



SHINER
LUTHERAN

2022 FALL QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS



FROM THE
PASTOR

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?” Luke 15:8

One time I was working on my F150 pickup truck. The part that had failed was part of the air conditioning and heating system called a blend door actuator. This part was responsible for operating a door that mixed cooled air with the heater to get the desired temperature. Mine was stuck on full cold at the worst time – in winter! This blend door actuator was an inexpensive part; however, it was buried deep in the dash of the truck. It took me over eight hours to pull the seats, the carpet, the center console, and much of the stereo to replace this actuator that was no bigger than a deck of cards.

My knuckles were bloody from reaching far back into the dark corners under my dashboard. The part was only attached with a couple of small 7mm screws, but the area was so cramped I could only turn the wrench a few degrees at a time. It was frustrating to say the least. Nevertheless, I prevailed and felt so accomplished in that moment. The new blend door actuator was working flawlessly! I reassembled interior of the truck like I was a master mechanic.

As I was putting my tools away, I discovered my 7mm wrench was missing. I looked everywhere for that wrench: under the seats of the truck; I felt around for an obvious bulge under the carpet. It was nowhere to be found. I knew where that 7mm wrench was. It was hidden way back behind the dashboard of my truck.

The only way to retrieve the missing wrench was to gut the interior again and redo hours of labor. My pride got to me. I didn't do the work. I left that wrench buried deep in the dashboard of the truck for years until I got rid of the truck.

I tell you this long story because Jesus told three different stories about things that got lost in Luke 15. Jesus told a story about a lost sheep. Then he told a story about a lost coin. Finally, Jesus told a story about a lost brother. Go read Luke 15 sometime. I bet you recognize at least one of those stories Jesus told about things that got lost.

Jesus told these stories to teach us something about the Kingdom of God. What woman, upon losing one of her coins, would light a lamp and sweep the whole house and search until it is found? Who leaves ninety-nine sheep in the wilderness to search for one lost sheep? Who would redo all that work on his F150 to retrieve that cheap Craftsman 7mm wrench?

The answer is that no one would do this.

Yet Jesus does what we will not do. Jesus will do anything to bring just one sheep home. Jesus would do anything to find one lost coin. The Kingdom of God is a place where everyone has value and worth and dignity. Even the little things matter to God.

As we transition from Summer to Autumn, I want to challenge you to remember that even the little things you do make a difference in God's Kingdom. Sometimes, what seems inconsequential and such a small part of your life is truly a big thing within the church. Our acts of kindness and generosity might seem small by themselves, but when we add them with the gifts of our neighbors, we really get to see a glimpse of God's abundance.

Let us not get lost and neglect the small things. And when we think we, ourselves, are too small, too lost, or too far gone, hear the good news. Jesus also came from a small town!

Pastor Chris Heinold



Ministry Areas in Action

WORSHIP

June began with celebration of the Day of Pentecost with special fiery red adornments in the chancel. The next week brought the white of Holy Trinity Sunday. Then the long green growing season of the time after Pentecost began. The Altar Guild worked diligently to change paraments and banners to reflect the appropriate liturgical colors. Other special services were spread throughout the summer. For the service on July 3, a unique brass led band included trumpets, trombone, flute, saxophone, rhythm guitar and bass guitar. Two weeks later it was the steel guitar that led the Country Gospel service. Guest pianist Leah Matocha played for worship the final week of July. August included a Service of Healing for mind and body. Despite the busyness of summer activities, our attendance averaged around 80 each week in person and 150 views on line.



Learning

Summer is a time of rest from the routine of school, but our Christian Education maintained a presence through varied activities. The weekly Sunday morning class "Looking @ the Lessons" continued each week for those who wish to dive deeper into the week's readings. GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) took a break from regular Wednesday meetings. Youth and children stayed connected through the GIFT Pool Party in June, Vacation Bible School, and Camp. VBS was definitely "Monumental" as our facility was transformed into the desert Southwest, serving around 70 participants and up to 30 volunteers. The week at Camp Chrysalis was fun and faith building for the ten campers who were able to attend. GIFT Leaders met in July to plan the return of weekly GIFT in September, when we begin a new season.

service



Our hospitality efforts last quarter included support for the GIFT Pool Party and a member funeral in June. The Hospitality Team provided receptions for new members Austin Attilio and Steph Johns. Our doors were opened as a lunch site for a group from Peace Lutheran in New Braunfels who had come to visit Shiner. A congregational Fifth Sunday Covered Dish Dinner took place July 31. The end of summer Ice Cream Social was a blend of all ages enjoying an array of homemade ice cream, cones, sundaes, and all the trimmings imaginable. In August, hospitality was shown to the clergy of the Bluebonnet Conference as the monthly deanery meeting came to Shiner and Pastor Chris and Gemayel Heinold created a very welcoming atmosphere. Monthly Noisy Offerings and Quilting continued. Our volunteers provided a breakfast at the Food Pantry and others helped there each week. Fellowship connections continued with domino and canasta groups meeting regularly. Both Men's and Women's Fellowships gathered each month. The Women of the ELCA sponsored a birthday party at SNRC. Our newly named women's ministry, Shiner Women In Faith & Fellowship Together (SWIFFT), reached out to mothers of youth and children and invited them to a Back to School Brunch complete with a plentiful food and take home gifts.



During the summer months we reached out to the community in varied ways. In June, the GIFT Pool Party invited all the Gift families, many of whom are not members, to join the fun. Vacation Bible School was a week of fun and faith as a community event. Supplies were collected from the congregation and the Shiner Royalty for at least 90 school kits that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief this fall. Online views of our weekly worship service continued throughout summer. This ministry was aided by the donation of funds for a new multi camera Mevo system that is now being used to share our service. We strive to maintain connections with the homebound and many others.



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 the summer months, the property team was challenged to maintain the landscape through the heat and drought of summer 2022. We were blessed with the donation of funds to purchase and install a sprinkler system. Remnants of our outdated disconnected sprinkler system were used when possible. Since we had contracted with Texas Irrigation Systems before summer began, we had a head start before the drought and heat set in. Handling the heat meant that air conditioners needed servicing including updating thermostats in the sanctuary and trouble shooting the unit in the education wing. In the parsonage, the AC condensing drain pipe overflowed and caused a water leak that affected flooring in the hall and some rooms. Repairs to the floor and the installation of a water overflow sensor followed. We also were blessed with the installation of shelving in three classrooms, thanks to the expertise and generosity of Michael Pokluda. These classrooms and other areas were refreshed and renewed by teachers in preparation for fall programming.



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 a special thank you to...

- Jean & Johnny Wheelis for carefully cleaning and recording the many archived items housed in the conference room display cases.
- Brian Pokluda for being our “in house handyman” completing many maintenance and repair tasks. We thank him for spray washing to rid the building of the seasonal cocoons. We especially are grateful for handling the parsonage water damage issues. Brian’s expertise and assistance are so valuable!
- Michael Pokluda for building and installing shelves in three classrooms that will help save space and give display areas for Godly Play,
- Larry Gerum, Ronnie Bruns, A.J. Jaks, James & Teena Davis, and others who worked in the heat to maintain our landscape through the hardship of both high temperatures and lack of rain.
- Sandy Machacek for planning and providing lunch for the Leadership Retreat on August 6th.

Our Congregation

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



Kenneth James Pietsch, son of Tanner and Gabbi Pietsch, was baptized on July 31, 2022. He is the grandson of Tommy & Phyllis Pietsch.

Oren James Remmers, son of Austin & Jessica Remmers, was baptized on August 14, 2022. He is the grandson of Kirk & Gail Remmers and the great-grandson of Oren (Buddy) Remmers.



Austin Attilio and Steph Johns joined our congregation on July 17, 2022.



During the past quarter, one member passed away:

Henry Lee (Gus) Schierschwitz died on June 2, 2022.

Women's Ministries



Shiner Women In Faith & Fellowship Together

Our Women's Ministries have been rebranded with a local flair. Our new acronym is SWIFFT, Shiner Women in Faith & Fellowship Together. By focusing on our congregation and the Shiner community, we hope to involve and engage more women to live out their faith in fellowship and service. SWIFFT has already sponsored a brunch for moms and a quarterly Women's Bible Study. A monthly fellowship time takes place, usually on the first Tuesday of the month, graciously hosted by Teri Stratman. Members, friends, and others are all invited to participate in these SWIFFT activities. 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.



Within the framework of SWIFFT, we continue our traditional connection with the larger church through the Women of the ELCA, our churchwide women's organization. Our local WELCA group maintains their own fundraising activities and supports the greater WELCA organization by participation and financial contributions. It is WELCA that sponsors and supports an Ingathering of quilts, school kits, and other kits that are shipped to Lutheran World Relief and distributed throughout the world. Women from our congregation join others for the Bluebonnet Conference Spring Assembly and the fall WELCA Synodical Convention. In October our WELCA group will sponsor a SERRV Catalog Sale as a fundraiser. The SERRV group sells fair trade items ranging from coffee and chocolate to Christmas items, home decorations, or apparel. Supporting this catalog sale helps women in third world countries receive a fair compensation for their crafts. The sale is scheduled for October 9-23, with delivery in time for Christmas. A special Thankoffering will be collected from women on November 20 to support the WELCA ministry.

Rejoice, Renew, and Respond

The 2022 WELCA Synodical Convention takes place September 23-25 at the Disciples Retreat Center outside of Gonzales, Texas. WELCA Board member Holly Heinsohn will represent Shiner along with others who plan to attend. Registration is still open; details can be found in the Gathering Place. If you are unable to attend, you can support the WELCA convention physical offering for Norma's House by donating the following items: snacks (all kinds), toilet paper, tissues, trash bags (13 & 33 gal. size), copy paper, HP ink (902), stamps, and gift cards (HEB & Walmart). If you choose to donate a gift card, please indicate the value of the gift card on the envelope. These donations can be brought to the Gathering Place by September 22.



Pastor Chris is leading a quarterly Women's Bible Study based on the lessons in Gather Magazine, a publication of the Women of the ELCA. The next session meets on Thursday September 22 at 11:30 a.m. using the September 2022 study, "Jesus and nature: Teachers of faith," found at: <https://www.gathermagazine.org/jesus-and-nature-teachers-of-faith/>. Written by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith, this free downloadable session offers participants new perspectives on the character of God and ways to deepen our stewardship of God's creation. Join other Shiner women on September 22 to study and pray together.

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



Church Council is the elected group that is legally responsible for maintaining best practices for operating our congregation as a non-profit church body. Council members serve three year terms and may serve up to two consecutive terms. Election of council members takes place at our fall congregational meeting, scheduled this year for Sunday November 13th, immediately following worship. The council seats due for election this fall are those of Brian Baker, Danna Murrile, and Mike Vaughan. All three are eligible to serve again for the next three years. Nominations for the three council positions and other elected positions are made by the nominations committee, an elected group that this year includes Dee Schierschwitz, Karen Pokluda, and Chuck Stratman. Congregation members who may be interested in serving as council members or Synod Assembly delegates should submit their name to Pastor Chris to be reviewed by the nominations committee. We thank all who volunteer to serve our congregation in this position of leadership!

Our Mission Groups meet periodically to oversee our congregation’s activities. In August, the Mission Groups participated in the Leadership Retreat. The next time Mission Groups will meet is in early January 2023.



WORSHIP

service

SUPPORT

Learning



On Saturday August 6th almost thirty congregation members met together for a Leadership Retreat. These leaders included church council, mission group members, hospitality, GIFT leaders, staff, etc. Pastor Chris led the sessions entitled “Come and See!” (John 1:43-46), “Give me this water ” (John 4:15) and “As I have done to you” (John 13:15). Discussion centered on our congregation’s purpose or what we exist to do—our mission. Leaders brainstormed on questions such as

“Who are we as a congregation?” “What are our needs and strengths?” and “Who are our neighbors?” After considering our purpose and context, the next faithful step was examining the vision of what God is calling us to do in the near future and how we could carry out this vision. A review of general fund giving monthly from 2019-2021 was presented along with the yearly general fund giving from 2015 thru 2021. Overall, despite a pastoral vacancy and pandemic years, our giving has been stable, although it varies within the calendar year. Building Fund giving for 2015 through 2021 was also considered. The initial years reflected the capital campaign commitments. For the past three years, building fund giving has fallen short of totally covering the yearly mortgage total of \$132,033.36. We have been blessed to have resources and special memorial donations to help us make up the difference. As we look ahead, we will need to consider our congregation’s vision as well as finances as we approach the final year of our collaborative learner, Daniel Volkmann.

Administration & Finance



The Finance Team has continued to work towards best practices for the financial management of our congregational resources. For the past months, following the loss of our beloved bookkeeper, Juanita Lucke, congregation treasurer Shannon Blaschke has been working very diligently to fulfill our financial responsibilities while updating our record keeping. A web based finance management computer program, Church 360 Ledger, has been purchased and is being implemented. This program is a companion to our current church management data base. This year we are continuing traditional hard copy records while we convert to a computer based system. Our treasurer Shannon has worked relentlessly to enable this change. Meanwhile, the Finance Team will be proposing a 2023 budget that will be submitted to church council for approval before it is released to the congregation for consideration at the November 13 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting.



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 loan payments began, we had a capital campaign that collected three year commitments from members to contribute to the Building Fund and create a reserve that could be used to help make loan payments. Years have passed, members have died or moved away, and newer members have not been approached to make a Building Fund commitment. Monthly offerings to the Building Fund to pay our mortgage have often met only about half of our payment. This means our Building Fund reserves are being used most months to partially fund our payment. Originally, a second Capital Campaign was to be launched as the first three year commitment ended. Due to a variety of factors including a pastor vacancy, pandemic concerns, and now a downturn in the economy, the needed Capital Campaign has not taken place. In the meantime, we can only encourage more sustained regular giving to the Building Fund that is above and beyond the General Fund giving in order to meet our loan payment. Any amount donated and designated as Building Fund can help us meet our monthly payment.

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 late 2021 after considering the positive investment gains at the time, a portion of the Endowment Fund earnings were distributed as outlined in the Endowment Fund Policy. This distribution is not guaranteed, but is dependent upon the fund earnings, which have now experienced a downturn due to changes in the general economy. Please remember, at any time, individuals may donate to the Endowment Fund using offering envelopes.

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



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 Synod Assembly Offering (\$187.75), the Shiner Community Food Pantry (\$ 270.86), Missionaries David & Alicia Brondos (\$ 210.79), and Lutheran World Relief (\$ 187.75). Thank you!



*Scheduled office hours are Monday—Wednesday from 9am – Noon
The staff is also on site most Tuesdays & Wednesdays until 4 pm.
Please leave a message at 361-594-2345 or email 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) when the staff is not in the office. Pastor Chris can be contacted directly at his church cell number (830-203-2906).

Looking Ahead: Fundraisers



Little Caesar's Pizza Kit Fundraiser

Our fall Pizza Kit Fundraiser will run from Sept. 11 until Oct. 1. Youth planning to go to camp will be taking orders for pizza kits, cookies, and breads to help pay their way to summer camp 2023.



Our local WELCA group will be hosting a SERRV Fair Trade Catalog Sale from Oct. 9-23. Orders will arrive before Christmas, supporting fair prices for native crafts and earning funds for WELCA ministries.



Sunday October 23, 2022

Arthur Kaspar Pavilion (to go plates only)

\$12 per plate for Chicken BBQ,

Green Beans, Giblet Rice, & Brownie

10:30 am until 12:30 pm

Drive by, Pause & Shop the Country Store with Homemade Baked Goods, Preserves, Pickles, etc. paired with Small Handmade, Homemade Crafts

Proceeds will support the Shiner Lutheran Church Building Fund

Annual BBQ Fundraiser details:

Interested volunteers gathered after worship on August 7 to discuss the annual BBQ in October. Designated volunteers will be working towards making it the best BBQ ever! So far, the volunteer leaders include:

- Cooking the chickens—Scott Fojt, David Schroeder, & families
- Preparing the sides—Bridget Boedeker & family
- Baking Brownies—EVERYONE who volunteers to bake brownies for the meal
- Scheduling cooks & servers—Christy Fojt
- Printing tickets—Bridget Boedeker
- Distributing & Tracking Tickets—Office Staff
- Selling tickets—EVERYONE is encouraged to pick up a packet of tickets to sell
- Scheduled ticket sale times in the community—Brandi Wallace, Kim Zaruba

Tables will be set up at the next two Shiner Market Days with volunteers selling BBQ tickets along with any baked goods that members may donate

- Country Store/Bake Sale at the BBQ—Carol Harris, Mary Ann Fojt & Mallory Volkmann
- Donating Homemade baked goods, preserves, etc.—Volunteers
- Donating small handmade, homemade items for Country Store—Volunteers

Since the cost of supplies has risen dramatically, all monetary donations to offset our costs and add to our proceeds will be highly appreciated!

Looking Ahead: Fall Programming & Events



Wednesday Evenings Christian Education
for Pre-K thru adults
Growing in Faith Together



Thursday Evenings
Sing and/or Ring
Choir & Hand Chimes



Friday Nights after Comanche home games
Grades 7 thru 12
Music, Fellowship & Food

Members & Friends enjoying a German meal
Friday October 7th at 11:30 am



BBQ Chicken Meal & Country Store Bake Sale
SUNDAY OCTOBER 23
10:30 am to 12:30 pm




Sunday October 30
Youth Led Reformation Service
Covered Dish Dinner




November 20—Last Sunday of the Church Year
Thanksgiving & WELCA Thankoffering
Christ the King Sunday

Looking Ahead: Dates for your Calendar




- Polka Worship Service on September 4
- GIFT begins meeting each Wednesday starting September 7
- Pizza Fundraiser for camp fund September 11– October 1
- 5th Quarter Gatherings Friday September 2,9, and 30



- SERRV Catalog Sale sponsored by WELCA October 9-23
- JOY (Just Older Youth) enjoys a German style meal Friday October 7
- Acolyte Training October 9 following worship
- 5th Quarter Gathering on Friday October 14
- Shiner Lutheran Fundraiser BBQ on Sunday October 23
- Youth Led Reformation Service on Sunday October 30
- Covered Dish Dinner Sunday October 30



- 5th Quarter Gathering on Friday November 4
- All Saints Sunday Worship on November 6
- Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday November 13
- Thankoffering & Thanksgiving as part of worship on November 20
- Advent begins November 27
- Mid-Week Advent Worship begins Wednesday November 30



- The GIFT Christmas program Sunday December 18
- Christmas Eve Services Saturday December 24 @ 5 & 10 pm
- Christmas Day Worship Service Sunday December 25 @ 10:15 am

CONTACT information *We continue to work towards compiling a new church directory.*
Please contact the church office if:



- Your address or phone number (including cell phone) has changed, or you have dropped your land line

- You do not see your birthday, baptism, or wedding anniversary in our lists, meaning the information is not in our data base
- A household member has moved away
- You or a household member have changed to a different church affiliation



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.

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SHINER LUTHERAN CHURCH QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS FALL 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



**Congregational
MEETING**

Please mark your calendars:

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
United Evangelical Lutheran Dr. Martin Luther Church
Sunday November 13, 2022 at 11:15 am
Business includes elections & approval
of the 2023 annual budget



Visit Our Website: www.shinerlutheran.org
News/Events/Calendar/Connect/Give— Information and Links