



SHINER
LUTHERAN

2021 FALL QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

As a native Texan, I find it strange how September brings with it visions of the changing seasons, pumpkin spice, and falling leaves. By my best estimation, September means that those of us in Shiner have a solid two months of 90° heat! Those of you reading this know Friday night lights at the stadium are short sleeve events and even October bow hunts are ruthlessly hot. Nonetheless, we send this “AUTUMN QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS” newsletter to fill you in on some important news as Shiner Lutheran Church moves into its 2021 Fall Programming.

Christian Education, “GIFT” ministry resumes on September 8 at 5:30PM. GIFT has been highly successful for our congregation. Part of the magic of GIFT is that each of the teachers, door keepers, and storytellers love what they do. The best educators are passionate educators. The other magic comes from good food and good fellowship. Think of GIFT as a three-legged stool. To remove one of the legs would destabilize the entire program.



A Fall BBQ Chicken Fundraiser is scheduled for October 24. The pandemic has affected the church and our community in many ways. For one, we were unable to do a Festival 500+ event last year. We missed that event as it helped provide an influx of cash to help our church meet its financial commitments. BBQ Chicken Fundraiser tickets will go on sale soon for \$10. We need your help selling tickets and getting the word out. If you would like to donate directly to this event, please let me know!



A formal Altar Guild is returning to the life of the congregation. Our church is blessed to have a beautiful sanctuary with impressive adornments around the altar and chancel. And as Christians, we faithfully gather to receive Holy Communion every week. This all takes tremendous care. Several dedicated men and women have already been doing this important ministry, yet now we are excited to return an Altar Guild to this holy house of worship.

A Personal Note from your Pastor: Churches are like humans in many ways. We go through various seasons and stages in life. There is, indeed, a season and a time for every matter under heaven. What I want to suggest to you is that Shiner Lutheran Church is entering a new season in its life cycle. It is a season of Christian maturity. Like humans, we grow, and then we mature as our environment changes. A High School Senior and a College Freshman may not represent much physical change in size, but the maturity increases both internally and externally.



I believe God is calling our church to examine how the world has been changed by the pandemic and then to faithfully consider how our church has been changed both internally and externally. Christian maturity is not forcing new wine into old wineskins. I’d like for you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you and Shiner Lutheran Church into this new season. Will it be through a higher level of financial support? Will it be through more regular worship attendance? Will it be you stepping out in faith to serve in new capacities? Even though Autumn is still hot weather in Shiner, don’t sweat the small stuff. God always provides the growth!

Pastor Chris Reinold

Ministry Areas in Action

WORSHIP

In August Brief Communion resumed meeting every Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Meeting in the conference room, participants remain seated for this brief time of spoken worship with communion. With the return of Brief Communion, the once a month "Communion in Cars" event has been discontinued. Home visits with communion have started again for anyone who requests communion in the safety of their own home. During August, the structure and mission of an Altar Guild was finalized and an organizational meeting was held. Also during August we held a Blessing of the Backpacks during worship and almost thirty students from Pre-Kindergarten through graduate school brought their backpacks and received a special backpack tag to remind them that God goes with them as they attend school.



Learning

In June our GIFT families gathered for a big splash with a pool party at the Shiner Recreation Club pool. Vacation Bible School in early July filled our facility with children and volunteers eager to journey on the "Rocky Railway." The train theme began with a prize-winning float in the Half Moon Holidays parade. Throughout the week of VBS, both the participants and the many youth and adult volunteers sang, played, and prayed their way through each day. Camp followed the next week with Pastor Chris and 7 youth traveling to Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville for week of fun and faith formation. As summer ended, GIFT leaders met to prepare for the restart of our Wednesday evening education time. All these learning events were supported by donations and volunteers.



service



After many months at home, our quilting group met again on the third Tuesday and set out to craft quilts for Lutheran World Relief. In June, new volunteers joined in this ministry of caring. Over the summer, items for personal care kits were gathered, again for Lutheran World Relief. These kits will be assembled on Sunday September 12, God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, the ELCA church-wide day of service. Kits and quilts will be sent to LWR in November. Our caring ministry to the food bank has resumed, with our congregation providing breakfast one Thursday a month to those who come to the Shiner Food Pantry at the Methodist Church. During the past months, our Hospitality Team was again able to provide food and serve for receptions and funeral luncheons. August finished with a 5th Sunday Covered Dish Dinner. Other fellowship groups such as Men's Fellowship also began meeting again during the summer.



Witness includes our missional presence in the community and beyond. Electronically, this presence through our Facebook postings and the streaming of our Sunday worship service online. Witness and worship groups work together to refine the audio and video of our online worship; for the past few months our worship services averaged over 250 views per week. Our float in the July Half Moon Holidays parade shared our Vacation Bible School theme and won first place in the organizations category. Our Shiner Lutheran BBQ on October 24, while a fund raiser for our congregation, is also an opportunity to share our positive missional message. Witness also includes the community outreach of the Fifth Quarter youth event following home football games. Plans are to resume these activities.




Ministry Areas in Action



SUPPORT

Our support group has been active. The Finance Team that began last year following 2021 budget planning has continued to meet regularly. A constitution subcommittee met repeatedly and has updated our constitution. The bylaws are being revised to reflect our present leadership model, including the Finance Team and Endowment Committee. When completed, the revised constitution must be approved by the synod and then submitted to the congregation for approval. The Endowment Committee has also started meeting again. In the area of property, our landscape slowly recovered from the February freeze. Some plants did need to be replaced, but many slowly recovered. Volunteers trimmed, weeded, and planted in spring and continue to do so. The organ that has not been functioning properly was cleaned, tuned and repaired to the point that it can again be used. A new high efficiency air conditioning/heating system was installed in the parsonage. This was made possible by a generous donation that specifically targeted our aging air conditioners. This funding will also be used as the other older units in the education and office wings need to be replaced.





**THANK
you.**

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...

- Weed Warriors Ronnie Bruns, Larry Gerum, A.J Jaks, Sandy Machacek, Merle Richardson, Kristin Neal, and Sharon Jaks who answered the call for volunteers to pull weeds, especially in the new landscape beds
- Lawn crew members Larry Gerum, Ronnie Bruns, James & Teena Davis, Brian & Michele Pokluda
- VBS Coordinator Kristin Neal and her amazing group of volunteers who led, taught, fed, and loved the Vacation Bible School participants.
- Gemayel Heinold for a terrific job of decorating and setting up for the ice cream social and to those who made and or brought ice cream to share.
- Janis Richardson who designed and completed a new brochure for Shiner Lutheran Church.

Our Congregation

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



June 6, 2021—Tom & Joanie Honigschmidt; Connie Stelter; Duncan & Brandi, Gavin, Collin, Pierce and Piper Wallace (all these by transfer); Michael & Tierra, Trista Furrh (by affirmation)

June 13, 2021—Michael Furrh, Tierra Furrh and Trista Furrh were baptized by Pastor Chris Heinold



June 30, 2021—John Schroeder, baptized and confirmed member
 July 1, 2021— Ruby Polzin, associate member
 July 24, 2021— Morris Guettner, baptized member

Administration



Church Council continued to meet monthly through the summer. Vicar Daniel assisted at the June and July meetings when Pastor Chris was on vacation and at camp. In July the council set the date for a Shiner Lutheran Church BBQ to raise funds for our congregation. Tickets will be \$10 and the meal will include chicken, giblet rice, green beans. Scott Fojt will lead the BBQ team while Bridget Boedeker will head up the kitchen. The Hospitality Team will work on having a bake sale in conjunction with the BBQ. This year we will have a drive thru only, with no in-person festivities. Each month the council revisits our CoVid safety procedures. At this time masks remain optional, respecting others.

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

Note: A number of council positions will need to be filled for 2022. Please let Pastor Chris know if you are interested in serving.



Mission Groups met Sunday August 22rd. These volunteers lay leaders enjoyed lunch together, then spent time in their groups discussing issues in their specific area. The groups then reassembled together for dessert and shared the high points of their individual group discussions. Pastor Chris emphasized that although groups had specific interests, ministries overlap and we all work together for the mission of the congregation. The next quarterly meeting for Mission Groups is scheduled for Sunday November 21 following worship.

Discussion points for the specific Mission Groups included:

- Worship—worship schedule, purchase of microphones, need for more volunteer audio and video technicians
- Learning—preparation for restarting GIFT in September, high school curriculum for GIFT class, ELCA youth Gathering in July 2022
- Service—an ongoing supportive card ministry, serving breakfast at the Food Pantry, looking towards future Noisy Offering designations
- Witness—promoting 5th quarters, using Facebook for selling BBQ tickets, pew pocket inserts, church brochure
- Support—update on property issues, church data management system



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

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

Learning—Kristin Neal, Michele Pokluda, Kim Zaruba

Service—Norma Goetz, Mary Ann Fojt, Carol Harris, Vida Burnett

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

Support—Sharon Jaks, Tammy Guettner, Sandra Blum, Brian Pokluda

Administration & Finance

After decades of using the same data management program, the office has now upgraded to a web-based management system. Our new system is titled Church 360⁰ Members. This product is actually from the same company, Concordia Technologies Solutions, that we have always used. The new program is stored on their server, secure and automatically updated. All the data from our former program has been transferred to Church 360⁰ Members. The office staff and a few others have completed onboarding training, but will continue to practice and learn over the coming months.

This program includes traditional person and household data, attendance, offering records, and report generating—the same functions as the former program. Because it is a brand new platform, it is more intuitive and, once learned, will speed office tasks. A new feature is the ability to generate a church directory and have it available for access by members. To get access, members must receive an individual invitation and must compose and use their own password. Members then would be able to update their own profile. Access would be limited only to contact information as would be found in a directory or you own personal data. The possibilities are exciting and promising, but learning something new is overwhelming. Please be patient as we move forward with this new technology! We look forward to better connecting and supporting members in the future.



Starting September 1, we will keep an expanded time that the office will be open:

Mondays—9 am-Noon

Tuesdays—9 am—4 pm

Wednesdays—9 am- 4 pm

During these times the office entrance from Avenue B will be open for direct entry.



Work has begun on the 2022 budget. The challenge is that because of the pandemic, giving and budget information for the past two years is not especially helpful in planning our spending for 2022. We pray for faithful giving and good stewardship.

Loose change (or bills) are gathered as a special Noisy Offering on the last Sunday of the month for special mission work.



This past quarter Noisy Offerings were given to the Synod Assembly Offering (\$93.77), Shiner Community Food Pantry (\$107.48) and missionaries David & Alicia Brondos (\$132.64). Thank you!



Our budget is the plan that we have made to guide our spending throughout the year. We have a spending plan, but depend on offerings and donations for the funds needed to continue ministries. So far this year, we have kept spending within the guidelines of the 2021 budget.



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 now Monday from 9 am –Noon and Tuesday & Wednesday from 9 am until 4 pm. 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).

Opportunities



Minneapolis is the site for the July 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering. Lutheran youth from all over the country come together to worship, sing, pray, serve, and grow in faith and friendship. We have youth committed to attending and others considering joining the journey to Minnesota. We want to be sure any of our youth interested in attending have the support and finances to make the trip. Over the coming months there will be fundraisers and calls for donations. Registration begins in September—and quickly fills to capacity, so we encourage parents and high schoolers to make the decision to attend. As a congregation, we can help enable the trip financially, but more importantly we can encourage and pray for the youth who decide to step out in faith and take the trip.



Visit the **VOLUNTEER SIGN UP TABLE** in the Gathering Place and commit or re-commit to helping your church family and others by signing up to serve. Experience the joy that comes from donating some of your time and talents to serve in the church—just come by the colorful table and sign up!

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER AND SERVE INCLUDE:



Worship Leader (Acolyte, Gift Bearer Family, Greeter, Lector, Usher, Sound or Video Tech)
Altar Guild (Altar Care, Communion Preparation)
Music (Choir, Hand Chimes, playing an instrument)



GIFT (Prepare, serve or cleanup for Meal; Teach, Assist, or Supervise in classroom)
Vacation Bible School (Prepare or Help)
Youth (Campers, Youth Gathering, Fundraising)



Hospitality (Provide food, set up, serve, or clean up)
Caring Ministry (GWOH day of service, food pantry, quilting, homebound, special projects)
Fellowship Support (Children, Youth, Family, Men, Women, or Seniors Fellowship)



Welcome Team
Annual Events (Fall BBQ, Spring Celebration)
Community Events (Fifth Quarter, Parade Float, Christmas in the Park)
Publicity



Property (Lawn & Landscape Care, Maintenance & Repair, Clean up Days, Special Projects)
Office (Routine Tasks, Special Projects)



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. We do send out a few print copies to those who do not have email. Stay connected and let us know how to reach you!

Looking Ahead

September

Starting September 8th, it is back to GIFT Learning, with our Wednesday evening “Growing in Faith Together” Christian education evening. From Kindergarten thru adults, all are invited to join in a meal at 5:30 pm and a time for learning @ 6:00 pm.

September brings our traditional youth fundraiser, the Little Caesar’s Pizza Kit Sale. Youth and others will take orders for pizza kits and cookie dough, with proceeds going to campers and youth gathering funds. September is also football time, and our Fifth Quarter event for the youth of Shiner takes place after each home football game. Fun and fellowship with friends!



October

October offers the return of some traditions and the additions of some new ones. Our Shiner Lutheran Church BBQ returns as a to-go fundraiser with our chicken, rice, green beans plate and a bonus bake sale. Reformation Day on October 31 will be a celebration with worship led by brass and other instruments, then followed with a Fifth Sunday Covered Dish Dinner. St. Francis of Assisi inspires a “Blessing of the Animals” time on October 3rd. We combine German/Czech heritage with Lutheran liturgy and celebrate with Polka Worship Service in the middle of the month.

The new twist on food and fellowship will be a special Friday Luncheon especially designed for our treasured senior citizens and friends. We hope to establish a new welcoming tradition, coming together and gathering in a safe place for a good meal with great friends. Don’t miss it!

November

November begins by remembering loved ones as we celebrate All Saints Sunday November 7th. We take care of business with our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting that considers next year’s budget and elects new leaders. On Sunday November 21, we close out the church year by celebrating Christ the King Sunday—and at the same time begin the week of Thanksgiving with a special Thankoffering Service inspired by the women of the church. November closes with a new beginning—the first Sunday of Advent, starting the new church year and the weeks of preparation leading to the celebration of Christmas.



Wednesday September 8—GIFT returns @ 5:30 pm Meal & 6:00 pm Learning

Sunday September 12—God’s Work Our Hands Day of Service

Sunday October 3 @ 6 pm—Blessing of the Animals

Sunday October 17—Polka Worship Service

Sunday October 24—Shiner Lutheran Church BBQ

Sunday October 31—Reformation Festival Worship, led by brass and other instruments, followed by a 5th Sunday Covered Dish Dinner

Sunday November 7—All Saints Sunday with Country Gospel Worship

Sunday November 14—Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting with elections & budget approval

Sunday November 21—Thankoffering Worship & Christ the King Sunday

followed by quarterly Mission Group meetings

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



worship
WITH US
SUNDAYS
@ 10:15 am

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

Visit Our Website: www.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.

