



SHINER
LUTHERAN

QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS

Growing together in grace and service



As We Start the New Year

New Year's Message
FROM THE PASTOR

A Personal Note From The Pastor

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all! I am deeply grateful to have recently taken some vacation time to be with my family and for some much-needed sabbath rest. On December 31st, my wife and I celebrated our 15th anniversary. We were hoping to indulge with a trip; however, we decided against such travel this year. Regardless of any postponed travel plans, I am reminded of how the Lord has richly blessed me with a loving spouse, two children, my life, and the call to serve as a pastor in this church.

My theme for 2021 is, “*Be with us.*” As we begin a new year of ministry together in Shiner, this theme reminds me how powerful it is when we gather in humble service to the Lord. Some gather electronically and some gather in-person, still we are the church together! Last year I learned once again that the body of Christ has many members, each with its own important function. There are many parts but one body. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) *Be with us* as we discover, perhaps for the first time or maybe as we rediscover, what it means to be a Lutheran member in the body of Christ.

Mission and Ministry in 2021

I want to invite you to prayerfully consider how you can *be with us* in 2021. Through which part of the body is the Lord calling you to serve? People sometimes feel stuck within certain areas of service; while sometimes people want to serve but feel uncomfortable joining assuming there is no room for them. Now is the time to think about where God is calling you to serve in 2021!

✝ Assisting Minister, ✝ Lector (Reader), ✝ Usher, ✝ Greeter, ✝ GIFT Volunteer, ✝ Altar Guild,
✝ Musician, ✝ Communion Minister, ✝ Yard Maintenance, ✝ Video Tech, ✝ Sound Tech,
✝ Food Bank Volunteer, ✝ Hospitality, ✝ Property, ✝ Social Media

These are just some of the many areas that might be of interest. Just because you serve in one area doesn't mean that you have to serve there forever! Let me know how I can assist you in determining where you can best use your God-given gifts as we try to safely do the ministry of the church.

Be with us! Be part of the body as we humbly serve God and serve our neighbor in Christian love.

In Christ,

Pastor Chris Heinold

Rev. Christopher R. Heinold

Ministry Areas in Action

WORSHIP

During the fall quarter Worship continued both online and in person as we celebrated Reformation, All Saints' Sunday, Advent, and Christmas. Through our Facebook live streaming of worship services we shared Shiner Lutheran with an around 300 views each week. We were blessed with Vicar Daniel as a collaborative learner and his wife Mallory as a musician. Dedicated leaders worked behind the scenes to continue both in person and online worship, adapting and changing as needed. Despite the failure of a sound system component and the inability to procure a replacement due to CoVid delays, our worship team succeeded in proviing a setting where members and friends could worship in person and virtually.



Learning

Learning during the fall quarter continued Sunday and Wednesday morning adult classes. Our Wednesday evening GIFT program looked different with meals served on to go plates and with as much distancing as possible. Two Godly Play classes met in the sanctuary where there was more room to socially distance the students. The GIFT adult class finished one book and began studying other faiths and denominations. Emma Davis and William Stock were confirmed in October and became full members. Unfortunately, the planned modified Christmas program was canceled due to increased CoVid pressure and GIFT did not meet in December.



service



Hospitality is usually one of our most active groups. In this pandemic year, many hospitality supported events could not take place. Our hospitality team began meeting again during the fall quarter. This group packed away kitchen items and prepared the cabinets for the next stage of renovations. This group also sponsored the Giving Tree, gathering gifts for needy families at Christmas. They arranged a cake and punch reception for the confirmands. Noisy Offerings continued in fall, giving to Lutheran World Relief, St. Nicholas Ministry, and Shiner Community Food Pantry. Fall brought the return of preparing breakfast once a month for the Food Pantry ministry at the Methodist Church. Before Christmas, efforts were made to minister to the homebound by offering home communion to that group to supplement the Home Touch mail ministry that reaches out each month. Fellowship groups did not meet in fall.



During fall quarter, the impact of our live Facebook streaming continued. Hundreds of online viewers joined worship each week. A set back came at the end of September when a major component in our sound system failed. Due to the pandemic, no replacement units were available until late December. Nevertheless, our volunteers patched together a sound system that could be used during these months. January should bring the resolution of issues and allow our hearing impaired units to be used again. Our church website has been offline for many months. A team of volunteers worked on designing a new website with up to date information. Wink's Tech Solutions built that website and it was launched in December. At www.shinerlutheran.org we now have a working website that is more visitor friendly and links to our calendar, publications, and giving.



Ministries Areas in Action



SUPPORT

Our support team kept our facility and finances functioning through the fall months. Events that were able to meet, such as GIFT and Bible studies, meant timely cleaning and sanitizing had to be implemented. The property team sponsored a Clean Up Day in November, when volunteers raked and bagged leaves. The first part of the kitchen update was completed and cabinets were built offsite for the next phase of the renovation. Our internet and streaming issues continued, and our volunteers did troubleshooting. The next step is to gather information on hard-wiring our internet connection from the office to the sanctuary.



A staff addition was made in November to fill the part-time position of Office Assistant that had been vacant since the end of May. Sandy Machacek assumed this position, bringing with her years of office experience, life-long knowledge of our congregation, and a joyful heart. Together our staff and volunteers work together to be faithful, responsible support for our congregation.

Our Congregation



During the fall quarter, despite the pandemic, the following Spiritual Milestones were met:

Baptism on November 1, 2020:

Robyn Diane Shock, daughter of Randy and Carley Heinold Shock



First Communion on November 15, 2020:

Blake Guettner, Weston Kolodziejcyk, Hadlee McDonald, Max McDonald, Addison Ulcak

Confirmation October 25, 2020:

Emma Davis & William Stock



Funeral on October 15, 2020:

Ella Hartman, UDML member, who passed away October 11, 2020



With the beginning of 2021 please remember to:

- Pick up your 2021 Offering Envelopes in Gathering Place
- Pick up winter quarter devotionals in Gathering Place
- Notify the church office if phone, address, or email has changed
- Get a spiritual fresh start and join an adult class:
Sundays @ 9 am; Wednesday @ 10 am; Wednesdays @ 6 pm
- Bring your children to GIFT on Wednesday evenings

Administration



Our 2020 Church Council served in new ways during the past year, including meeting via Zoom, or meeting in a hybrid Zoom/in person format. Tough decisions had to be made by this leadership group including when to open or close in person worship and how to proceed with safety precautions amidst the confusion of various opinions and recommendations. For 2021, two new council members will begin serving their terms. The new council will be installed on January 10th during worship. Church Council plans to begin meeting on the third Monday of the month at 6 pm.

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Blum • James Davis • Debbie Ealy • Janis Richardson • Brian Baker • Danna Murrile • Matthew Sternadel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Vaughan • Faith Darilek • Shannon Blaschke • Kristin Neal • Brian Pokluda • Pastor Chris Heinold • Vicar Daniel Volkmann |
|--|---|

THANK YOU to:

- **the 2020 officers:**
President: James Davis
Vice-President: Brian Pokluda
Secretary: Kristin Neal
Treasurer: Sandra Blum

- **Tim Harris and Loretta Krejci**
for their council service.



Mission Groups, our lay leadership teams, have not been able to meet since last February due to CoVid concerns. These teams of 5-7 people provide leadership in our areas of Worship, Learning, Service, Witness, and Support. Since time has passed and situations may have changed, we will be talking with the members of these groups and see if they will renew their commitment to serve. Anyone else interested in serving at this leadership level can contact Pastor Chris or the office. We now plan to meet in Mission Groups at noon following worship on Sunday February 7.



CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

For five months the office staff had a vacancy in the position of Office Assistant. Starting November 1, this position was filled by Sandy Machacek.

Sandy is a life long member of our congregation and is retired from a career with Shiner I..S.D. in the Elementary School office. She joins the church office staff with a wealth of expertise as well as great people connections.

Although this position is part time, Sandy brings joy and enthusiasm to serving her church and understands the ministry of church administration.



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.

For security reasons, the office entrance may be locked at other times even when staff is in the building. Usually the entrance from the parking lot into the Gathering Place remains open for building access throughout the day. 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).

Administration & Finance



In November, our congregational meeting elected the following leaders:

CHURCH COUNCIL:

- 3 year terms:
Faith Darilek, Brian Pokluda, Kristin Neal, Shannon Blaschke
- 1 year term: Debbie Ealy

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: 3 year term: Scott Fojt

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 1 year term: Tim Harris, Holly Heinsohn, Teri Stratman

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES: Brian & Michele Pokluda



Our 2021 Offering Envelopes have a new format. These envelopes allow the cash or single check enclosed to be distributed among various funds, resulting in fewer envelopes needed. Please pick up your envelopes.



Because of the months that we did not meet in person, Noisy Offering was collected for just seven months in 2020. During the fall quarter we gave to Lutheran World Relief (\$109.23), St. Nicholas Ministry, (\$129.22) and the Shiner Community food Pantry (\$188.59). Every penny counts in this monthly giving.



Our Little Caesar's Pizza Kit Fundraisers have been able to continue even during the pandemic. Our winter pizza sale runs through January 24 with delivery of the kits the week of February 8. We need to sell 100 kits to avoid a delivery charge; we earn \$6 for each item sold. Funds raised go to support our youth. Selections this sale are limited due to pandemic set backs. Even though these pizza kits and cookie dough are more basic, they still taste great!

New \$ Budget

At our semi-annual congregational meeting in November, the 2021 budget was approved. Overall, the General Fund operating budget was reduced to \$221,640.00, a figure that is inline with the 2016 General Fund Operating Budget. Of course, the Building Loan portion of the budget remains at \$132,033.36.

We continue to align our budget categories with our church operating model and also with the greater church. The "Benevolence" label now becomes "Mission Support." \$12,900.00 is set aside for Mission Support in the 2021 budget.

"Clergy Salary Etc." includes the pastor's salary and benefits, the Vicar's salary and benefits, supply ministers, mileage, and pastoral continuing education for a total of \$115,138.00.

"Staff Salary Etc." covers the salaries and social security expenses for six part-time staff positions and supply musicians for a total of \$43,937.00.

Our "Ministries" category is budgeted \$8,000.00 and includes our mission groups areas of Worship, Learning, Service and Witness.

The "Support & Administration" category includes stewardship envelopes, office supplies, postage and equipment as well as telephones, utilities for church and parsonage, pest control, building insurance and maintenance. This comprehensive area is budgeted for \$41,665.00 for 2021.

During the uncertain times of 2020, we had some expenses that may have been lower due to reduced programming, but salaries and operating expenses remained. Each month we fell around \$3,000 short on building fund contributions, but we did have funds in reserve to cover that shortfall. Overall, our faithful contributors and special giving continued to support the ministry of our congregation.

The complete 2021 approved budget will be included in the 2020 Annual Report.

Christmas Joy

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank you to all who helped make our church shine with Christmas joy by transforming the sanctuary for Christmas. We thank those who made donations and dedications for our trees and poinsettias, enriching our Christmas worship.

TREES: The Christmas trees are given in honor of Ila Stratman and in memory of Eva Davidson. The trees were donated by their families.

POINSETTIAS:

The poinsettias were donated by members and friends of the congregation as listed, given in memory or honor of loved ones.

Given in Loving Memory Of:

Alvin Berry & Dax Wooten by Carla Berry
Karen Blaschke by The Blaschke Family
Carlind Blohm by Annie Blohm
Parents and Grandparents by Karen Blohm (2 plants)
Rev. James P. Burnett by Vida Burnett
Selma Westphal DeDear by The Blaschke Family
William Fojt, Mr & Mrs. Rudy Schroeder, Mr. & Mrs. Willie A Fojt by Mary Ann Fojt
Bill Goetz and Other Loved Ones by Norma Goetz
Earl Heinsohn by Daughters and Grandchildren
Charles Lucke, Daughters, & Parents by Juanita Lucke
Alfred & Helen Noack by Bill & Cindy Winkenwerder
Robert Rehak by Bill & Cindy Winkenwerder
Mary Jane Siegel by Bill & Cindy Winkenwerder
Our Parents by Mike & Karen Vaughan
Lanny Watson by Mary Ann Watson
John Wheelis by Jean & Johnny Wheelis
Evelyn & Victor Winkenwerder Sr by Bill & Cindy Winkenwerder
Flora Zaruba by The Zaruba Family
Kenneth Zimmerman (her father) by Karen Pokluda

Given in Honor Of:

Kyler, Carley, Owen & Maggie by Annie Blohm
Children & Grandchildren by Carla Berry
Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren by Vida Burnett
Children & Grandchildren by Norma Goetz

Looking to the Coming Months

The past three months have continued to be a challenge as we continue to gather both in person and online for worship. Although we have moved with an abundance of caution out of concern and respect for those most at risk, ministries have begun to adapt and change as pandemic conditions change. Like spring and summer of 2020, some of our fall quarter traditions did not take place. Yet the church continued being church: worshiping both in person and online, celebrating milestones like confirmation, baptisms, weddings, and being present as much as possible for the end of life.



Looking ahead to the next three months:

January

In some ways we begin January looking back at the year that just ended. By the middle of January the 2020 contribution statements will be sent to those who make contributions of record. The 2020 Annual Report will be published and can be picked up at worship or in the Gathering Place during the last weeks of January. Our congregational meeting to review the report is scheduled for Sunday January 31 immediately following worship. Looking back helps us evaluate what has been. At the same time, we look forward to the fresh start and renewed vigor that comes with a new beginning. We begin on January 3 with a special Epiphany service of light. On January 10th, the 2020 Church Council will be installed during worship. Plans are for GIFT Wednesdays to resume on January 13.



February

Although February is the shortest month of the year, it brings change and opportunity. Usually the first Saturday in February is our Bluebonnet Conference Equipping the Saints gathering; this year may bring changes or adaptations to this event. Mission Groups plan to gather on February 7 after church, once again working together. February 14 is Valentine's Day—we hope to be able to have a special event that day to encourage people we love. Sunday February 14 is also Transfiguration, a festival day in the church year that marks the end of Epiphany. Ash Wednesday on February 17 involves the imposition of ashes and a special worship service. Lent begins and we will set time aside for our weekly Wednesday evening services during the weeks leading to Easter.



March



March will blow in with the start of spring and hope of new beginnings as we mark a year since the first pandemic major shutdowns. We will make the time change as we spring ahead on March 14 and enter into the longer days that come with Daylight Savings time. We will take a break from most schedules as schools take a week in the middle of March for spring break. During March, our Lenten journey continues with special Wednesday evening worship services. This year Holy Week begins on March 28 with Palm Sunday, marking the beginning of the final journey to the cross and the resurrection. In the midst of darkness, we have hope.



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SHINER LUTHERAN CHURCH QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS WINTER 2021



WINTER QUARTER
@ Shiner Lutheran



Sunday January 31: Congregational Meeting

Sunday February 7: Mission Groups meet



Wednesday February 17: Lent begins

Sunday March 28: Palm Sunday - Holy Week begins

