

Connection



JANUARY 2010



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TEXAS LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY WEEKEND JANUARY 9 & 10

Come hear a message from Texas Lutheran University President Ann M. Svennungsen at all worship services.

The January Noisy Offering will also be collected these dates with all funds going towards the Texas Lutheran University Scholarship Fund.



GOD IS WORKING AT KINSMEN

Dear Friends,

I cannot remember a more meaningful Advent. Since Thanksgiving, we have received the following e-mails:

This was one of the most beautiful Thanksgiving services I can remember, if not THE most. Thank you! I'm grateful to and for all who played a part in making it that way, and I'm grateful to be grateful! Happy Thanksgiving!

... long time members told me after the concert that they wanted us in the choir to know how phenomenal she thinks we are. She really went on and on. These members have been going to the Saturday night service for some time now and had not heard the choir for awhile. She said that she wished that we would make a CD. I told her I would pass on the high praise.

I wanted to let you know that we talked about Christmas in Germany today, and Madeline got up in front of the class and sang 'Silent Night' in German. It was incredible. I am going to ask the girls if they would like to sing it for the other first grade classes throughout the week." According to Madeline, she raised her hand and offered to sing for the class. She was very proud of herself. I was glowing in the car when I picked her up from school today, and she told me what she did. If this is not an

example of a 6-year-old wanting to worship fully and share God's word, I don't know what is. What I think is even more impressive is that other students will get to hear God's word (in a public school, no less) because Madeline and Abigail are going to share it with them. Lynnae, thanks for inspiring my girls to be willing to give more and share God's word during this Advent season.

Wow! We have never been so appreciative of Advent and special Christmas services. The content and positive message has not only been enjoyable, but full of the Holy Spirit. Our thanks to the staff and participants for bringing the Christ story to us so effectively. The Advent Conspiracy has focused us on the true message of Christmas. It is obvious to us that God is ever present and working at Kinsmen. Thank you.

... tonight worship really spoke to my daughter. She could not take her eyes off of Mary. All the way home she asked, "Was that really Mary? Where were the Shepherds and Joseph?" ... I have to say she was as excited to see Mary at Kinsmen as she was to see a Disney princess. And that's saying something when it comes to my daughter. Thanks for making worship

inspiring for my four-year-old.

Looking ahead to 2010, our Lenten theme is "The Contagious Christian." Pastor Kerry Nelson, director of Evangelical Mission in our Synod, will introduce the theme a few weeks earlier on the weekend of Feb. 6 & 7. Small Group resources will be available, and the messages at the Wednesday services will alternate between speakers from Kinsmen and two dramas. It is a good and appropriate theme for Kinsmen. Worship attendance declined 15 percent from 2005-2007 but has stabilized and has been identical from 2007-2009. It isn't easy for many of us to share our faith or even invite someone to worship. The theme will equip us to do this in non-threatening ways making use of our unique gifts and personalities. We hope your small group will participate.

Don't forget, Texas Lutheran University Weekend is Jan. 9 & 10. The new president, The Rev. Ann M. Svennungsen, will be our guest.

See you in worship!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffery Alvstad".

Jeffery Alvstad
Senior Pastor



On Sunday,
Dec. 20,
30 Kinsmen
members and
friends went
Christmas
caroling
through
the
neighborhood.

JANUARY NOISY OFFERING TO BENEFIT TEXAS LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Kinsmen's January Noisy Offering will coincide with Texas Lutheran University Weekend on Jan. 9 & 10. President Ann M.

Svennungsen will provide the message at all worship services. The funds collected this month will go towards the Texas Lutheran University Scholarship Fund.

Svennungsen became the 14th president of Texas Lutheran University in July 2007. She has the distinction of serving as the first female president in the school's 118-year history.

Born and raised in Montana,



Svennungsen graduated summa cum laude from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and received her Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul. She spent 22 years in pastoral ministry, serving congregations in Iowa and Minnesota. In 2003, Svennungsen became president of the Fund for Theological Education, a national, ecumenical organization.

Svennungsen is married to Dr. William Russell, a Reformation specialist. They have three adult children.

ABOUT NOISY OFFERINGS

Noisy Offerings are held monthly at each worship service where people are invited to donate their loose change to a designated mission need.



ADVENT CONSPIRACY BY THE NUMBERS

This Advent, 287 people joined the Conspiracy to Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More and Love All.



"We are quite please with the congregation's participation in Advent Conspiracy," stated Rev. Jeffery Alvestad. "It was a tremendous success and really helped Kinsmen rethink what Christmas is supposed to be about."

Inspiring Worship – Give Thanks to God

2,113 people worshiped during Advent weekend services

1,339 people worshiped on Christmas Eve

641 people worshiped fully on Wednesday nights

25 families worshiped in their homes using Jesse Tree devotions

19 daily devotions were shared with 546 e-mail addresses

Experiencing Family – Give Relationally

2,206 miles were "traveled" to Bethlehem by 43 people between Nov. 22 and Dec. 25

160 people participated in the Advent Conspiracy Small Group Studies

48 children, youth and sponsors participated in Lutherhill's Advent Retreats

30 people caroled to 100 people on Dec. 20

Sharing Grace – Give Presence

\$5,632.47 was given to Water to Thrive as of Dec. 28

\$500 in gifts given to a military family by a small group

\$500 in gifts given to a Kinsmen Family by a small group

2,500 door hangers were distributed

169 handcraft items were sold at the Fair Trade Fair

150 toy bags were given to Northwest Assistance Ministries

95 chocolate bars were sold at the Fair Trade Fair

42 packs of coffee were sold at the Fair Trade Fair

18 people gave 19 units of blood

Thanks be to God for His good and perfect gift. Christmas can [still] change the world!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ABENDMUSIK PATRONS

Kinsmen is very grateful to its 2009-2010 Abendmusik series supporters:

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Jerry & Gloria Avant
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Brent & Debra Williams
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If interested in supporting the Abendmusik series, please make a check payable to Kinsmen with Abendmusik noted in the memo line.

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RUNNING FOR FUN, FITNESS AND CHARITY



The 2010 Chevron Houston Marathon, Aramco Houston Half Marathon, EP5K and ABB Team

Challenge will be held on Sunday, Jan. 17, and some familiar faces can be found along the course.

Kinsmen's five runners/walkers, Andrew Chow, Tammy Lehmann, Lynnae Schatz, Barbara Velotas and Mike Velotas, will be participating for Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) as part of Marathon Team NAM.



This team is a training and fundraising program designed to work with a range of first-time to advanced runners in an effort to prepare them for Houston's full or half marathon. As part of the pre-race training they have received, these individuals have committed to raise a minimum of \$400 to benefit NAM.

Andrew Chow, Marathon Team NAM trainer, stated, "Our team has a number

of goals — to promote running and walking for performance, fitness and good health; to develop a running community that is absent in this part of town and to benefit NAM. In this regard, I would ask the readers to generously support team members with sponsorships, as donations to NAM and as motivators for the team members to finish the distance. It is very powerful to keep from wimping out with a constant

reminder of a total of \$50 or \$100 per mile to the charity."

"I walk for my health and I love the team concept, because I need a buddy," said Barbara Velotas. "After my heart attack in 2001 and family history of heart problems, I needed to do something. For a few years I watched Mike (Velotas) run the full marathon as I had breakfast at the Hilton waiting for him to finish. One year I thought I could walk a half marathon in the time

it takes him to complete a full marathon. Plus it was one more thing we could do somewhat together. This year will be my fourth half marathon."

Northwest Assistance Ministries is a multiple program social services agency benefiting the local community, and it is supported by a number of different religious congregations and civic/social organizations. This year, NAM is one of the Houston marathon's "Run For A Reason" charities.

"The race atmosphere, and the race itself, is invigorating and exciting," stated Barbara Velotas. "Raising funds for NAM and their needs makes every step more meaningful because I am not only helping myself but others also."

Contact any of these Kinsmen marathon participants if interested in supporting their fundraising goals and/or to benefit the mission of NAM.

To learn more about Northwest Assistance Ministries and Chevron Houston Marathon, visit namonline.com and chevronhoustonmarathon.com respectively.



THE BEST OF THE REST

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER JANUARY SCHEDULE AND MENU

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

1/06: Lasagna
1/13: Baked Italian Chicken
1/20: King Ranch Chicken
1/27: Beef/Chicken Fajitas

\$6 (11 years and older)
\$4 (3-10 years)
FREE (3 years and younger)

LADIES RETREAT

March 5-8
\$150 per person
Transportation: Kinsmen bus

Ladies, make your plans now to indulge yourself in a weekend of relaxation and rejuvenation at Lutherhill. There will be individual appointments with a professional masseuse, gourmet meals with optional cooking instruction, wine tasting, ropes course, paint your own pottery and plenty of free time to read a book, talk with new or old friends and relax. In addition, your spirits will be pampered with Bible studies and worship. If interested, contact Lynnae Schatz. Deadline to register and submit payment is Monday, Feb. 1.

GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION



Special thanks to the following vendors and suppliers for providing mulch and flowers for the campus grounds:

-RCW Nurseries
-CJM

-Plants for All Seasons

Al & Hope Agard of Rwenzori Services were able to request these donations from their suppliers and assisted with the planting of the annuals and spreading the mulch. The total cost of donated supplies and labor was approximately \$1,700. As you do your own landscaping this spring, please remember and support these outstanding companies.

SCOUT NEWS

January 2010 begins the year of celebration! Boy Scouts of America will turn 100-years-old in February.

The Sam Houston Area Council and the BSA National organization will be hosting events for scouts, parents, volunteers and scouting alumni throughout 2010.

The pack finished off 2009 in good shape with 48 Scouts, which is more than a 25 percent increase over last year. Before the holiday break, the boys participated in the district Push Mobile event. Teams from packs all over the district met at Spring High School to compete in the relay races, and our boys did quite well. Luminary sales in the Fountainhead subdivision concluded with the annual Santa Ride.

The Pack loaded into trailers and caroled through the neighborhood. As leaders loaded donated food for Northwest Assistance Ministries, the scouts and their siblings sang while Santa threw candy to the residents.

The Pack will hold their Pinewood Derby this month. This is a very popular event with the boys each and every year. The scouts put a lot of work into building a new and better car every year.

For information about scouting, please e-mail pack440@comcast.net.

KINDERGARTEN MILESTONE – WE WORSHIP

Students and parents, two milestone sessions will be held Sunday, Jan. 24, and Sunday, Jan. 31, in Room 4 and 5 in the Preschool Hall. These sessions, which run from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m., will be an important time for parents and students to learn more about the church seasons and worship. The Kindergarteners will be recognized on Jan. 31, at the 11 a.m. worship service. For more information contact Stefanie Gibbons.

CELEBRATE MARRIAGE

Kinsmen's annual Marriage Celebration Dinner will be on Saturday, Feb. 13, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Community Life Center. A catered dinner will be served. Tickets, which must be purchased in advance, will be \$30 per couple and will go on sale Jan. 23. Childcare is available for children through Grade 5. For more information, contact Lynnae Schatz.



KINDERMASS

On Sunday, Jan. 31, the 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services will be lead by the Youth Ringers, Morning Glory Choir and Sunshine Singers. Come experience inspiring worship lead by our youngest leaders.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

On Friday, Jan. 22, from 7-11 p.m., kids will enjoy time without parents and parents will enjoy a night without having to worry about the kids. Cost is \$20 for one or two children; \$25 for three children and \$30 for four or more children. A snack and drink will be provided. Sign up on The Messenger no later than Monday, Jan. 18.

LADIES THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

The spring session will start on Jan. 14 in the Community Room at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The groups will begin by studying "Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed: A Study of David" by Beth Moore, Pricilla Shirer and Kay Arthur. This is a very in depth, dynamic six-week study. For more information, contact Shella Smith at 832-683-4777 for the morning session; Colette Edwards at 281-444-2879 for the evening session.

TELLERS NEEDED

Two volunteers are needed to count the weekly offerings. The schedule is two Mondays every eight weeks. Those interested should contact Norm Gerber at 281-444-2503 or normgerb@sbcglobal.net.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Andrew Funke	1/1	Keith Cook	1/12	Kelly Henning	1/21
Maryellen Madsen	1/1	Irene Baasen	1/12	Cullen Burns	1/22
Aleu Bil	1/1	Cindy Porth	1/12	Egons Dunens	1/22
Peter Deng	1/1	James Hock	1/12	Meghan Mc Auliffe	1/22
Deng Duot	1/1	Jack Howard	1/12	Andrew Reder	1/22
Laura Landgraf	1/2	Phillip Garlin	1/12	Harley Twidwell	1/22
Michael Nott	1/3	Bryan Bean	1/12	Joshua Kaurich	1/23
Ryan Anderson	1/3	Christine Heggeseth	1/12	Jill Wittnebel	1/23
Joyce Hayes	1/3	Grace Mielke	1/13	Sara Kloppenburg	1/23
Caymann Johnston	1/4	Darlene Boggs	1/13	Don Schlotterbeck	1/23
Michael Wysocki	1/4	Jennifer Sanchez	1/14	Samuel Slater	1/24
Thomas Miller	1/4	Eva Gerber	1/14	Garrett Ray	1/24
Larry Stark	1/4	Ashley Bachmeier	1/14	Deanna Porter	1/24
Anthony Chaponis	1/4	Patrick Landgraf	1/14	Alyssa Lindblom	1/25
Stella Franklin	1/4	Ann Simpson	1/14	Daniel Ehlers	1/25
Veronica Mosqueda	1/5	Jefferson Lockhart	1/14	Sin-Ming Flora Lee	1/25
Jonathan Blackwell	1/5	Susan Rovang	1/15	Lisa Erickson	1/25
Tracey Rudy	1/5	Abigail Wietstruck	1/15	John Kolkhorst	1/26
Neva Schoof	1/7	Madeline Wietstruck	1/15	Bob Swerdon	1/26
Carol Twidwell	1/7	Bruce Elijah	1/15	Amber Smith	1/26
Jessica Hudson	1/7	John Charles DeWitt	1/15	Jane Wiese	1/26
Joel Lockhart	1/7	Linda Johanson	1/15	Cathy Elijah	1/26
Katy Parr	1/8	Chrisanne Mc Auliffe	1/16	Frannie Smith	1/26
Gary Mullinix	1/8	Patsy Parr	1/16	Alvina Rinn	1/27
Anjali Lueders	1/8	Susan Clark	1/16	Sue Junker	1/27
Lynda Larson	1/8	Regina Wysocki	1/17	Terry Richter	1/28
Charlie Mc Mahan	1/8	Steve Bachmeier	1/17	Alistair Laing	1/28
Jackie Kloppenburg	1/8	Julie Mulkey	1/18	Barton Garlin	1/28
Veniece Kolkhorst	1/9	Julie Pate	1/18	Hannah Carlton	1/29
Isabella Hurtado	1/9	Kathy Kolkhorst	1/18	Kimberly Carlton	1/29
Dylan Porter	1/9	McKenna Clark	1/18	Jenalie Lowe	1/29
Ulf Lueders	1/9	Randall Morgan	1/18	Jennifer Kaurich	1/30
Carol Hart	1/10	Bishop Paul Blom	1/19	Kaitlyn Gradoni	1/30
Bob Boller	1/10	Suzanne Davis	1/19	Allison Mc Cue	1/30
Jennifer Fretwell	1/10	Steven Daniels	1/20	Emma Yeats	1/30
Douglas Millman	1/11	Anna Keeling	1/20	Dolores Wendt	1/30
Tracy Shawhan	1/11	Alex Fidler	1/20	Cullen Thompson	1/31
Janet Poorman	1/11	Liz Fidler	1/20	Sylvia Orosco	1/31
Daniel Holsberg	1/12	Karen Miller	1/21	Christen Lowe	1/31
James Ismail	1/12	Victoria Sawicki	1/21		

*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 Youth and Family

30 Hour Famine: February 26-27

Youth groups from around Houston will get a real taste of hunger and have some fun, too, as we join half a million teens nationwide aiming to raise more than \$12 million to fight world hunger.

During the 30 hours, we will see how “one empty stomach” can make a difference in the world. We will go without food (consuming only liquids) for 30 hours to experience what the poorest children and families face every day. Last year, six youth groups gathered at Kinsmen for fun games, meaningful worship, worthwhile service projects and much more.

We hope you will challenge yourself to join us for this year’s 30 Hour Famine. It’s a simple concept. We are going without food so that others can eat.

For more information about World Vision’s 30 Hour Famine, visit www.30hourfamine.org.



Please contact Pastor Mark if you have any questions about fasting or the lock in.

This event is for Junior and Senior High Youth. Sign-up on The Messenger.

Info Hotline

Pastor Mark

☎ 281-444-3127, ext. 24

mengland@kinsmenlutheran.org

☎ Jr. High, ext. 39

☎ Sr. High, ext. 40

☎ Off Campus Hotline, ext. 41

Jr. High Youth



Who: 7 & 8th Grade Youth

**When: Fri., Jan 29 to
Sat., Jan 30**

**Where:
Holy Comforter Lutheran
1901 Woodland Hills Dr.
Kingwood, TX 77339**

Cost: \$10 per person

Attention 7th and 8th Grade Youth

Get ready for LYO @the crossing.

This lock in will include ...

- Space to get to know other Lutheran youth
- Bible study just for guys and just for girls
- Great worship experiences
- Discovering YOUR unique gifts from God!

Registration forms and a sign-up sheet are on The Messenger.

*Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.
- Romans 12:4-6*

Attention Confirmation Youth and Parents

Confirmation resumes Wednesday, Jan. 6. Youth **AND PARENTS** are invited to join us in the **Community Life Center** at 7 p.m.

This meeting is for all Confirmation Youth AND PARENTS.

The gathering will conclude in the Sanctuary by 8:15 p.m.



Confirmation Camp!



Lutherhill is the perfect place to learn more about our faith in an outdoor atmosphere and live together as a Christian community. Kinsmen youth have had very positive experiences at Lutherhill. We hope you will join us **June 20-25** for Confirmation Camp.

Sr. High Youth

@theCrossing Leadership Team



@the Crossing is an event for Junior High Youth
Friday, Jan. 29 - Saturday, Jan. 30
at Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

At the event, 7th and 8th grade youth and their adult leaders will "Discover Who UR" by identifying their own uniqueness and how they might use their gifts to serve in the world around you.

We are looking for **High School Youth** to help with the planning and leadership of this event. Contact **Lauren Boller** or **Pastor Mark** to be a part of the leadership team.

S.W.A.T. Party!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

Senior High S.W.A.T. will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 6. Come experience friendship as we ring in 2010 with a fellowship party. We will meet in The Loft at 7 p.m. Come enjoy food, fun and games. We will conclude the evening with worship.



S.W.A.T. Bible study will continue on Wednesday, Jan. 13. Hope you can come join us in the New Year!

S.W.A.T. Leadership Team

We want to raise up faithful leaders among our youth; therefore, we are looking for youth who are willing to take a more active leadership role in S.W.A.T. We need game leaders, activity leaders, worship leaders, Bible study leaders, media leaders and hospitality leaders.

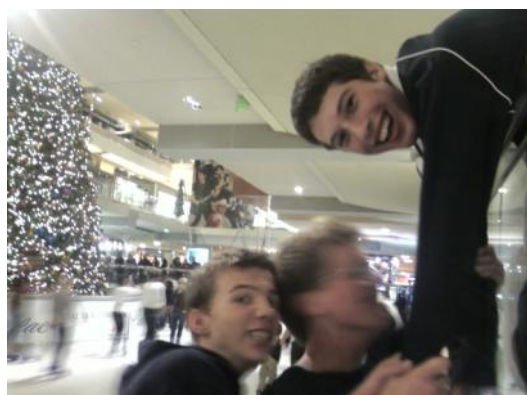
You will be given direction and mentoring from adults.

Contact **Kristen Schulze** or **Pastor Mark** to be a part of the leadership team.

Advent @ Lutherhill



SWAT Advent





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

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- Lonnie Davis, Custodian**

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