



March 2009

# CONNECTION

Spring Forward Sunday, March 8

## Calendar for Lent

**WEDNESDAYS in LENT**  
Dinner at 6:00 PM and  
Service at 7:00 PM with the following:

- |      |  |                                  |
|------|--|----------------------------------|
| 3/4  | Passionate worship                                 | Kristen Schulze                  |
| 3/11 | Radical hospitality                                | Lynnae Schatz                    |
| 3/18 | Adventurous service                                | Terry Richter and<br>John Warner |
| 3/25 | Intentional faith formation                        | Mike Hart                        |
| 4/1  | Sensitive evangelism &<br>Extraordinary generosity | Bruce Elijah                     |

These attributes or marks of a disciple of Christ expressed with the acronym P.R.A.I.S.E. are a new way for Kinsmen to begin using common language to describe a follower of Jesus. The strong adjectives used to describe these simple practices of a disciple push us to new levels of following Jesus.

Will you join us on this journey together towards spiritual maturity as we become more like Jesus in passionate, radical, adventurous, intentional, sensitive and extraordinary ways? Look for Study Guides in the Narthex.

Lenten Offerings go toward college & seminary scholarships.

## Good Friday Golf Tournament is April 10

So start organizing your team for this annual event! The tournament will be held at Fox Creek, near Hempstead, on Friday, April 10th. We will have a Texas Scramble format with trophies for the top four teams, along with prizes for the closest to the pin and longest drive. Cost per player is \$44 and includes green fees, cart and a barbeque lunch, which will follow the tournament. Registration deadline and fees are due by Palm Sunday — April 5th. Make checks payable to "Men of Hosanna." A sign-up sheet is in the church lobby at the Welcome Center. For more information, contact Bob Fox at 713-206-4188 or at: [lonestarfoxes@att.net](mailto:lonestarfoxes@att.net).

## Holy Week

**Maundy Thursday**  
7:00 PM  
**Good Friday**  
12 noon  
7:00 PM  
**Saturday**  
5:30 PM

**Easter Sunday**  
6:15 AM, 8:00 AM,  
9:30 and 11:00 AM

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Pastor	2
Children's News	3
Abendmusik	4
Glimpses of Grace	4
Senior Trips	5
ASK/Preschool	6
Birthdays	7



**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Sunday Fellowship  
Breakfast:**  
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the  
Community Life Center

## From the Pastor

Dear Kinsmen Disciples,

I wrote in my Semi Annual report that the first weekend in February was the most enjoyable weekend we have experienced since coming to Kinsmen. One council member mentioned the weekend was an illustration of the energy he has noticed recently at Kinsmen. It was a perfect example of a community of faith that values Authentic Relationships (that are often intergenerational), Gracious Generosity, Rooted Relevance and Spiritual Depth.

That Saturday evening we were invited to a small group gathering --- it was a social gathering but it was apparent the relationships had spiritual depth. Sunday was an example of every generation experiencing and sharing God's grace in Jesus Christ. The Choirs and Praise team were exceptional, I ate the best lunch since coming to Kinsmen and the Hallelujah Hoedown raised \$10,000 for Youth and Family Ministry. You just had to be there --- and 584 of us were in worship and at least half that many stayed for the delicious lunch and silent auction.

What was true that first weekend in February was true for all of February. The weekend following the Hoedown, we experienced family as 122 people

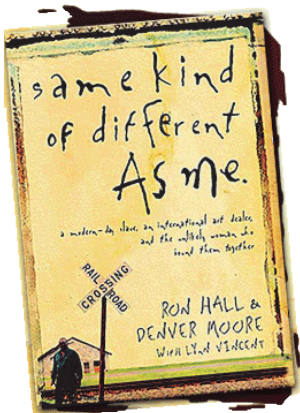
gathered in the CLC for the Marriage Celebration Milestone as we celebrated 18 couples who had been married over 50 years!

After the evening Ash Wednesday service a long time member said she couldn't remember seeing more people at an Ash Wednesday service. The service was so meaningful to me personally that I wrote to our staff that night: *"Pastor Mark preached a powerful message, the choir again sang beautifully, the congregation sang the hymns, and communion and the imposition of ashes was well organized. This evening I was proud and humbled to be a part of the staff of Kinsmen!"*

All these experiences were enhanced by the successful gathering following the Semi-Annual meeting March 1st. I was thrilled with the attendance and the presentation. Will Mancini brought meaning to the "Vision to Grow" process and explained to those not involved in the process why we worked so long and hard! I have heard reports that there was energy in the break-out rooms and that some groups did not want to end their sessions!

What the council member noticed as "new energy" the first the weekend in February has been true all year. Attendance for the first two months in 2009 is up nearly 12% from a year ago. We believe frequent and "Passionate Worship" is a mark of a disciple at Kinsmen. We miss you when you are not here!

See you this weekend! In Christ, Pastor Jeff

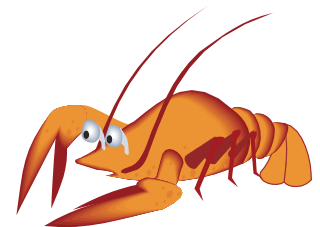


### **Book of the Month**

Same Kind of Different as Me will be our book for discussion on MAY 13th. Bring your dinner to the Conference Room and join the discussion of this true story of an uncommon friendship.

### **THE BUGS ARE COMING**

.... Kinsmen's Annual Crawfish Boil will be Saturday April 25, 2009. Eric Fidler is coordinating the event. If you are able to help, please contact Lynnae Schatz at [lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org) or 281-444-3127 ext 43.



Calling all Lutherhill supporters! We're working toward another successful Lutherhill Ministries Golf Tournament. Our 8<sup>th</sup> annual tournament will be held at the Longwood Golf Club on April 24, 2009. Proceeds from the tournament benefit the year-round camping ministry of Lutherhill. Watch for details in the April newsletter!!

For more information & to register contact Jen Kindsvatter at [jen@lutherhill.org](mailto:jen@lutherhill.org), (888) 266 - 4613 or visit our website [www.lutherhill.org](http://www.lutherhill.org).

## Parents, Kids and “Money Matters”

Every day, kids are forming concrete opinions and attitudes about life. They’re deciding “what’s hot” versus “what’s not” and the meaning of money in their lives. Want to help your kids develop “money values”? Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be leading a session that will help:

- Reflect on the values you want your kids to learn.
- Teach your kids about money and values.
- Learn practical tools and techniques to make teaching about money fun.



This session will be offered for the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents on March 29 during the Education Hour (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.). The 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders will meet in the Community Room; the Jr. High Students will meet in the Great Room. Join in on the fun discussion and receive take-home resources. Questions? Contact Pastor Mark or Lynnae Schatz.

### MILESTONE MINISTRY - Second Grade – Family Service

Second graders will have two special Milestone Sessions entitled “Family Service” on March 22 and March 29. The first class will be held in the Community Room – located on the first floor of the Youth and Family Building – from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The second class will be held in Great Room 1— located on the 2nd floor of the Youth and Family Building. The second graders will be recognized, blessed and gifted on March 29th at the 11 a.m. worship service. The second session, March 29, will be a time to experience “serving one another in love.” On that day the second graders and their families will pack soap for Lutheran World Relief. A time of fun, learning and celebration is planned as your second grader reaches this Milestone. Questions? Contact Lynnae Schatz at 281-444-3127 ext. 43 or [lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org).

**LUTHERHILL SUMMER CAMPS** – Lutherhill has summer camping experiences available for families and youths of all ages this summer. Check out Lutherhill’s website for more information – [www.lutherhill.org](http://www.lutherhill.org). Questions? Contact Lynnae Schatz at [lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org) or 281-444-3127 ext 43.

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT...** It’s that time again! Kids enjoy the night without your parents and parents enjoy a night out without having to worry about the kids. The next Parent’s Night Out will be Friday, April 3 from 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. Sign up on The Messenger. Deadline to

sign up is March 31. Cost is \$20 for 1-2 children, \$25 for 3 children and \$30 for 4 or more children. A snack and drink will be provided.

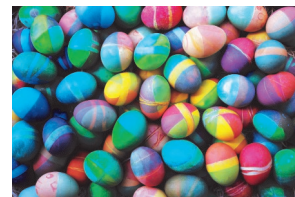
### SUNDAY SCHOOL...

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS** --- God’s Global Barnyard. The Sunday School offerings this semester will be dedicated to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal - God’s Global Barnyard. The ELCA World Hunger Appeal helps people in need around the world by supplying animals and the means to raise them. Hardworking families then have enough food to eat and sell, and whole communities have a chance to escape the cycle of chronic hunger and poverty.

Through February 15, 2009 – the Sunday School has collected \$238.34. This is enough for 2 goats, 3 pigs, 1 turkey and 2 chicks.

For more information visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) and link to God’s Global Barnyard in the lower left hand corner.

## ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT



The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held during the Education Hour for all children through the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade on Palm Sunday, April 5.

# ABENDMUSIK

## Worship and the Arts at Kinsmen 2009

*Concerts are free and open to the public. A reception follows each concert.*

**. Saturday, March 28 at 7:00 pm: Mark Babcock, Organist**

Mark Babcock, an Iowa native, received a Bachelor's degree in music education from Central College in Pella, Iowa and a Master's degree in choral conducting and organ performance from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. Since his formal education, Mark has taught vocal music, directed a variety of choirs, and served as Director of Music and Organist. Currently, Mark is an Associate Professor of Music at Central College and Chair of the Music Department.



*Abendmusik programs are free and open to the public, but there are costs involved in presenting them. Contributions are vital to our continued ability to present the series. Any size contribution is appreciated. Contributors will be recognized at our programs. Checks should be made out to Kinsmen Lutheran Church with a memo notation: Abendmusik. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. For more information, please contact: Elizabeth LeMay at 281-444-3127, ext. 22 or [elemay@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:elemay@kinsmenlutheran.org)*

### ADVENTUROUS SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

This year the second grade Milestone class will be collecting bars of soap for Lutheran World Relief. A brand new bar of soap signals dignity and cleanliness. LWR accepts **new bars of any brand soap, in its original wrapping**. All bar sizes are accepted; however, bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) are highly preferred. Soap will be collected starting March 1 and end March 29. Please bring bath size bars of soap in an original wrapper and leave it in the box in the church lobby.

<u>Glimpses of Grace</u>	
January Noisy Offering	
Boy Scouts Troop 440	\$1,597
Synod/ELCA	9,312
Total	10,909
February Noisy Offering	
World Hunger	1,313
Synod/ELCA	10,875
Total	\$23,097

### March Noisy Offering



Water 2 Thrive provides fresh water to thousands of Ethiopians who struggle every day to find a drink of water. Water access is provided through the digging of hand dug wells or spring protection systems. Since inception in late 2007, Water 2 Thrive has funded over 40 wells or spring protection systems changing the lives of 20,000 rural Ethiopians forever.



**Mission Investment Fund**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## Save for Retirement ~ Support Mission

It's never too late to support mission and save for retirement. The Mission Investment Fund is now offering investors a special incentive to purchase term investments held as Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA). Through the Mission Investment Fund, you can grow your savings and your church at once. With your investments, Mission Investment Fund makes loans to ELCA congregations and related ministries for land purchases and building projects.

**Through April 30, purchase an IRA and earn a .20% higher rate than for a comparable Mission-TermSelect term investment.** Visit [www.elca.org/mif](http://www.elca.org/mif) and click on "Current Rates" to check out the rates for MissionTermSelect investments. The IRA rate for the same investment is .20% higher. Then, right there at [www.elca.org/mif](http://www.elca.org/mif), visit the IRA Service Center or call 1.877.886.3522 (toll free) to **get started today**.

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**Host Families Needed** this summer Camp Lutherhill staff will be here at Kinsmen conducting some of our summer program. Host families are needed to house these Lutherhill staff members the following weeks: June 22-26; July 20-24; July 27-31; August 3-7; and August 10-14. We also need a volunteer, at least 16-years-old, who can help the Lutherhill staff during the camp week. If you would like to help, please contact staff member Susan Wardzinski.

**Ladies Thursday Morning & Evening Bible Study** All women are invited to the Thursday Bible Study at 10 a.m. for the morning sessions or 7 p.m. for the evening session, both meeting in the Community Room. The study for this semester is Beth Moore's *Esther*. This 10-week study, which began January 29, is an in-depth and very personal examination of this great story of threat and deliverance. It will include personal daily assignments and weekly group sessions with video. Books are available. For morning session, contact Kathy Kolkhorst at 281-463-6057; the evening session contact Colette Edwards at 832-922-5490 or [colette\\_edwards@sbcglobal.net](mailto:colette_edwards@sbcglobal.net).

**Have News to Share with Kinsmen?** Send it in an e-mail to Susan Emfinger, media and communications coordinator, at [semfinger@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:semfinger@kinsmenlutheran.org). Please make sure you include when you want the information to run and for how long.

**Kinsmen has a part-time opening** for a Children's Ministries Coordinator. Please submit application via e-mail to Pastor Mark at [mengland@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:mengland@kinsmenlutheran.org).

## **Senior Adult News**

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, we will visit the Huntsville Visitors Center where we will have coffee and be joined by our Guide. We will tour Sam Houston Memorial, the Oakwood Cemetery, the prison and its museum and have lunch at the Farm House Café. We will depart the Church at 8:45 a.m. Trip cost is \$5 per person, plus the cost of your lunch.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, we will tour a working alpaca ranch and see the manufacture of alpaca products. Afterwards, we will visit the Washington-on-the Brazos State Historic Site for a tour of the museum and Independence Hall. Yes, between those two tours, we have worked in a third tour, Blue Bell. Lunch will be at Pursell's. The bus will leave the Church at 8:30 a.m., and the cost is \$9 per person plus lunch. The Texas wildflowers should be beautiful for this trip.

FRIDAY, MAY 15, is October 2008's trip rescheduled - tour of the Port of Galveston aboard the Sea Gull II (Yes, they were able to repair this vessel.) and a visit to the Lone Star Flight Museum. Additional details and costs will be coming shortly.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, we will be one of the first groups in Houston to see the Terra-Cotta Soldiers at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. We also will view the Butterfly exhibit. More details will be coming. Reservations may be made for March by contacting Peggy (281-469-1372), Hélène (281-444-7948) or Grace (281-440-4213). Please do not make reservations by voice mail; speak to one of these ladies personally.

## Preschool and MDO News

. Spring Break will be March 9 – 13. Only the before and after care kids will be here on those days. Fall registration will be on March 16 for returning students and church members. Registration will open to the public on March 23. The 4 year-old class is going to HEB on March 19 for a field trip. March 19 is also spring picture day. Summer registration will open on April 6. . . All spaces are filled on a first-come first-serve basis. Tuition information and registration materials are available in the preschool office. Call Sherri Botker at 281-444-3127 x23 for more details



## Fall Registration Underway at Before and After School

Registration has begun at Before and After School Kinsmen for the 2009-2010 school year. Current schools served by our program include Greenwood Forest, Klenk, McDougle, Kaiser, Wunderlich, Harmony Science Academy and Yeager Elementary. Transportation is provided from Kinsmen to school in the morning and from school to Kinsmen in the afternoon. We open at 6:30 am for before school care and close at 6:30pm for after care. Tuition rates will not be increased and there is a special incentive registration discount available for early registration due by April 15<sup>th</sup>! Call the office at (281) 444-3127 x35 for details.

## Summer at Kinsmen

Lutherhill will be coming to Kinsmen this summer to provide day camp for many of the weeks when Camp Hope is not in session. Watch for the Summer Packet which will be in the Narthex in early March with all the details. This is an exciting addition to our current summer offerings. Tuition rates will be the same as Camp Hope tuition rates. Space is limited, so book your space early!!! Call the office at (281) 444-3127 x35 for details.

## Sunday Fellowship Breakfast

**Join us for full breakfast!**

Sunday mornings 9am-11am

\$5 for adults

(10 years old and up),

\$2 for children ages 4 thru 9 years old

Children 3 yrs. and under eat FREE

Helping hands are always welcome! If you would like to help out with our breakfast in any way, please contact Joan Horner at 281-444-3127, ext. 12.



Just want coffee, juice and doughnuts?

Continental style breakfast is still available. Please look for the **free will offering** basket on the table. Thank you.

## Wednesday Fellowship Supper

**6pm - 7pm in the Community Life Center**

### March Menu

<b>March 4:</b>	<b>Spaghetti</b>
<b>March 11:</b>	<b>Baked Chicken</b>
<b>March 18</b>	<b>Stir Fry</b>
<b>March 25</b>	<b>Shepherd's Pie</b>

In addition to the main courses listed above, supper includes vegetables, salads, dessert and drinks.

For children: hot dogs, chicken nuggets chips & applesauce are always available.

Adults: \$6

Children 10 & under: \$3

Children under 3 years eat FREE!

# March Birthdays



Patterson, Laura	3/1			Shelby, Bobbie	3/19
Shawhan, Grant	3/1			Sutter, Erin	3/19
Niemuth, Dylan	3/1			Raschke, Alan	3/20
Schmidt, Patricia	3/1			Deyo, Ursula	3/21
England, Sheri	3/2	Anderson, Evan	3/9	Hardy, Nina	3/21
Gumm, Thomas	3/2	Hoose, Kathleen E	3/10	Jacobi, Jane	3/21
Mc Cracken, Paul	3/2	Cook, Kellen	3/10	George, Cooper	3/22
Ristow, Jeff	3/2	Snyder, Cliff	3/10	Bayer, Brittany	3/22
Liewer, Tom	3/3	Fisher, Eric	3/10	Heider, Karen	3/22
Foerschner, Jennifer	3/3	Breedveld, James	3/10	Adams, Casey	3/22
Heider, Kristin	3/3	Funke, Dale	3/10	Mosqueda, Sarah	3/23
Mc Call, Marilynne	3/3	Lowe, Shelby	3/10	Menk, Zachary	3/23
Schmidt, Erik	3/3	Montalvo, Alexander	3/12	Miller, Helen	3/23
Dube, Riley	3/3	Toney, Colton	3/12	Nelsen, Eric	3/24
Gordon, Alexa	3/3	Scanland, Charles	3/13	Burns, Kim	3/24
Mc Anear, Melissa	3/3	Clark, Carol	3/13	Roth, Tyson	3/24
Henze, Grace	3/4	Butcher, Kyra	3/13	Merkel, Grace	3/24
Hoose, Kerry	3/5	Tennant, Judith	3/14	Bunkers, William	3/25
Quist, Gordon	3/5	Henning, Brenda	3/14	Velotas, Rachel	3/26
Roth, Robert	3/5	Alderman, Emily	3/14	Toney, Lantz	3/26
Liewer, Becky	3/6	Hillegeist, Norman	3/14	Pearce, Cameron	3/26
Galow, Brian	3/6	Hillegeist, Judy	3/14	Snyder, Dianna	3/26
Vindiola, John	3/6	Kolkhorst, Krystal	3/14	Hilding, Grant	3/26
Temple, Benjamin	3/6	Lindblom, Anna	3/15	Rogers, Lena	3/27
Jyrkama, Noah	3/6	Adams, Connie	3/15	Clark, Jack	3/27
Jyrkama, Alison	3/6	Laing, Jill	3/16	Davis, Chase	3/27
Herwig, James	3/6	Rogers, Carl	3/16	Henning, David	3/28
Morgan, Melissa	3/6	Benesh, Patricia	3/18	Collins, Margaret	3/28
Kolkhorst, Christopher	3/7	Hey, Barbara	3/18	Greene, Matthew	3/28
White, Ashley	3/7	Lenzen, Colin	3/18	Hoffman, Benjamin	3/28
Cominsky, Karina	3/7	Vocelka, Paul	3/18	Gillette, Matthew	3/28
Gaudet, Marissa	3/8	Larson, Janis	3/18	Stave, Ryan	3/29
Latiolais, Lynn	3/8	Boller, Lauren	3/19	Staff, Caleb	3/29
Wallace-Jackson, Topanga	3/8	Gealow, Stephanie	3/19	Cook, Michael	3/30
Ristow, Bryce	3/9	Draper, Jr. Eric	3/19	Colson, Tracy	3/30
				Sander, Sheila	3/30
				Thompson, Liselotte	3/30
				Reder, Becky	3/31
				Lehmann, Michael	3/31
				Sell, Jeffrey	3/31

## Kinsmen Endowment Fund.

Endowment funds are partnerships between Kinsmen and the congregation- partnerships based on the idea of mutual stewardship. By supporting the endowment fund, Kinsmen members act as stewards to and for the congregation. And by using the income generated by the endowment to fulfill its mission, the congregation acts as a steward to and for our members and the community. If you have any questions or comments about the Fund, please contact one of the committee members: Larry Wendt, Mike Carrier, Harlan Martens, Ed Nielsen or Bob Fox. If you are interested in serving as a member of this committee, we would like to hear from you.

# Contacting Kinsmen Staff... 281-444-3127 plus extension #

**Rev. Jeffery Alvestad, Senior Pastor, Ext. 18**

jalvestad@kinsmenlutheran.org

**Rev. Mark England, Youth & Family Ministry, Ext. 24**

mengland@kinsmenlutheran.org

**Bruce Elijah, Associate in Ministry, Ext. 15**

belijah@kinsmenlutheran.org

**Susan Converse, Director of Administration, Ext. 17**

sconverse@kinsmenlutheran.org

**Julie Hughes, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 10**

jhughes@kinsmenlutheran.org

**Susan Emfinger, Communications Coordinator, Ext. 21**

semfinger@kinsmenlutheran.org

**Irene Baasen, Accounting & Financial Reports, Ext. 14**

ibaasen@kinsmenlutheran.org

**Lynnae Schatz, Coordinator, Children's Ministries, Ext. 43**

lschatz@kinsmenlutheran.org

**Elizabeth LeMay, Traditional Worship Coordinator, Ext. 22**

elemay@kinsmenlutheran.org

**Linda Thomas, Principal Organist**

lindacthomas99@hotmail.com

**Kristen Schulze, Contemporary Worship Co-Coordinator**

KRISTEN.SCHULZE@cfisd.net

**Timothy Browning, Contemporary Worship Co-Coordinator**

chosentenor@gmail.com

**Joan Horner, Parish Assistant/ Hospitality, Ext. 12**

jhorner@kinsmenlutheran.org

**J.D. McCollom, Media Team Coordinator,**

jd.mccollum@itfidelity.com

**Sherri Botker, Kinsmen Kids Preschool/MDO  
Coordinator, Ext. 23**

sbotker@kinsmenlutheran.org

**Susan Wardzinski, Before & After School Kinsmen  
Coordinator, Ext. 35**

swardzinski@kinsmenlutheran.org

**Eileen Edwards, Before & After School Kinsmen  
Registrar, Ext. 37**

eedwards@kinsmenlutheran.org

**Willie Stewart, Head Custodian**

**Ruben Cervantes, Custodian**

**Lonnie Davis, Custodian**

**Mission Congregation:** Celebration Church - 281-758-1279

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

**Connection** is a regularly circulated publication of Kinsmen Lutheran Church; 12100 Champion Forest Drive; Houston, Texas 77066. Newsletters are published monthly. Deadline for submitting articles for inclusion is the 15th day of each month, or the Friday preceding the 15th if the deadline date falls on a weekend. Articles may be submitted in writing to the Church Office or faxed to 281-444-1733.



12100 Champion Forest Drive  
Houston, Texas 77066

Staff Directory: 281-444-3127

Receptionist: 281-444-3126

www.kinsmenlutheran.org

