Mark England, Youth and Family Ministry**
mengland@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 24
- Bruce Elijah, Associate in Ministry**
bruceelijah@mac.com — Ext. 15
- Susan Converse, Director of Administration**
sconverse@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 17
- Julie Hughes, Administrative Assistant**
jhughes@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 10
- Susan Emfinger, Media and Communications Coordinator**
semfinger@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 21
- Irene Baasen, Accounting and Financial Reports**
ibaasen@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 14
- Lynnae Schatz, Director of Congregational Life**
lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 43
- Stefanie Gibbons, Children's Ministries Coordinator**
sgibbons@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 15
- Joan Horner, Parish Assistant/Hospitality**
jhorner@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 12
- Linda Thomas, Principal Organist**
lindacthomas99@hotmail.com
- Stevie Berryman, Director of Adult Hand Bells**
sberryman@kinsmenlutheran.org
- Elizabeth LeMay, Traditional Worship Coordinator**
elemay@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 22

OFFICE HOURS
 Monday - Friday
 9 AM - 5 PM

CONTACT INFO
 281-444-3126 Phone
 281-444-1733 FAX

- Kristen Schulze, Contemporary Worship Co-coordinator**
kristen.schulze@cfisd.net
- Timothy Browning, Contemporary Worship Co-coordinator**
chosentenor@gmail.com
- J.D. McCollom, Media Team Coordinator**
jd.mccollum@itfidelity.com
- Sherri Botker, Director, Kinsmen Kids Preschool/Mother's Day Out**
sbotker@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 23
- Gundi Talbert, Director, Before & After School Kinsmen**
gtalbert@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 35
- Mayra Olvera, Asst. Director of Before & After School Kinsmen**
molvera@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 36
- Eileen Edwards, Before & After School Kinsmen Registrar**
eedwards@kinsmenlutheran.org — Ext. 25
- Ruben Cervantes, Custodian**
- Lonnie Davis, Custodian**

MISSION CONGREGATION
 Celebration Church
 281-758-1279

Rev. Chris Markert, Mission Pastor
 pastor@click2celebrate.com — 281-840-0195