



SHINER
LUTHERAN

QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS

Growing together in grace and service

*From the
Vicar*



What is a vicar? (pronounced vick-er)

In the Lutheran tradition a vicar is a candidate for ordained pastoral ministry, serving in a vicariate or internship. At Shiner Lutheran we are now a collaborative learning site, meaning Vicar Daniel can serve for four years with us as a part time staff member, giving him hands-on experience as he attends seminary remotely with the goal of becoming an ordained minister. This position replaces the part-time associate pastor position that we have had in the past.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus the Christ.

My name is Daniel Volkmann and I am so excited to introduce myself to all of you. While it might not be how anyone planned, I am so excited to start to work with all of you in this amazing community of Shiner.

A little bit about myself. I was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. For my bachelor's degree I attended Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa where I received my BA in Religion (pre-seminary), as well as minors in Peace/Justice Studies and Church Music. I am an organist, pianist, and singer by trade, but am an enthusiast of sports and good coffee for fun. Through my life I have played many different sports, including lacrosse and taekwondo as my primary activities besides music.

During my time at Wartburg I met my wife Mallory. Mallory is a music therapist and will be working in both the San Antonio and Austin areas as a contract music therapist.

For the next four years I will be attending Wartburg Seminary (based in Dubuque, IA) through their Collaborative Learning program. For this program I will be taking 9-9.5 credits a semester via Zoom (starting in September) while working 25 hours a week at UDML. My first big project will be hosting and leading a Zoom Bible Study starting Wednesday, July 22nd at 6:30pm and would love to get to meet many of you through that platform.

Again, I am so excited to get the opportunity to be in community and ministry with all of you and look forward to the next 4 years of growth.

Peace,

Vicar Daniel Volkmann



Looking back at the last four months:

- Sunday worship was streamed on Facebook with only three in-person services. “Communion in Cars” was begun monthly to allow members to receive the sacrament in the safety of vehicles.
- Our high school graduates were honored with quilts and prayer books on June 14th.
- At the end of May, Michele Pokluda resigned from her part-time work in the church office to begin a full-time position elsewhere. Her office position will remain open for the time being.
- Our congregation became a collaborative learning site for Wartburg Seminary. We welcomed Daniel Volkmann and his wife Mallory on July 12. Daniel began his four year program of working on our staff for 25 hours a week and attending seminary through online classes.
- The monthly newsletter was replaced by a weekly email publication in order to keep our members better informed amidst rapid changes. This is sent to those close to Shiner. Let the office know if you want to be included. A few members who do not have email receive a print copy.
- Volunteers worked to plant and to maintain the lawn and landscape. It now looks great.
- The sink area of the kitchen was cleared. New sinks, counters, and cabinets are being installed.
- Despite postponements and cancellations of our fellowship and ministry events, the pastor, staff and volunteers worked to continue an online worship presence, maintain our facility, and care for our members as best we could within the limitations of the pandemic guidelines.

Looking ahead:

We are excited and hopeful that the pandemic restrictions will ease and we can begin resuming our worship in person, fellowship, and ministries. In the coming months, Pastor Chris and Vicar Daniel will be calling all member households in our congregation to connect with all of our church family. They care, and want you to have a connection with them. When they call, remember it is a chance for you to update your email, phone numbers, or address if needed, especially as we move to more digital communications. Our church council, staff and lay leaders will continue to listen and evaluate what steps we need to take to rebound from this time apart. That includes church finances, and the expectation that contributions may lag behind and adjustments may have to be made. However, the focus will remain on our core values and mission, prayerfully moving forward in faith, trusting in God’s abundant grace to see us through. We are church together, even as we are apart.

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

- Faith Darilek
- Tim Harris
- Kristin Neal
- Brian Pokluda
- Sandra Blum
- James Davis
- Loretta Krejci
- Janis Richardson
- Brian Baker



- Danna Murrile
- Matthew Sternadel
- Mike Vaughan
- Pastor Chris Heinold
- Vicar Daniel Volkmann

OFFICERS for 2020:

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



The staff continues to work behind the scenes during this pandemic. Please leave a message at 361-594-2345 or email shinerudml@att.net for assistance.