

## God Loves Us!

In thinking about The Friendly Center as a stewardship ministry, there are many layers and interactions that could be considered.

But the simplest way to sum it up is:

*God loves us.*

*We love our seniors.*

*And, our seniors love us as well as each other and the greater Kenosha community!*

*Meals Made with Love*



**1874-2024**  
**150 Years in Our**  
**Community**

**St. Mary's Lutheran Church**  
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## The Friendly Center

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***A Senior Ministry***  
***of St. Mary's***  
***Lutheran Church***  
***in Kenosha,***  
***Wisconsin***



*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

*Ephesians 4:32*



## The Friendly Center

The Friendly Center serves as an important network for disseminating information and as a social gathering place for members to connect with one another. Membership caring includes recognizing individual member's birthdays, supporting and uplifting members in prayer if he/she is diagnosed with illness or infirmity and offering condolences to families upon the death of a member.

### Membership statistics:

70 members    2 inactive members  
 54 Lutherans    1 Episcopal  
 12 Catholics    4 not identified  
 1 Baptist

## The Friendly Center

The Friendly Center was originally organized by Betty Heidi Kuessow in the 1970s as a senior outreach ministry based at St. Mary's for Kenosha residents. The purpose was to gather seniors together on a weekly basis for food, fellowship and fun. Over the years, this group has evolved and now is, not only a gathering place for seniors, but also a stewardship ministry reaching out and giving back to the residents of Kenosha and Racine.



## Supporting Local Charities

In recent months our seniors have supported the community by donating to local charities:

- ◇ Luther's Lunchbox of Carthage College
- ◇ Salvation Army
- ◇ Veterans Village of Racine
- ◇ ELCA Outreach Center
- ◇ The Shalom Center
- ◇ Walkin' In My Shoes
- ◇ Breaking the Chains Ministry

## More Donations!

Another avenue of stewardship from The Friendly Center are the donations of the following to St. Mary's church's congregants, as well as use by other organizations:

- ◇ The tables & chairs in Fellowship Hall
- ◇ Silverware, Pots & Pans,
- ◇ Cooking utensils and kitchen carts!

**The Friendly Center meets monthly and is open to all seniors 55 years and older. All are welcome irrespective of gender, ethnic background, race, sexuality or religious preference. Gatherings include devotions, a meal and an educational presentation or program.**

