



SHINER
LUTHERAN

SUMMER QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS

Please note: Our publication schedule has changed for the Quarterly Connections newsletter. We now plan to publish during mid to late May, August, November, and February. This will give us the opportunity to publicize summer, fall, winter and spring activities in a timely way that will coordinate with the seasons of the church year.

May 25, 2021

*From the
Vicar*



Beloved people of United Dr. Martin Luther Church,
Thank you.

Mallory and I have been a part of your community for a year this July, and what a year it has been! Between a global pandemic, evolving ministry goals, and my first year officially serving in a parish setting, this year has changed me in profound ways that you have all been able to witness.

Both Mallory and I would like to thank you for the hospitality y'all have shown us, and continue to show us, as we start to move from these uncertain times and into further ministry together.

As I am your collaborative learning student, I am going to be with you in Shiner until May of 2024. Between now and then, we will have the opportunity to serve and grow alongside one another, and I am looking forward to those days to come.

Looking back, however, it is clear to me that without your constant love and support, my formation as a servant of the church and God would not be complete, and I would not be where I am today. For that I am eternally grateful for each and every one of you.

I have had experiences that I would never have gotten if I took a "typical" path towards ministry (which, to be honest, no one has a "typical path"). All of you showed courage and faith in me when you voted to become a collaborative learning site, bringing me and Mallory here to Shiner. I have been able to be pushed out of my comfort zone in too many ways to count and have been able to reflect intentionally on both the mountaintop moments and those closer to the valley.

Again, thank you.

God bless you all as we move into this summer. I look forward to being able to spend the next 3 years with you all in ministry.

Peace and blessings,

Vic. Daniel J. Volkmann

Vicar Daniel Volkmann

Collaborative Learner



Wartburg Seminary

Ministry Areas in Action

WORSHIP

April began with Holy Week, our busiest time of the year for worship. Including Palm Sunday and Easter, we returned to the full schedule of seven services in one week, with changes in color and content throughout that time. Following Easter, the Rite of Confirmation became part of our spring schedule with five confirmands and a reception to honor them. A few weeks later, we honored our two high school graduates with the presentation of quilts, prayer books, and a reception. A Polka Service celebrated Mother's Day. We began returning to our traditional communion procedures by coming forward to receiving communion and using bread instead of wafers. Those who choose to remain in their places can simply inform the ushers and communion will be brought to them in the pews.



Learning

On April 11, confirmation instruction was concluded as our five eighth grade students were confirmed. Despite challenging weather, the Hamburger Fundraiser at the Fireman's BBQ Cook Off and Car Show rallied to support the 2022 Youth Gathering trip. Thank you to all who helped including Teena Davis who headed up our fundraiser. The GIFT Finale at the park was a great success with giant bubbles, games, a story and hamburgers grilled by Chuck Stratman and A.J.Jaks. Our two high school graduates were honored in April. We especially thank Gladys Muehlstein for sewing the quilt tops and Rae Nell Janik for quilting the special quilts that were presented to the grads. The quilt tradition is surely a blessing!



service



Our Hospitality Team hosted both a Confirmation Reception and a Graduate Reception during April. Our Caring Ministry Team has been supporting breakfast monthly at the Methodist Church by providing food and working with the Food Pantry. They now will be able to return to serving breakfast to those attending. Please see Norma Goetz if you would like to help. Our Fellowship groups are beginning to return. Men's fellowship met in May and canasta and domino groups are again playing on a regular schedule. The Quilters will meet on Tuesday June 15 for the first time, inviting those who are available to help in summer to join the morning of sewing. This group has worked at home through the past year and just packed 117 quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief this fall. Although some quilters will continue to work at home, the group will gather to encourage others to join this ministry.



Our internet feed location changed and hard wiring was installed with access points that enable a strong internet signal throughout our facility. Donations funded part of the cost. Our Email Weekly Connections continues. With this publication, Quarterly Connections is adopting a new schedule and publishing in late May, August, November, and February. This schedule will help us better coordinate with the seasons of the church year as well as providing event scheduling for Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring in a timely way. Our Sunday digital broadcast ministry will continue. Information is being gathered on improving both the video and sound for this ministry. Although this will involve expense, we reach around 200 worshipers on line each week.



Ministries Areas in Action



SUPPORT

Our support group has been active. A Finance Team was formed and met for the first time at the end of April. This team is a revisioning of the budget committee, whose sole task was to propose the next year's budget. That task will now be part of the Finance Team's duties. In addition, the Finance Team will meet at least quarterly to give continued overview of the financial aspects of our congregation. This team is appointed by the Church Council based on leadership positions in the congregation or specific skills.

Our congregation's constitution was last updated in 1992. The support team formed a subcommittee to review our present constitution, identify updates that are required, and to revise the bylaws to match our current structure of leadership. Groundwork was laid by Pastor Barbara Beale and Howard Stridde who worked to type up our constitution so it could be revised electronically. The support subcommittee continues this work.

Due to the big freeze, our landscape took extra upkeep and replanting this spring. Larry Gerum and A.J. Jaks handled replanting duties. Ronnie Bruns, Kristin Neal, and Sandy Machacek pulled weeds and trimmed. Our volunteer lawn crew has begun regular lawn maintenance led by Ronnie Bruns. We will be recruiting more volunteers to keep the flower beds weed free, especially following the recent rains. Together we can keep our landscape lovely.



We have many silent servants and others that thrive on remaining totally anonymous. Nevertheless, we recognize with gratitude both those listed and not listed. Our congregation is truly blessed! We say thank you to...

- Hospitality Team for hosting the Confirmation and Graduation receptions.
- GIFT teachers and volunteers that worked throughout the past year to keep this ministry going through the challenges of the pandemic. Thanks especially to all who helped our final GIFT meeting as we celebrated at the park.
- The volunteers who have begun spring clean up and maintenance of our lawn and landscape. Thanks to Larry Gerum, A.J. Jaks, Ronnie Bruns, Kristin Neal, and Sandy Machacek and others for their time spent helping out.
- Thank you to this year's Scholarship Committee of Merle Richardson, Michele Pokluda, Holly Heinsohn, Sandra Blum and Pastor Chris who reviewed applications and determined scholarship awards.
- Thank you to our behind the scenes maintenance volunteers. Brian Pokluda troubleshoots most of our questions on plumbing, doors, locks, and more. Ronnie Bruns makes sure the trash & recycle cans get put out in time and sets up and takes down table and chairs as needed.
- Holly Heinsohn for donating proceeds from her spring nail sale to our youth.
- Gladys Muehlstein and Rae Nell Janik for crafting the graduation quilts.

Our Congregation

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

On April 11, Briana Baker, Olivia Fojt, Jaydn Shimek, Rakin Wallace, and Kyle Zaruba were confirmed and Became full voting members of our congregation.



Church member Ellen Jane Stanek passed away April 14, 2021.

Administration



At the May 2021 Church Council meeting, Janis Richardson submitted a letter of resignation from her council position which was to continue until December 31, 2021. Her position was filled by the appointment of Tim Harris who will serve until the end of 2021. Janis intends to remain an active member in our congregation and has already assumed new volunteer duties. We thank Janis for her service on council and her continued use of her talents in many ways. In other business, Church Council revisited our CoVid safety recommendations, adopted social media guidelines, and approved a new heating and air conditioning unit for the parsonage.

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

- Sandra Blum
 - James Davis
 - Debbie Ealy
 - Brian Baker
 - Danna Murrile
 - Matthew Sternadel
 - Tim Harris
- Mike Vaughan
 - Holy Heinsohn Kropp
 - Shannon Blaschke
 - Kristin Neal
 - Brian Pokluda
 - Pastor Chris Heinold
 - Vicar Daniel Volkmann

THANK YOU to those serving as the 2021 officers:

President: James Davis
Vice-President: Brian Pokluda
Secretary: Kristin Neal
Treasurer: Sandra Blum



Mission Groups met Sunday May 23rd. All groups agreed that this year our October event should be a fundraising meal and the other parts of our yearly celebration could be redesigned into a community building event in spring at the church. Groups met separately but reassembled to share their thoughts with each other. We thank all these leaders as well as Sandy Machacek and Gemayel Heinold who provided a light lunch. The next Mission Group Meeting will be scheduled for August 15 following worship.

Discussion points for the specific Mission Groups included:

- Worship—Brief Communion could return on a trial basis in August.
- Learning—GIFT Pool Party is coming on June 12; GIFT resumes in September.
- Service—5th Sunday Covered Dish Dinners could return in August; Funeral Luncheons can resume; items for personal care kits will be collected in summer.
- Witness—Our digital online ministry is at the point of needing better video and sound. A church brochure is being developed; pew inserts will return.
- Support—A subcommittee is working on the constitution updates. The Endowment Fund guidelines also need updating. These documents need to be revised in tandem, adhering to legal standards and fitting in our leadership model.



We thank the following leaders who participated in the May Mission Group Meetings:

Worship—Brian Baker, Ronnie Bruns, Tim Harris, Gemayel Heinold, Debbie Ealy

Learning—Kristin Neal, Michele Pokluda, Teena Davis

Service—James Davis, Mary Ann Fojt, Carol Harris, Diane Schroeder, Vida Burnett

Witness—Matthew Sternadel, Chuck Stratman, Karen Blohm, Sandy Machacek

Support—Sharon Jaks, Tammy Guettner, Sandra Blum, Shannon Blaschke, Brian Pokluda, Juanita Lucke

Administration & Finance



The 2021 Shiner Lutheran Scholarship recipients have been announced. These scholarships are funded by interest received from our endowment fund. This year \$6,900.00 in scholarships were awarded. The scholarship committee of Merle Richardson, Michele Pokluda, Holly Heinsohn, Sandra Blum and Pastor Chris decided to tier the scholarships amounts this year to better allocate funds among the applicants. Shiner Lutheran Scholarships are primarily based on an active demonstration of faith and service within a faith community and in the world. The 2021 Shiner Lutheran Scholarship recipients include:

Seminary Student: Vicar Daniel Volkmann, Wartburg Seminary, \$1,000

College Students: Mason Davis, Texas State University, \$600; Carley Hewig, Texas State University, \$600; Hunter Kloesel, Texas A & M University Kingsville, \$600; Carissa Murrile, Texas State University, \$600

High School Seniors: Emma Herman, \$500; Kaleigh Knight, \$500; Jenna Machacek, \$500; Cheyenne Moore, \$500; Jared Shimek, \$500; Ty Winkenwerder, \$500; Rhiannon Loudon, \$250; Cash Shows, \$250



To enable both planning and monitoring the financial concerns of our congregation, we now have created a Finance Team. In the past, a budget team has met only to design a proposed budget. Now that renamed team will meet to compose the proposed budget, but will also monitor our assets, spending and investments. The team includes present and past treasurers, the financial secretary, bookkeeper, and a few others with specific financial skills. Team members are appointed by Church Council. The Finance Team will use their experience and expertise to make recommendations to Council on financial matters. This new team met in late April and will meet again in June. Thank you to these volunteers!



Loose change (or bills) are gathered as a special Noisy Offering on the last Sunday of the month for special mission work. In April this giving totaled \$129.86 and was given to missionaries David & Alicia Brondos.



Our budget is the plan that we have made to guide our spending throughout the year. At the end of April, one-third of the way through 2021, our overall spending remains in line with the budget. We have a spending plan, but depend on offerings and donations for the funds needed to continue ministries.



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.



Scheduled office hours are Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 9 am –Noon. Other staff hours are flexible. Please leave a message at 361-594-2345 or email shinerudml@att.net for assistance.

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) when the staff is not in the office. Pastor Chris can be contacted directly at his church cell number (830-203-2906).

Celebrating Graduates



Kindergarten Graduates **Jade Marie Boner**-daughter of Heather & Wendell Boner, sister to Lexi. Grandparents are Chuck & Teri Stratman, and Alvin & Toni Boner. Jade loves her teacher, friends, and everyone at school because they are so nice. She loves to read and is excited about going to 1st grade. When Jade is older she wants to go to UTSA and become a Scientist.

Joseph Ryan Heinold-son of Pastor & Gemayel Heinold. Grandparents are Thomas & Sharon Hyak, Donald & Barbara Heinold, Great grandparents are Sarah Geistman and the late Thomas, Thomas & Joyce Hyak, the late Warren & Lela Bell Heinold, Betty Cullum, and the late King David Cullum. Joseph's favorite thing about school is Centers, especially Legos and drawing. He wants to be a construction worker when he grows up.

Jax Michael Pokluda-son of Brian & Michele Pokluda. Grandparents are Michael & Karen Pokluda, and Katherine and the late Eugene Caka. Great Grandmother is Julia Mae Zimmerman. Jax loves to play Classroom Centers and be outside. He wants to be a policeman when he grows up.

Dawsyn Johanna Shimek-daughter of Dustin & Crystal Shimek, sister to Jaydn and Cade. Grandparents are Patricia & Marty Shimek and Michael & Sandy Klatter. Dawsyn's favorite things about school are Math & PE. She wants to be a gymnast & teacher when she grows up.

William Mason Ulcak-son of Dustin & Amanda Ulcak. Grandparents are Edwin & Susan Ulcak and Derward & Maureen Stevens. William's favorite thing about school is Recess. He wants to own a construction company when he grows up.



Gavin Gillar- Stephen F. Austin High School, Sugarland – son of Debra and Shannon Gillar, nephew of Ronnie and Milton Bruns

Kael Goetz-Canyon High School, New Braunfels-son of David & Tara Goetz, grandson of Norma Goetz

Zachary Goetz-Georgetown High School-son of Mark & Kelly Goetz, grandson of Norma Goetz

Jenna Machacek-Shiner High School-grandchild of Butch & Sandy Machacek, going to Texas Tech to pursue a degree in Computer Engineering

Cheyenne Moore-Shiner High School-daughter of Max & Kim Moore-headed to Lubbock Christian to cheer & major in Family Studies to pursue a career in guidance counseling

Erica Otto-Schulenburg High School-daughter of Keith & Stacy Otto, granddaughter of Barbara Otto, niece of Cheryl Kasper- going to Southwestern to play Volleyball & Softball and pursue a Kinesiology Degree

Collin Tomasek-Cedar Ridge High School, Round Rock- son of Jeannie & Robert Tomasek, nephew of Ronnie and Milton Bruns

Karson Tran-A&M Consolidated High School, College Station-son of Alex & Krystina Tran, great nephew of Ronnie and Milton Bruns

Ty Winkenwerder-Shiner High School-son of Eric & Michelle Winkenwerder, headed to Texas Lutheran University to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology in order to teach & coach



Corina Burnett-University of Houston, Houston-grandchild of Vida Burnett-Masters Degree in Hotel Management

Max Burnett-University of Houston, Houston-grandchild of Vida Burnett-Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering

Grant Gillar- Texas A&M University, College Station- son of Debra & Shannon Gillar, nephew of Ronnie and Milton Bruns-Bachelor of Business Administration in Management Information Systems

Holly Heinsohn-University of Houston, Victoria-Master of Education in Adult and Higher Education

Kyler Hewig- Associates Degree from Victoria College with an Internship in Drafting with Rafter J Construction in Victoria-son of David & Alison Hewig, grandson of Annie Blohm

Taylor Schroeder-Victoria College, degree in nursing-Daughter of David & Kristine Schroeder, grandchild of John & Diane Schroeder

Looking Ahead



- New members will be received on June 6.
- A GIFT pool party is set for Saturday June 12 at 9 AM. Members and friends can make a big splash together!
- We will celebrate Father's Day with a special Country Gospel Worship Service on Sunday June 20.
- On June 27 we will have a special Healing Service led by Vicar Daniel Volkmann



- We hope to have a float in the Half Moon Holidays parade on July 3.
- All aboard! Our Vacation Bible School will be riding the Rocky Railway on Monday through Friday mornings July 12-16. Forms for registration are now available for participants and volunteers.
- Our campers head to Camp Chrysalis July 18-23. Pastor Chris will join Jonathan Stock, Blake Zaruba, Kayla Heinold, Paisly Wallace, Briana Baker, Rakin Wallace, and Kyle Zaruba for a fun-filled week of faith formation.



- August brings back the joy of music! All of our musicians from Blended Blessings Band, choir, hand chimes, both veterans and new recruits, will celebrate the return of a regular music schedule with a Music Gathering at the Jaks' place on August 8. Choir and Chimes practice will begin August 9.
- We will have a Blessing of the Backpacks during worship on August 22.
- An ice cream social on Sunday August 22 will help kick-off our fall programming. Come enjoy homemade ice cream and view our ministry displays and sign-ups.
- August will bring a new start-up for a more organized Altar Guild, caring for communion and other needs in the chancel. See Pastor Chris or Gemayel Heinold if you are interested.



- GIFT, our Wednesday evening Christian Education program, returns September 8.
- September 12 is God's Work Our Hands Sunday where we work together to help others.
- Little Caesar's Pizza Fundraiser to support youth is scheduled in September.
- 5th Quarter Gatherings after home football games

Add these dates to your calendar:

Sunday June 6—New members received

Saturday June 12—GIFT Pool Party

Sunday June 20—Father's Day Country Gospel service

Sunday June 27—Healing Service

Sunday July 4—Service led by a brass instrumental group

Monday– Friday July 12-16 Vacation Bible School

Sunday-Friday July 18-23—Campers at Camp Chrysalis

Sunday August 8—Music Kick-Off and Fellowship Gathering

Sunday August 22—Blessing of the Backpacks at worship

Sunday August 22—4 pm Ice Cream Social & Fall Ministry Kick-Off and sign up

Wednesday September 8—GIFT returns



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SHINER LUTHERAN CHURCH QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS SUMMER 2021
Publication schedule is now late May, August, November and February.

Welcoming members, friends and visitors to worship with us in person or on the Shiner Lutheran Facebook page...



Website: shinerlutheran.org

News/Events/Calendar tab shows the weekly calendar, links to the monthly view of the calendar, archived Weekly and Quarterly Connections, and a link to the church facebook page.

Connect/Give tab shows our church contact information, the link to our electronic giving platform, and information on indirect ways that giving is possible.