



SHINER  
LUTHERAN

# WEEKLY CONNECTIONS

*Growing together in grace and service*

Thursday December 24, 2020

## Pastor's Christmas Message



Grace and peace to you as this Advent Season comes to its fulfilment.

Christmas will be here very soon, and as Christians, we long for Christ to come into our world and to bring us hope and light. The world moves through this season by too quickly counting down the number of shopping days, but Christians pace themselves by patiently lighting candles and praying. We are called to be a light that shines in the darkness.

The Bible teaches us that we, ourselves, are not the light; merely we reflect the light of Christ which our illumines our lives. Like a branch that withers without being connected to the vine, and like a mirror that only reflects the light shined upon it, we rely on the goodness of the Lord to sustain and guide us.

As we complete this Advent journey with the Nativity of Our Lord, I pray that you and your family are well – that you give thanks to God for the many simple yet profound gifts you have received this difficult year. If 2020 has taught us anything it is that life can change quickly and that our health is often taken for granted.

I invite you to join me for worship in-person or online. Note that we will be offering two Christmas Eve services: 5:00PM and 10:00PM. These services will be very different but always center around the Word of God revealed in the means of grace. We will light candles and sing, “*Silent Night*” at both services.

Merry Christmas and may the light of Christ shine. The Word has become flesh. Let us rejoice. God has sent us salvation – his only Son – Jesus Christ is born!

*Pastor Chris Heinold*

Pastor Chris Heinold



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



## Christmas Eve Worship

Services at 5 pm & 10 pm

*Both services will be in person, live streamed on Facebook, and include the traditional candlelight ceremony. The 5 pm service will feature familiar Christmas hymns played with bit of a country flavor and the sound of a steel guitar. The later 10 pm service will have a more traditional feel and feature special music offerings as we celebrate Christ's birth.*

For **in-person worship** please be sure to properly wear your required mask, remember to socially distance, and use hand sanitizer. Communion will be served in the pews. Ushers will pick up the offering and attendance slips together.

**Sunday December 27  
@ 10:15 am**



worship  
WITH US

Join online worship on Shiner Lutheran Church Facebook page:

Thursday December 24 @ 5 and 10 pm  
Sunday December 27 @ 10:15 am

**FROM  
HOME**

*The Vicar's*  
**Christmas**  
*Message*

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas from Vicar Daniel and Mallory Volkmann. We have been so blessed to share this holy season in community with all of you and look forward to the next 3 and a half years. The last 5 months of work has been a blessing on both of our lives, and we hope this season is filled with joy and happiness for you all.

As we go into the new year, I would like to share a prayer with all of you that it might encourage all of us in these uncertain times we are in that Christ is always with us.

Almighty God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Peace be with you all,

Vicar Daniel and Mallory Volkmann



MERRY CHRISTMAS



### A Giving Message for Friends

During the holiday season, we extend a warm welcome to the visiting families and friends of our members, and to all our guests joining us in person or virtually.

No matter where you live, how frequently you attend services, or where your religious roots are, your donations during the holiday season to this congregation are needed and greatly appreciated.

We offer convenient eGiving options that help you make donations on a one-time or recurring basis, including texting, a free mobile app, or online. We do recommend this method of giving for anyone who wishes to support the church, especially during this time of online worship. Visit our church website at [www.shinerlutheran.org](http://www.shinerlutheran.org) to learn more.

Thank you for your generosity, and Merry Christmas from all of us!

### Text Your Donation!

Simply text your seasonal gift amount to 844-697-3838 and then follow the instructions on your phone to complete your donation. Thank you!

This week we celebrate and remember in prayer these **Baptism Anniversaries:** 12/27 Sarah Neal

*Celebrating*  
-WITH-  
*you*

We also celebrate **Wedding Anniversaries:** 12/27 A.J. & Sharon Jaks; 12/31 Chris & Gemayel Heinold

This week we wish **Birthday Blessings** to: 12/27 Holly Heinsohn; 12/29 Jennifer Voges; 12/30 Kim Brown; 1/1 Dalton Winkenwerder

**Prayers** continue for all those in need, particularly for those dealing with long term illness or recovery.