KINSHIP RADIO

JANUARY, 2026

Laura Story To Lead the Kinship Radio Women's Conference

Singer/songwriter, **Laura Story**, will lead Kinship Radio's Women's Conference coming this Spring. Scheduled for Saturday, May 2, at Hosanna Lutheran in Mankato, the theme, *Joy In Every Season*, is designed to inspire and encourage women of all ages and in any season of life.



Congregations around the world are familiar with Laura's songs, *What A Savior* and *Mighty to Save*, but they may not be as familiar with the tragedy that befell Laura's husband, Martin Elvington, in 2006. Shortly after they were married, Elvington was diagnosed with a brain tumor that led to significant health challenges including vision problems, short-term memory loss, and an inability to work or drive. Navigating life as caregiver and provider, the tragedy inspired Laura's song, *Blessings*, and her book, *When God Doesn't Fix It*.

In an interview with *Just Between Us*, Laura says, "I've realized that when I worship God even when my life is hard, I am proving that Jesus is trustworthy. Others may look at me and say, 'Are you crazy? How can you still worship, how can you get up at events and sing about how great God is and how faithful He is when He hasn't healed your husband?' It's when I continue to worship Him when things are in chaos that proves that Jesus is still trustworthy.

Tickets for the event go on sale on Monday, April 6, and are sure to go quickly. Mark your calendar now to be sure you don't miss this memorable event.

Kinship Radio's Spring Fundraiser Dates Announced

For long time listeners to Kinship Radio, you know that the ministry that reaches across southern Minnesota and northern Iowa is listener-supported. Kinship receives some income from businesses and other organizations that contribute to the network's operational need, but the vast majority of funding comes from listeners like you.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, no revenue comes from commercial sales nor government grants; our ability to serve comes directly from those who listen. You may occasionally hear us mention it on-air or read about it via an email or letter we send. One of the more prominent ways we draw attention to our need is through our semi-annual fundraisers in the Spring and Fall.

This Spring's on-air fundraiser takes place March 10-12. Our regular programming will be pre-empted as we invite listeners to partner with us in providing the funds needed to operate day-to-day for the next several months. Kinship Radio's new Executive Director...

(continued on the back)

Kinship Radio Welcomes New Director

Kinship Radio welcomes the new year with a new face as our Executive Director! You may have heard him on the air already as he hosted a few days during the Christmas season and now hosts Sunday mornings from 7-9am.

Chris Lemke joined our team just before Thanksgiving. Hailing from Grand Rapids MI, Chris served nearly 40 years at 91.3 WCSG. His experience and passion for communicating the love of Christ via radio is nationally recognized by stations across the country, by the NRB (National Religious Broadcasters), and now as a Board member of CMB (Christian Music Broadcasters).

Married for 38 years, he and his wife, Sue, have six grown children, three of whom are married, and they have five grandchildren with one more on the way in June.

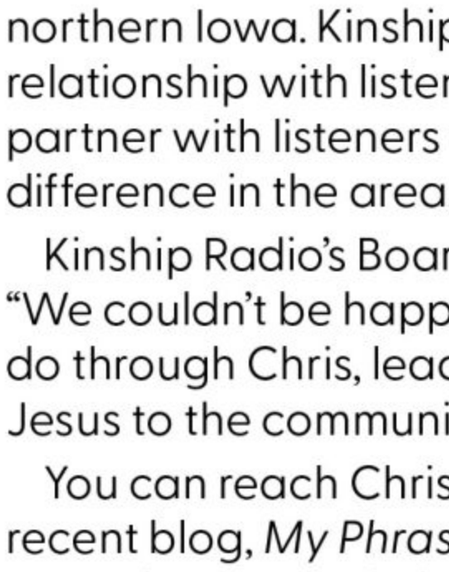


"I'm grateful and I'm excited to be a part of the team. Kinship Radio has a big footprint in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. Kinship is more than a radio station; it's a relationship with listeners! By God's grace, we intend to partner with listeners to cultivate a more positive, eternal difference in the area, and to do so in Jesus' name."

Kinship Radio's Board President, Tom Wetzel added, "We couldn't be happier with what we believe God will do through Chris, leading our team to bring more of Jesus to the communities we serve."

You can reach Chris at ChrisL@kinshipradio.org. Chris's recent blog, *My Phrase for the Year is..."For Now,"* is posted on our website, www.kinshipradio.org.

Due to Technical Difficulties



Did you know that Kinship Radio has over 25 signals to carry what we broadcast? We cover much of southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. As you can imagine, maintenance of the equipment and management of the connections necessary to operate well is no small task.

Kinship Radio is dedicated to providing excellent service to our listeners. We're aware that some of these signals have spotty coverage and audio that is sometimes "chopped" off before the song or speaker is done. We even lost one of our signals due to an animal feasting on one of our cables making it impossible for us to deliver the audio in northern Iowa.

Things like this happen from to time. The signal you regularly tune in may vary in strength as the signal itself may be affected by weather conditions. We can't fix that, but we can address some of the other challenges. You have our commitment that we're diligently working to ensure less frequent occurrences of chopped audio and other related issues in 2026 as we tap additional resources and personnel to remedy the problems with which we're aware. When you do hear something that doesn't sound like it normally should, you're welcome to contact us at kinship@kinshipradio.org or calling 800.810.5559.

Spring Fundraiser *(continued)*

Chris Lemke, commented, "I would hope that our listeners think of this not as a fundraiser, but a celebration of God's goodness and faithfulness. As we reflect on what God did through Kinship in 2025 and project what we pray God will do through Kinship in 2026, we can't do any of it without listening friends and families and their commitment first to God, and then to us. That's right from the Bible (2 Cor 8:5), a practice our listeners have modeled well. Our thanks to those who join us in continuing to reach more people for Jesus in the year ahead."

Our listeners say it best:

"Thank you so very much for the worship music, prayer, programs, and also the daily grind of keeping the station running. You all are appreciated and you are all loved from us out here listening."

– Suzanne

It's Not Just Terrestrial

When most people hear about radio, they tend to think of the audio unit in their car or maybe a small box on the kitchen counter or part of their clock on the nightstand. On a rare occasion, someone might see one of our staff at a concert or parade or our annual Women's Conference.

This Spring, we're taking our interaction with you more personally. Kinship does have a Facebook page and an Instagram account, but they're seldom utilized in a way that invites more connection. To help us improve our connectedness, we've brought on an intern, a student of Bethany Lutheran College to lead our team in developing our social media platforms to better complement what we do on-air.

Ryan Freed of Kinship Radio's morning show says, "Radio isn't just an audio thing. It isn't me behind the mic just talking. It's a conversation, a relationship, a hub where we can converse and get to know each other. We want to know more about our listeners and hope they'd like to know a little more about us. That's an important ingredient for Kinship to thrive going forward." He adds, "Be it Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, on the mobile app or our website, we want to connect."

Take Me Out to the Ballpark

Kinship Radio is returning as the sponsor of "Faith Nights" for the 25th anniversary season of the Mankato MoonDogs and the Mankato Habaneros. Come on out to ISG Ballpark for a Sunday afternoon and enjoy a great game of baseball along with a hot dog, chips, and soda. It's an inexpensive date for the entire family! Dates and discounted ticket information will be posted soon on Kinship Radio's website. See you at the ballpark!

Changes for Kinship Day Sponsors

Day Sponsors. They're a regular part of our Kinship Radio family, but what is a Day Sponsor?

A Day Sponsor is an individual, family or business that donates a financial gift to Kinship Radio in honor of a family member or friend and their birthday, anniversary, in memory of an individual, or for a number of other reasons. In appreciation of the sponsor's gift, we produce a special announcement focusing on the sponsor's tribute. That recording airs eight times a day for a "full" day sponsor ($1,250) and four times a day as a "half" day sponsor ($625). The spot is often customized to air exclusively on the signal the sponsor most often hears.

A Day Sponsor's gift doesn't cover the entire cost of a full day's broadcast (which is over $4,100), but it does allow us to shine the spotlight on those listening who are blessed by God to give on behalf of others who have not yet made that commitment, and it serves as a reminder that God is at work in the lives of those who are encouraged and inspired by His work through Kinship.

Beginning in late February, our Day Sponsor program will be amended to offer only full Day Sponsors, but with two additional changes: 1) the amount will be reduced to $1,200 but will still air eight times a day, and 2) the spot will be broadcast on all of Kinship's signals, not just the one specific to the sponsor. In this way, we're able to share your story of God's story in and through your life to even more people.

To learn more, email us at kinship@kinshipradio.org, or call us at 800.810.5559

▼ **Tear off & Return by Mail** ▼

Faith Gift

Winter Newsletter

MAIL TO: Kinship Radio
860 Madison Ave
Mankato, MN 56001

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

AMOUNT

_____ $100 _____ $200 _____ $500

_____ Other: $_____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Card # _____ _____ _____ _____

Exp Date ____/____ CVS _____

Signature: _____

Donate Online

Scan the QR code above to make a donation.