



SHINER  
LUTHERAN

## 2023 Summer QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS



*Then [Jesus] said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matt 9:37-38)*

This June I will celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination. I was ordained at my home congregation of Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Coletoville on June 7, 2008. The members of my home congregation presented me with a handmade stole; its design mirroring the stained glass windows behind the altar. With pride they said every member put a stitch into the stole, even the guys! That stole would forever be a memento to remind me of where I came from as God called me out into the world to serve the church.

As he does with his disciples in every generation, the Lord has sent me into places and put me into community with people I would have never known. My wife, Gemayel, has walked with me through good years and bad years in the church. Truly, I would not be the pastor I am today without her by my side. God has truly blessed me, and I am so happy to serve as your pastor in Shiner!

Since 2008, I have done 37 baptisms welcoming children and adults into God's kingdom. If I count non-member funerals and graveside services, I have officiated around 150 funerals. In each of those funerals, I've proclaimed the Christian message that God is more powerful than death and our faith is anchored in God's love in Jesus to raise us from the dead. I've done dozens of weddings and confirmations. As Jesus sent out his disciples in Matthew 9, the Lord has truly sent me out and trusted me with much. For that I am grateful and humbled. With God's help, I still have many years left in the ministry.

Jesus always sends his disciples out in every age – out into the fields of the world – and that is important work. It is important because Jesus sends out not just pastors but all the baptized. It is a commissioning to each of us to bring the good news to a world that longs for the Kingdom of God. I believe the harvest can and will be plentiful. But it takes many hands, and this is where you come in!

This summer there will be many chances for you and your families to gather in and join us in worship. On Sundays when we worship together, God strengthens us through our mutual singing and the hearing of scripture. God feeds us in worship with his body and blood in Holy Communion. And then, as God always does, he sends us out into the world to share the good news.

The dismissal at the end of worship is so fitting. Our youth (with much enthusiasm!) exclaim,  
"Go in peace. Serve the Lord."  
And every Sunday our common reply is,  
"Thanks be to God. And *weee* will!"



*Pastor Chris Reinold*



## Ministry Areas

### WORSHIPING

The past months have been filled with special worship services, celebrating the seasons of Lent and Easter. March brought midweek Lenten services, an afternoon service with the theme “Amazing Grace” and an evening service titled “Unfinished.” Palm Sunday brought a procession with palms, a liturgical dance, and the reception of new members. Our traditional Easter Sunday was celebrated with a 7:00 am service, a breakfast buffet, flowering the cross, singing at SNRC, an egg hunt on the church grounds, and a 10:15 service of celebration. Throughout April special worship events included Confirmation, a Youth service, and special recognition of high school graduates with a quilt presentation. Mother’s Day in May honored moms to the beat of a polka service. All these were livestreamed with the help of a newly donated Mevo camera.



### Learning

Pastor Chris led a session “On Becoming a Lutheran” for those interested, followed by eight new members joining our congregation on April 2. Six young people celebrated First Communion after completing a class with Pastor Chris. March brought a session of the Women’s Bible Study & Lunch. In April, two years of confirmation instruction culminated in the confirmation of three young people. Throughout March and April the Wednesday evening GIFT program continued to grow and flourish. On Wednesday April 26, the end-of-year GIFT celebration included a huge inflatable obstacle course, face painting, games, songs, a Godly Play lesson, and a grilled hamburger meal. Plans for a “Stellar” space-themed Vacation Bible School began, with Samantha Scott volunteering to direct VBS. 2023 Campers and their families worked together on a hamburger fundraiser at the SVFD Car Show and sold Nothing Bundt Cakes to finish raising funds for this summer.

### CARING



Caring Ministries worked constantly behind the scenes supporting others with Grief Support, Homebound Visitation, and Home Touch mailings. During spring, a Prayer Shawl Ministry was restarted with the new name of Hearts & Hands, indicating the caring hearts and skilled hands that knit or crochet these shawls. The group began meeting monthly, and the blessing and distribution of shawls for those in need began once again. A special Baby Shower for Vicar Daniel and Mallory Volkmann was held in anticipation of their first child. JOY, Just Older Youth, was held in May with a “comfort food” meal as a caring ministry for the elderly as well as a growing fellowship for this age group. Our hospitality team hosted special receptions and meals each Sunday in April. We thank this dedicated group—the Hospitality Team models caring and service for all of us.



### CONNECTING

*Our fellowship groups are now part of Connecting Ministries, since the connection of fellowship supports and encourages sharing the Gospel in community. Following a Country Gospel Worship Service in March, the Church Council hosted a Church Fellowship Meal, connecting the congregation with grilled hamburgers and conversation. During April, our youth joined the Lutheran Youth from Nordheim in an outing to the Shiner Escape Room. An overnight youth Lock In gathered young people to connect, to plan a Youth Service for the following day, and to bake communion bread for the service. Clergy and lay adults worked to supervise and support the youth.*

## Ministry Areas in Action



### SUPPORTING

Supporting our congregation are the leaders that serve on various groups including Church Council, Finance Team, Endowment Committee, Scholarship Committee, and the Property Team. This year Endowment earnings were not available to fund our Shiner Lutheran Scholarships. To continue the scholarship program, individuals generously donated funds for scholarships and enabled the distribution of \$3,500 to five recipients. The Finance Team met in May and began planning a fall focus on planned giving to support our monthly building mortgage payment. During the past months the Property Team held a leaf clean up day, then saw to the repair of a parking lot light and plumbing repair in the men’s restroom. Funds were generously donated for an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) to treat sudden cardiac arrest. The unit is on order and will be installed in the Gathering Place upon arrival.



## Our Congregation

During the past months, the following parochial events took place:

We welcomed **Tessa Louise Rabke**, born on May 11, 2023. Tessa is the daughter of Trent & Riley Rabke, granddaughter of Butch & Suzanne Rabke, and great granddaughter of Leroy & Erleen Boedeker.



**RoseLee McKay**, a lifelong member of UDML, passed away on May 7, 2023.

New members were received by affirmation of baptism or transfer on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023: Jane Fester, Chris, Kelsie & Klaira Herman, Kris, Jayde, & Kendal Hauptman, Margie Holt, and Damon Williams. In May the Rev. Stanley Larson transferred his membership to our congregation.



On March 19, 2023, following special instruction time, First Communion was received by:

Grant Fischer, Holdyn Guettner, Hallie Guettner, Mallory Johnson, Andrew Smith, and Reese Smith.

Klaira Evelyn Herman, daughter of Chris and Jayde Herman, was baptized on Sunday April 23, 2023, and welcomed as a baptized member of our congregation.



On April 16, 2023, Lexi Boner, Evy Johnson, and Carson Brown completed the Rite of Confirmation and are now voting members of our congregation.



## Celebrating Graduates



We celebrate the 2023 graduates of Shiner High School who are confirmed members of our congregation:

- Haven Flores, daughter of Pat and Tonette Flores, will be attending Texas Tech University.
- Cade Murrile, son of Greg & Danna Murrile, will be attending EMS/EMT/Fire School through Victoria College.
- Megan Winkenwerder, daughter of Eric & Michelle Winkenwerder, will be attending the University of Texas at Austin.

*We wish these graduates well, and pray that God continues to guide them and strengthen their faith.*

*Two of our regular GIFT participants graduated from kindergarten at Shiner ISD:*

- Bettye Langhoff, daughter of Brian & Sarah Langhoff
- Dillon Collins, son of Mike & Sarah Collins

*Graduates elsewhere who are connected to our congregation:*

- Tamara Otto, daughter of Keith and Stacey Otto and granddaughter of Barbara Otto, graduated from Schulenburg High School and will attend Texas A&M University.
- Alyssa Otto, daughter of Keith & Stacey Otto and granddaughter of Barbara Otto, graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Animal Science and will be attending Texas A&M Veterinary School.
- Tanner Williams, son of Damon Williams, received and M.A in Design & Innovation from Southern Methodist University.



We thank the special group of quilters who handcrafted unique quilts for our two actively involved Shiner High graduates. The quilts were presented on April 30 during the worship service, with prayers from the congregation and their families. Following the service, a reception was held for the graduates. We thank the Hospitality Team for their work in planning and serving at the reception.



## Fellowship & Ministries



Our youth joined the Lutheran youth from Nordheim for an outing to the Shiner Escape Room on Sunday, April 16. The following Saturday night a Youth Lock In was held. Youth enjoyed the fellowship but also planned the next day's worship service and baked bread for communion. On Sunday April 23, the youth led the worship service by serving as worship leaders and presenting a skit on the lessons of the day. To complete the service, Briana Baker wrote and presented a short sermon.



Our members and friends with aged wisdom and life experience meet four times a year for a midday meal and fellowship. This group is filled with JOY — Just Older Youth. In May, the Joy meal was “comfort food” including fried chicken, sausage, potatoes, green beans, corn casseroles, rolls and a plethora of desserts. Some JOY participants stayed to play dominoes. Thanks go to Carol Harris, Sandy Machacek, and others for planning and preparing the feast. The next JOY gathering will take place in fall. All are welcome!



A Dominoes Fellowship meets the first and fourth Monday of each month to enjoy fellowship while playing dominoes. The group has regular players but also has substitutes to fill in the table. Questions? Talk with Irene Fiedler.



Canasta Fellowship gathers each Tuesday for fellowship, laughter, and great fun playing cards. This group meets each Tuesday at noon. Talk to Carol Harris if canasta interests you.



*A renewed Prayer Shawl Ministry has adopted the name “Hands & Hearts” This group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 9 am to work on crocheted and knitted shawls for the ill and elderly. The shawls will be blessed and shared as needed.*



Quilting for Lutheran World Relief meets the third Tuesday morning of each month. Many tasks do not need experience or sewing skills. All are invited!



Our Men's Fellowship, also know as the Blessed Buzzards, usually gather the second Monday of each month just a few miles out of town at the Jaks' place. All men in the congregation are invited to come and join the informal gathering that uses conversation and cooking to connect the guys. All ages are invited and friends of the congregation are welcomed. For details and directions contact A.J. Jaks or Chuck Stratman. Come and enjoy!



### Shiner Women In Faith & Fellowship Together



Our Women's Ministry acronym is SWIFFT, Shiner Women in Faith & Fellowship Together. A monthly fellowship time takes place graciously hosted by Teri Stratman. After taking a break in June and July, the fellowship gatherings will resume on Monday August 14. On Thursday June 29, the quarterly Women's Bible Study will meet for a study led by Pastor Chris, followed by lunch. Members, friends, and others are all invited to participate in these SWIFFT activities. If you'd like to know more or have any suggestions, please feel free to contact Joanie Honigschmidt at 512.913.2657 or [jhonigschmidt@yahoo.com](mailto:jhonigschmidt@yahoo.com).

## Administration

### 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

- Brian Baker
- Shannon Blaschke
- Sandra Blum
- James Davis
- Holly Heinsohn Kropp
- Kristin Neal

- Brian Pokluda
- Mike Vaughan
- Duncan Wallace
- Randy Zaruba
- Pastor Chris Heinold
- Vicar Daniel Volkmann

**President: James Davis**  
**Vice-President: Brian Pokluda**  
**Secretary: Brian Baker**  
**Treasurer: Shannon Blaschke**



Our church council meets monthly as the governing authority of our congregation. Each month finances and spending are reviewed, along with reports on ministries and activities. Council members serve three year terms and can serve two consecutive terms. Each Sunday council members are on duty during the worship service to handle emergencies, fill in where necessary, and handle the offering securely. We thank the council members for their service!



We have been blessed and always strive to be good financial stewards. This fall the Finance Team will share insight into our finances, particularly relating to our monthly mortgage payment. Looking ahead, we would hope to meet our monthly payment with planned giving to cover the basic payment. Additional giving might allow some extra payment on the principal. However, the first step in planning is to thank all who have supported the building fund in any way, whether by regular designated giving, memorials, or special gifts. The renovation of the building has helped enable our congregation to grow in vitality and sustainability. Thanks be to God!



Our Mission Groups meet periodically to reflect on our congregation's activities & ministries.



Mission Groups last met Sunday February 19, 2023. Some of the names for the Mission Groups were adjusted to reflect energy and action. We now will speak of Worshiping, Learning, Caring, Connecting, and Supporting as our Mission Groups. This relabeling was also meant to help include the activities or ministries that have been realigned to a different groups. For example,



fellowship groups had been listed in the Caring group, but now are found in Connecting along with youth activities like JOY and 5th Quarter to emphasize the fellowship outreach to the congregation and the Shiner community. Mission Groups plan to meet with other leaders in August to continue to keep a missional focus for our ministries.

If you or someone you know would like to receive the weekly email update "Weekly Connections" please call the office at 361-594-2345 or email the office at [shinerudml@att.net](mailto:shinerudml@att.net). We do send out a few print copies



*Scheduled summer office hours are Monday—Wednesday from 9am – Noon  
 Please leave a message at 361-594-2345 or email [shinerudml@att.net](mailto:shinerudml@att.net) for help.*

At times the exterior office entrance may be locked, but the entrance from the parking lot into the Gathering Place usually remains open for building access.  
 Our email is checked remotely ([shinerudml@att.net](mailto:shinerudml@att.net)) when the staff is not in the office.  
 Pastor Chris can be contacted directly at his church cell number (830-203-2906).



## Giving

### Shiner Lutheran Scholarship Recipients

Shiner High School seniors receiving scholarships:

**Cade Murrile** (\$1,000) will train to serve in the Yoakum Fire Department

**Megan Winkenwerder** (\$1,000) will study at the University of Texas

**Hunter Knight** (\$250) will attend Texas A&M University

**John Dalton Patton** (\$250) will attend will attend Texas A&M University



Recipient of the Shiner Lutheran Scholarship for a second year:

**Julia Fojt** (\$1,000) is attending Texas State University

For many years, our congregation has given scholarships to high school graduates and others pursuing advanced education. The scholarships are given as a cash grant so that recipients can freely choose to use the funds where they are most needed. Our scholarship application focuses on applicants demonstrating faith and service as Christians within their worshiping communities. Since their inception, the scholarships were funded by earnings from our Endowment Fund investments. Those earnings were not available this year, so an appeal was made for donations to fund scholarships. Once again, the generosity of our members and their support of youth came through and enabled us to award 2023 Shiner Lutheran Scholarships.

*The weekly offerings from our 2022-2023 GIFT participants were used to purchase over \$1,300 in food supplies for the Shiner Community Food Pantry. Donations of food in the red wagon in the Gathering Place are taken there also. Members of the congregation help each week at the Food Pantry; once a month our members make and serve breakfast there.*



Noisy Offerings are gathered on the last Sunday of the month. The Caring Mission Group determines the recipients of the offering. In February, we sent \$361.66 to Lutheran Disaster Response. The March Noisy Offering added \$311.67 to our Camper Fund. In April, we collected \$199.78 which will be sent to David & Alicia Brondos, the missionaries we help sponsor in Mexico City. Thank you!

Please remember that online giving is one of our options. Consistent repeated giving is the foundation of church finances; one way to do this is through an online repeated donation by credit card or withdrawal from a bank account or retirement fund. Our platform for electronic giving is VANCO. Options include:

**TEXT:** Text an amount to 1-844-697-3838 and use credit or debit card.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING:** Go to our website [www.shinerlutheran.org](http://www.shinerlutheran.org) and click on Connect/Give to get a direct link to our electronic giving platform.



*Did you know? Planned legacy giving enables churches and non-profit organizations to continue to exist, despite the uncertainties of offerings. In the past we have been blessed with bequests, oil leases, and other special donations that have enabled both ministries and facility improvement. Special legacy giving is also the financial base that made our Endowment Fund possible.*

## Faith Formation



**Growing  
In Faith  
Together**

On Wednesday April 26 we celebrated the 2022-23 GIFT season. A Godly Play lesson, singing, games, an inflatable obstacle course, face painting, and a meal of grilled hamburgers & hot dogs energized the evening. This season of GIFT was a time of growth, with new families joining this Christian Education ministry throughout the year. This year the weekly GIFT offering was used to purchase over \$1300 of food supplies for the Shiner Community Food Pantry.

We again thank all those who help make this ministry possible—volunteers who cook, serve, clean up, teach, assist, lead, pray, and donate food or funds. The GIFT adventure returns in fall with our first 2023-24 GIFT evening on Wednesday September 6 from 5:30-7:00 pm. Eager to help this ministry? Talk with Gemayel Heinold and join us!

### FUNDRAISERS for CAMPERS



*Thank you for all your support!*

The Hamburger Fundraiser at the SVFD BBQ Cook Off & Car Show was challenged by a last minute location change but with donations and the purchase of leftover hamburgers, the event was able to raise \$ 1,394.55 for our camper fund.

The Nothing Bundt Cake Sale had a great response with 1,106 little bundt cakes sold. The result was \$ 1,659 raised for our camper fund.



### 2023 CAMPERS

Briana Baler	Ryder Boedeker
Lexi Boner	Blake Guettner
Lilly Fojt	Ryan Scott
Raleigh Moore	Kayla Heinold
Cade Shimek	Mallory Johnson
Collin Wallace	Jade Boner
Gavin Wallace	Carson Brown
Blake Zaurba	Pastor Chris Heinold
Case Becker	Gemayel Heinold

## SHINER LUTHERAN CHURCH Vacation Bible School M-F July 10-14, 2023 9 AM until Noon

**Registration** is now open for students who will be in **Pre-K—6th in Fall 2023**

**Registration Deadline** is **June 19**

**Cost:** \$15 for each participating child

**Volunteer Registration Forms** must be completed by adults and older youth


**REGISTRATION FORMS can be found in the Gathering Place or in the attached documents. Sign up for an out-of-this-world VBS!**

Questions? Call or text Samantha Scott @ 832-492-4888

Donations to support this ministry are appreciated!




## Looking Ahead – Dates for your Calendar




- Holy Trinity Sunday June 4 marks the beginning of the great green growing season of “ordinary time” of the many weeks following Pentecost.
- Sunday June 4 we honor Pastor Chris Heinold on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. A reception for Pastor Chris follows worship.
- Saturday June 10 — GIFT Pool Party at Shiner Recreation Club from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. All GIFT participants are invited.


- Youth group from Resurrection Lutheran will spend the night at Shiner Lutheran on June 10th.
- We will celebrate Fathers Day June 18<sup>th</sup> with a Country Gospel flavor.
- On Thursday June 29, the Women’s Bible Study meets for a study followed by lunch.




- Sunday July 2 celebrates worship with a brass band sound.
- Vacation Bible School is set for July 10-14 from 9AM until noon. It will be an out-of-this-world week as the STELLAR VBS takes over. Thanks to both our participating youth and older youth and adult volunteers. All are welcome to join the VBS journey!



- Our campers will spend July 16-21 at Camp Chrysalis.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Covered Dish Dinner will be enjoyed on Sunday July 30



- GIFT Leaders Planning Meeting is on Wednesday August 2 @ 6:30 pm.
- Mission Groups & Congregational Leaders Meeting is on Sat. August 5.
- Blessing of the Backpacks comes during worship on Sunday August 13.
- Shiner Lutheran Ice Cream Social is on Sunday August 13 @ 4:00 pm.
- Confirmands & their parents will meet with Pastor on Sunday August 20.



- Wednesday September 6 — Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) returns to meet each Wednesday from 5:30-7:00 pm for a meal & learning.
- Sunday September 17 — A fall campaign to focus on planned giving for our monthly building loan payment begins with a special worship service.

### CONTACT information



**Please contact the church office if:**

- Your address or phone number (including cell phone) has changed, or you have dropped your land line
- You do not see your birthday, baptism, or wedding anniversary in our lists, meaning the information is not in our data base
- A household member has moved away
- You or a household member have changed to a different church affiliation



*Please see Weekly Connections for times & other events as they are added to the calendar. Check the up-to-date electronic church calendar by clicking on the link in your Weekly Connections or visiting the church website.*

**UNITED EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
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**SHINER LUTHERAN CHURCH QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS SUMMER 2023**  
*Publication schedule is now at the end of February, May, August, and November.*



**WORSHIP**

**SUNDAYS @ 10:15 am**

In person or online @ Shiner Lutheran Facebook Page



**Shiner Lutheran  
Vacation Bible School**

Monday–Friday

9 AM-Noon

July 10-14

Registration forms for both participants and volunteers are now available and due by June 19. Come join us!



**Visit Our Website: [www.shinerlutheran.org](http://www.shinerlutheran.org)  
News/Events/Calendar/Connect/Give— Information and Links**