



SHINER  
LUTHERAN

## 2022 SUMMER QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS



*And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*  
(Romans 5:3-5)

Currently, the church lawn is being tilled up and trenched with heavy tracked equipment to install a new sprinkler system. The sprinkler system will include both traditional sprinkler heads as well as a drip system around the landscaping. We are grateful for the donation of this system by a few generous members of the congregation and for the Church Council's approval of this improvement of our facility. I pray that this both models financial generosity and proves to be a lasting enhancement of our church grounds.

We are experiencing an early summer heatwave. The month of May was unseasonably hot and dry. The weather was more akin to what we expect in July. This is Texas, though, and I should be used to patterns of drought and flood. Perhaps this suffering will produce an endurance which leads to hope that God will hear our prayers for rain.

The church goes through these kinds of seasons. There are times when things are hot and in a good way! Did you know that GIFT, the Wednesday night education ministry, had its best year yet? At least 20% of the participants were non-members. By the end of the semester, around 70 people were present every Wednesday night for Christian education. We fed a full meal to every person. It was beautiful.

There are other times when things feel dry and parched. Financial giving to the General Fund and the Building Fund is low; our financial stewardship is not where we need to be as we go into the summer. I recognize that the cost of everyday items is quickly increasing. Fuel, groceries, and everything is more expensive. I get it – your pastor and church staff also feel the economic affects. Giving to the church is historically lower in the summer than at other times of the year. I simply ask, if you are able to make a financial gift to the church over and beyond your regular giving it would be greatly appreciated. It would be a blessing.



Gifts are given  
to each of us

The Bible says in Romans that the Holy Spirit pours God's love into our hearts. God gives, yes *gives*, us the Holy Spirit. It's not something we that we earn if we do good. That Holy Spirit of God freely pours out God's love into our hearts, according to Romans.

God is the ultimate giver of good gifts. God *gives* us the gift of repentance that leads to forgiveness. God *gives* us our daily bread. God *gives* us love and mercy, even when we do not deserve it. God is the ultimate giver of good gifts. God even *gives* us his only Son, Jesus, as both a model of the Godly life and as a sacrifice for sin through his death and resurrection. God *gives* us eternal life through Jesus.

As part of God's creation, we simply receive. You and I freely receive all of God's gifts. We trust that God gives us what we need. All we can really say is, "*Thanks be to God, Amen!*"

May you be blessed to be a blessing to others.

*Pastor Chris Reinold*

## Ministry Areas in Action

### WORSHIP

Spring quarter began with Wednesday Lenten services that featured dramatic monologues by Biblical characters the Paralytic, Martha, Peter's Mother-in-Law, Thomas, and Mary Magdalene. First Communion instruction took place, with Joseph Heinold, Jax Pokluda, Mallory Stock, Ryan Scott, Taylor Scott, and Kyle Scott all receiving first communion on March 27. Holy Week began on Palm Sunday with a special liturgical dance with scarves. A unique Seder Service was held on Thursday of Holy Week, with a Seder meal remembering the Passover. Easter Sunday was celebrated with an early organ-led service, and Easter Breakfast Buffet, flowering the cross, singing at the SNRC home, an egg hunt, and festive band-led worship. Other special worship services during spring included a Country Gospel service on March 27 and a Polka Service on May 8 for Mother's Day.



### Learning

GIFT, our Wednesday evening education program, continued to thrive. The acronym GIFT stands for Growing in Faith Together, which is the theme for this ministry that involves around seventy Pre-K through adults participating, with many others preparing and serving a meal, then cleaning up and resetting the Gathering Place. Synod representative Darcy Mittelstaedt came in April to observe GIFT in action. The GIFT program celebrated with a Bible Story, games, and hamburgers at the park at the end of April. Twelve campers committed to attending Camp Chrysalis and both a pizza fundraiser and a hamburger fundraiser were held to raise funds to help with the cost. Confirmation was held on April 24 with a reception following worship for the two confirmands. Our four high school graduates received quilts and were honored with a reception on May 1.

### service



The Hospitality Team was busy serving others and hosting receptions during the spring quarter. This team hosted the Easter Breakfast Buffet, the Fifth Sunday Covered Dish Dinner and receptions for both the confirmands and high school graduates. They also pitched in to serve at the GIFT meals and prepared their famous grilled cheese sandwiches for one GIFT supper. Caring Ministry organized the light meals that were served following funerals, with many members contributing food for those receptions. As part of our Caring Ministry, the Lutheran World Relief quilters continued to craft quilts each month. As a separate quilting project, the quilts for high school seniors were crafted with focused efforts by a few women, but with other support from those who prayed, contributed to cover expenses, donated or sorted fabric—the quilts were presented to the grads as a labor of love on behalf of the entire congregation. A few members attended the Bluebonnet Conference Spring Assembly. In March a salad luncheon invited members to rethink our women's ministries. Monthly women's and men's fellowship gathering continued, JOY, Just Older Youth, hosted around thirty members and friends for a May meal with a fiesta flair. Hospitality, caring, and fellowship continue to rebuild after the years of the pandemic.



*Witness reaches out within our congregation and community. Our streamed worship services have fewer views than during the pandemic, but continue to serve homebound, travelers, and others that are not in Shiner. Facebook keeps others connected, thanks to the timely posts by Mallory Volkmann. Many of our ministries have a witness component since they actively include others who are not members of our congregation; GIFT, JOY, Canasta, Dominoes, breakfast at the Methodist Church, Shiner Lutheran Scholarships, etc., all contain the element of witnessing to others. Our members witness by living their lives as Christians in our community.*



## Ministry Areas in Action




### SUPPORT

Support involves managing and caring for our facility and promoting sustainability for our congregation financially and through staffing, etc. We continue to work on landscape and lawn using volunteers. During spring quarter, volunteers spent a day raking, blowing and bagging leaves. A few weeks later, the oak blooms were also bagged. As good stewards of our creation, we were able to give these organic materials to members to use as composting at home or in a chicken operation. This quarter we were blessed with donors who felt the need to install a new sprinkler system. We hosted facility use by nonmembers in a funeral and an Early Childhood Training; donated funds from these nonmember events support hospitality and facility use. In April, we lost our long term bookkeeper with the passing of Juanita Lucke. The Finance Team had already begun working to create more transparency and computer back-up for our financial records. Treasurer Shannon Blaschke has been handling the bookkeeping tasks as he reformats the formulas in our financial reports, tracks expenses, and moves towards using a computer based ledger program.



Property



*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 receptions and meals.
- GIFT teachers, leaders, and participants for a great GIFT year
- The quilters and donors who made the quilts for our four high school graduates.
- Carol Harris and Sandy Machacek for handling the JOY meals.
- Larry Gerum and Ronnie Bruns and others who have worked on the lawn and flower beds.
- The donors for the new sprinkler system that is being installed at church.
- The five members who stepped up and presented Biblical characters for Lenten worship.

## Our Congregation

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



On Sunday March 27th, six young people were honored for completing instruction with Pastor Chris by receiving their First Communion: Joseph Heinold, Jax Pokluda, Ryan Scott, Taylor Scott, and Kyle Scott. Families celebrated this milestone by communing with their children and encouraging faith formation.

Confirmation was celebrated on Sunday April 24 for two students: Adelynn Siegel, daughter of Brandon & CariLynn Siegel, and Peyton Wegener, daughter of Chris & Tiffany Wegener. Following worship, a reception honored them.



During the past quarter, four members passed away:

- March 3, 2022—Bernell Pohler
- March 26, 2022—Mary Ann Watson
- April 14, 2022—Juanita Lucke
- April 18, 2022—Virginia Helweg

## Women in Our Congregation



### Shiner Women In Faith & Fellowship Together

Some of the women of our congregation met for a salad luncheon in March. Discussion was held on how to involve women more actively in the life of our church family. A new name was born: SWIFFT (Shiner Women in Faith and Fellowship Together), a comprehensive name for our women's ministries.

We will continue our ongoing projects that were begun as WELCA projects: quilts and kits for LWR; birthday and Christmas donations to Shiner NRC; quilts and prayer books for graduating HS seniors; monthly fellowship socials; a Fall Thankoffering Service. These will continue as congregational ministries sponsored by SWIFFT. The traditional WELCA (Women of the ELCA) organization will become a subgroup of SWIFFT that handles finances and connects us with other Lutheran women.

We have begun reaching out to women with a monthly fellowship gathering at Teri Stratman's home. In June SWIFFT will host our first quarterly Women's Bible Study using the WELCA Gather magazine. Other possible activities include a yearly luncheon or something in late summer to support women with children going off to school. We will also need to have some fundraisers to help pay for costs of our projects. 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).



Pastor Chris has offered to lead a quarterly Women's Bible Study based on the lessons in Gather Magazine, a publication of the Women of the ELCA. The first session meets on Thursday June 23 at 11:30 a.m. Join other women to study and pray together.



Some of our members attended the Bluebonnet Conference Assembly in March. The next WELCA event is the Women's synodical convention on Friday, September 23, 2022 through Sunday September 25 at the Disciple Conference Center in Gonzales. The Bluebonnet Conference will host the meeting. Registration and information will be available soon. All women in our congregation are invited to join other women for this event.



## *Easter Lilies*



### **Donations & Dedications**



### **Thank you to our donors**

#### **Given in Loving Memory of:**

- Karen Blaschke by the Blaschke family
- George & Annie Koenning Boedeker & family by Margaret Boedeker
- Rev. James P Burnett & in honor of Grandchildren by Vida Burnett
- Rev. James P Burnett & in honor of Mother Vida by Jon Burnett
- Alvin Berry & Dax Wooten by Carla Berry
- Selma DeDear by the Blaschke family
- William Fojt, M/M Rudy Schroeder, M/M Willie A Fojt by Mary Ann Fojt
- Bill Goetz by Norma Goetz
- Paul & Florence Harris by Tim & Carol Harris
- Maurine Hinze by The Pokluda family
- Fred & Hattie Mertz by Tim & Carol Harris
- Bernell Pohler by Carol Z-Lyons
- John Schroeder Sr. by Diane Schroeder
- John Wheelis by Jean Wheelis
- Helen Zimmerman by Carol Z-Lyons
- Grandparents, parents, & in honor of Children, Grandchildren & great Grandchildren Cody & Shelby by Sandra Blum
- Loved Ones by Tom & Joanie Honigschmidt
- Parents & Grandparents by Karen Blohm
- Parents by Merle & Janis Richardson
- Parents & those who've gone before us by Mike & Karen Vaughan
- Parents & siblings in the Church Triumphant by A.J. & Sharon Jaks

#### **Given in Honor of:**

- Children, Grandchildren & Great Children by Carla Berry
- C. S. Gang by anonymous
- John Schroeder Jr, David Schroeder, & Robbie Schroeder & families

#### **In Thanksgiving for:**

- Family by Rae Nell Janik
- Our church family by A.J. & Sharon Jaks

#### **To the Glory of God:**

- Given by Steve & Debbie Ealy
- Given by Ray & Kristin Neal
- Given by Butch & Sandy Machacek

#### **He is Risen Indeed!**

- Given by Mike & Karen Vaughan

## Administration

### 2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

- Brian Baker
  - Shannon Blaschke
  - Sandra Blum
  - James Davis
  - Holly Heinsohn Kropp
  - Danna Murrile
- Kristin Neal
  - Brian Pokluda
  - Mike Vaughan
  - Duncan Wallace
  - Pastor Chris Heinold
  - Vicar Daniel Volkmann

**THANK YOU to those serving as the 2022 officers:**

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



Our Church Council is the governing body for our congregation, In January 2022, the number of council members was reduced from twelve to ten. These council members meet monthly to oversee the ministries and finances of the congregation.

Each Sunday assigned council members are present to help in welcoming worshipers, support the pastor, provide leadership during emergencies, back up other worship leaders, and properly deposit the offering money. Council officers must represent the congregation when signatures are needed to complete business with banks, etc.

Council Members serve three-year terms; two consecutive terms can be served. There is no term limitation in the sense that after a break, more terms can be served. We have current council members who soon will have served two consecutive terms, so new members will be needed in the near future.



**WORSHIP**

service



**SUPPORT**

Learning



During the past few years we have been expanding our leadership by meeting as Mission Groups in the areas of Worship, Learning, Service, Witness and Support. This has enabled us to refine traditional ministries and embark on new or refreshed missional efforts. After our renovation and pandemic challenges, we seem to be back into a more normal sense of church. This summer, rather than meeting as individual Mission Groups, we plan to pull all our leaders together—Church Council, Mission Groups, Finance Team, GIFT, etc. By meeting as one leadership group we can look at not just where we are now as a congregation, but what paths we might take in the coming years to assure vitality and sustainability for Shiner Lutheran Church. By looking at our congregation in a missional way with prayer and planning, we can continue to grow in grace and service. Yes, no one actually wants a Saturday meeting in August, but the timing is such that we can move forward into fall programming with a greater understanding of the tasks before us. All current and potential leaders are invited to join us on **Saturday August 6th** to help us set the course for our ministries. Say a prayer and jump into this leadership think tank!

## Administration & Finance



The Finance Team has continued to work towards best practices for the financial management of our congregational resources. In April, we lost a key member of this team when long time bookkeeper Juanita Lucke passed away. Juanita was responsible for setting up our financial monitoring system and worked for decades as a faithful servant who loved the Lord and strove to be a good steward of our church finances. For the time being, we are not filling her staff position of bookkeeper. Our treasurer Shannon Blaschke is handling the bookkeeping records as we update and reformat our current reports and move to implement a computer based church finance ledger system. The Finance Team and Church Council have taken steps to manage our investment strategies. As part of best practices, the separate bank accounts for Quilting and WELCA will become designated line items within our church funds. We continue to strive for sound financial management.



Please remember: every dollar spent to sustain our congregation comes from the donations of members, friends, and special gifts.

Regular undesignated offerings go the General Fund which supports the yearly budget and “keeps the doors open” by paying utilities, salaries, insurance, office expenses, budgeted ministries, and basic maintenance.

In addition, we have a Building Fund that is used to pay the monthly renovation loan expense of \$11,002.78. When the renovation began, a capital campaign was held that asked for three year commitments to the Building Fund that were beyond regular giving. Those three years have passed, but some members have continued their special giving. Other members and friends are not aware of this need to meet the loan payment. Before long, we need to run another capital campaign to support the loan expense. In the meantime, special giving can still be directed to the Building Fund at any time as a choice on offering envelopes or simply a memo on a check. Ideally this is beyond General Fund giving and is used solely for loan expense.

The Endowment Fund also can receive designated offerings; this fund cannot be used for regular expenses, but is invested so that a portion of the gains may be used as designated by the Endowment Fund Policy in line with federal guidelines. This past year, investment gains were harvested and released around \$6,000 to be used locally for scholarships and \$6,000 to be used in the Building Fund. Donations to the Endowment Fund can be made using offering envelopes; once a donation is made it will be managed as endowment money following the stated policies.

Other special funds are the Improvement Fund that is used for major repair or replacement expenses and the Memorial Fund that receives memorials; both of these funds are kept within a money market account and their spending is determined by Church Council.

A small amount of income comes to us from special avenues such as Thrivent Choice, Amazon Smile, oil lease revenue, and an ongoing bequest distribution from the Fritsche estate.

All income, including that for other designated special projects, is overseen by the congregation treasurer, Finance Team and Church Council with the goal of being good stewards of our many blessings.



Loose change (or bills) are gathered as a special Noisy Offering on the last Sunday of the month for special mission work. During the past few months, Noisy Offerings were given to Lutheran Disaster Response (\$166.54), Youth Activities (\$193.01); and our Missionaries David & Alicia Brandos.(\$103.15). Thank you!



*Scheduled office hours are Monday—Wednesday from 9am – Noon  
The staff is also on site most Tuesday & Wednesdays until 4 pm.  
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).

## Scholarships & Graduations



As specified in guidelines, 2021 earnings from the Endowment Fund were released for use in ministries. The portion allotted for local use was \$6,002.60. This funding was used to award \$6,000 in Shiner Lutheran Scholarships. Applications were reviewed by the Scholarship Committee that included Merle Richardson, Michele Pokluda, Council Representative Sandra Blum, and Pastor Chris. For scholarship consideration, special emphasis is placed upon the student's recent involvement in the

life of a worship community, including regular worship attendance, active participation in education and youth activities, and volunteer service within the congregation. In their applications, students wrote about their faith journey. Scholarships were awarded in tiered amounts; students may receive this scholarship twice. The 2022 Shiner Lutheran Scholarship were awarded to: Second time recipients Daniel Volkmann (\$1,000), Cheyenne Moore (\$1,000), and Ty Winkenwerder (\$1,000); and high school seniors Julia Fojt (\$1,000), Kristina Baker (\$500), Hunter Nevlud (\$500), Emily Stock (\$500), and Emilee Wegener (\$500). We congratulate these recipients and pray they continue their faith journey in the future.

### Shiner ISD Kindergarten Graduates:



- **Grant Fischer**, son of Matt & Laura Fischer, grandson of Howard & Carol Gloor, great grandson of Carla Berry. Grant wants to become a baseball player.
- **Hallie Guettner**, daughter of Mason Guettner & Ashlyn Richter, granddaughter of Tammy Guettner. Hallie plans to become a teacher.
- **Holdyn Guettner**, son of Mason Guettner & Ashlyn Richter, grandson of Tammy Guettner. Holdyn wants to become an electrician like his father.

### High School Graduates:



- **Kristina Baker**, daughter of Brian & Erika Baker, granddaughter of Jane Fester, graduates from Moulton High School.
- **Julia Fojt**, daughter of Scott & Christy Fojt, granddaughter of Mary Ann Fojt, graduates from Yoakum High School.
- **Emily Stock**, daughter of Jimmy & Marla Stock, granddaughter of Mary Ann Fojt, graduates from Shiner High School.
- **Emilee Wegener**, daughter of Chris & Tiffany Wegener, graduates from Shiner High School.
- **Owen Machacek**, son of Jamey & Sara Machacek, grandson of Butch & Sandy Machacek and Annie Blohm, graduates from Danbury High School.
- **Brooke Otto**, daughter of Wayne & Kristy Otto, granddaughter of Barbara Otto, graduates from Smithville High School.

### College Graduates:



- **Sarah Neal**, daughter of Ray & Kristin Neal, graduates from Sam Houston State University with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology.



*Looking Ahead*



**GIFT POOL PARTY** Saturday June 4 9:30-11:30 am



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
 July 11-15 from 9 a.m. until Noon  
 Pre-K thru 5th grade  
 Sign up to participate or volunteer to help



**End of Summer—SUNDAY AUGUST 14**  
*Blessing of the Backpacks & Ice Cream Social*



*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.*



Saturday June 4—GIFT Pool Party @ Shiner Recreation Club  
 Sunday June 6—Day of Pentecost—WEAR RED to worship  
 Sunday June 12—Trinity Sunday  
 Sunday June 19—Country Gospel Father’s Day Worship



Sunday July 3—Worship led by brass instruments  
 Sunday July 10—VBS Volunteers Installation  
 Monday July 11-Friday July 15—Vacation Bible School “Monumental”  
 Sunday July 17—Send off for Campers  
 Sunday July 17-Friday July 22—Campers at Camp Chrysalis  
 Thursday July 28—GIFT Leaders Planning Meeting



Saturday August 6—Leadership Gathering for our congregation  
 Sunday August 14—Blessing of the Backpacks  
 End-of-Summer Ice Cream Social  
 Sunday August 28—Parents & Confirmands Meeting



Wednesday September 7—GIFT Education evenings return  
 Sunday September 11—Parents & 2023 Campers Meeting  
 September-October—Little Caesar’s Pizza Kit Fundraiser for Campers

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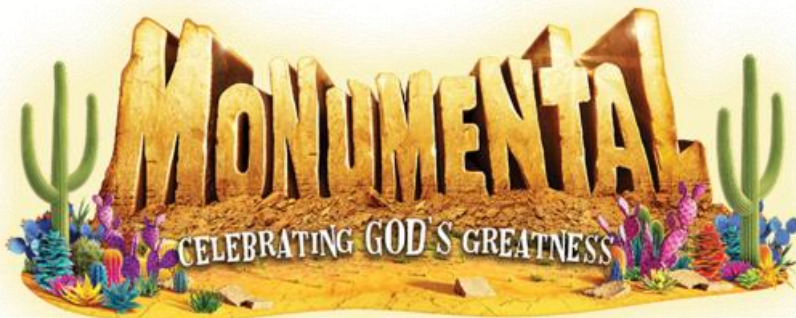
**SHINER LUTHERAN CHURCH QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS SUMMER 2022**  
*Publication schedule is now at the end of February, May, August, and November.*



**WORSHIP**

**SUNDAYS @ 10:15 am**

In person or online @ Shiner Lutheran Facebook Page



**VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL**

**July 11-15 from  
9 a.m. until Noon**

*Pre-K thru 5th grade*

**Sign up to participate  
or volunteer to help**

*Registration forms  
are now available*



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