



SHEPHERD'S VOICE

DECEMBER
2021





Waiting....



This may come as a surprise for some of you, but, I have never been good at waiting, and I believe I have gotten less patient as I have gotten older. Perhaps this is because I now have a greater sense of how quickly time moves.

Renee Patterson
Senior Pastor
651.288.2253
pastorrenee@shepherdshoreview.org

Whatever the reason, I now find myself looking anxiously at my watch. All the while I'm fairly certain my disdain for waiting is showing on my face. My daughter says I only have one kind of "resting face" and that it's not a good look for a pastor ☺. Even in the midst of having fun, I am impatient: a long line at an amusement park ride, and I am not sure that it is worth the wait; a rain delay at an event, and I am ready to move on to the next thing.

Why is waiting so difficult? Sometimes it is the uncertainty; we want to know what is coming, and the longer we are in the dark, the higher our anxiety level becomes (COVID exhaustion anyone?). But this is not always the case, because we are often even more impatient when we *know* what is coming.

As you are reading this newsletter, we will have just passed the first Sunday in Advent as we begin our journey towards Christmas. All around us, the world is gearing up for a celebration of excess. It is hard to resist taking part in that frenzy. And yet, the season calls us to a different kind of waiting, not a crazed rush toward an end, but an eager looking forward to what is coming....the JOY of the birth of our Savior! THIS waiting is worth it.

If only I could hold on to that contentment the rest of the Christmas and Advent seasons—or the rest of the year, for that matter! Instead, I am constantly in motion, headed toward the next event, working on the next responsibility, trying to find the right answer to the next question. The Corinthians were eagerly looking forward to the event we are now awaiting—the coming of Christ (1Cor 1:7-8). As we celebrate God's coming in the person of Jesus, we (with the Corinthians) also look for God's second arrival—for "the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." The good news that Paul shared with them is just as true for us today: we are not only waiting for God, we are also waiting *with* God.

Have you noticed that when someone else is waiting with you, it makes the delay a little less tedious? Having a friend to talk with as you wait for your name to be called in the doctor's office eases the tension and sharing your hopes with a coworker about a plan at work can add joy to your excitement. Waiting, like many other things in life, is something that is often best endured in the company (and community) of others. That is what is so reassuring about these verses. We are not waiting hopelessly in this world for the coming of Christ. Instead, we have been given all the supplies we need for the journey. AND God has gifted us with this community of people to wait along with us!

More important, our faithful God is with us in the wait. God will "strengthen you to the end." That, after all, is the promise of Advent. Christ is coming—Emmanuel, "God with us."

May we....in all of our waiting... grab hold of that promise.

In One Peace, Pastor Renee

Shepherd's Governing Board

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.
~ Luke 2:8 - 11

Our church staff have been planning ahead for Christmas services and the annual meeting in order to accommodate large groups safely. The plan is for meeting in the sanctuary with any overflow moving to Shepherd's Hall. The services and meeting will be live-streamed to Shepherd's Hall. Masks and safe social distancing still apply.

Celebrate Christmas at Shepherd of the Hills

Christmas services will be held at 3:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve and at 10:00 a.m. on Christmas morning. We all look forward to worshipping together as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Annual meeting planned for January 30

Shepherd's annual meeting is scheduled for January 30, and we are excited to be able to hold it in person this year.

The annual meeting will be held on January 30 after the 10:00 service. A couple of constitution-related items are on the agenda as we complete the two-year process that started at last-year's meeting.

Two small changes to the constitution that were approved at the 2021 meeting will be ratified at the 2022 meeting. These changes allow for the election to the governing board of a young person or young adult (under the age of 18) for the first time. All confirmed members can vote at the annual meeting. We are hoping for a large group and even needing to put the overflow-plans into effect.

Speaking of the Constitution....

Over the next year we will be working with the synod on modifying the constitution to make it a strictly governance document, with the procedural language being pulled and added to the committee procedures or charters or other documentation. Over the years procedural language has made its way into the constitution, bloating it and making it more difficult to maintain. If you have any questions about this, please talk to Sister Tashina, who is our expert on constitutional matters.

Governing Board Nominations

Vice-chair Deb Kohen and the volunteers on the Nominations committee are identifying members to fill openings for member-at-large and secretary positions on the Board. Members will vote on the new board members at the annual meeting.

Merry Christmas to All!

We on the Governing Board wish all of Shepherd of the Hills' congregation and community a very merry and blessed Christmas.

Your Shepherd Governing Board,

Dave Webb, Chair
Deb Kohen, Vice Chair
Elizabeth Kohen, Treasurer
Gayle Nelson, Interim Secretary
Chriss Latterell
Lynn Mears
Sally Peters
Kristen Goligowski
Pastor Renee Patterson

*“Oh come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that
mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice!
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.”
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257*



Sister Tashina Good
Deacon

651.288.2261
sistertashina@shepherdshoreview.org

Hello Dear Shepherd Folks,

Advent, the season of the church year leading up to Christmas, is by far my favorite. Not because of the shopping or decorating or cookie making/eating or festive Christmas sweaters or fantastic music but because of what it represents. Advent is the time when we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. Christ as a baby on Christmas morning, Christ into our lives because we have struggled and pushed it away throughout the year, Christ's Second Coming when the Kingdom of Heaven is fully realized on earth. It is also the recognition and remembrance of the countless years the people of Israel waited for the Messiah to arrive and set them free from all that held them captive...death, the ways of the world, etc.

Yes, I know you all are probably starting to skim this article right about now...churchy boring, you may think...BUT stick with me! The reason I love this season is because it always feels like a fresh start. Has your relationship with God or your faith or the church gotten rocky or distant throughout this past year? Advent is the perfect time to start over or do a jumpstart on this important aspect of your life. As we begin preparing for the festivities, yes, baking Christmas cookies and singing to the Chipmunk Christmas album at the top of your lungs, is to feel awesome. But maybe think about coming to Bible Study, too. Perhaps Advent midweek worship is more your style, or Choir, or coming to Donut Time to be with your church family to see who you can bump into for a good chat. The Israelites spent generations waiting and struggling and preparing for the coming of Christ. We don't have to wait so long. Each year we have a whole month dedicated to preparing our hearts, minds, and lives for allowing Jesus to break through the barriers that cloud our availability and hold captive our time and ability from engaging with all God has created us to do and to be in this world.

And, yes, reconnecting or re-engaging sometimes feels awkward. Where do I start, what will folks say, where is my place? All that, I get it. Reach out! I'd be happy to help you sort through some of that. Or just choose something and start. Come as you are. We miss you. You are loved just as you are. What are you waiting for? The time for preparation is at hand! Let's get started!

See you in Church,
Sister Tashina



Brice Bloxham
Associate Pastor

651.288.2264

pastorbrice@shepherdshoreview.org

“Can any idols of the nations bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Is it not you, O Lord our God? We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.” Jeremiah 14:22

Waiting. It is our theme of this month’s newsletter. The church season of Advent is, after all, a time of preparation and waiting. What is it that we wait for? What we wait for takes on many different forms. Some of us are waiting for cold temperatures so water freezes, and ice fishing can begin, others are waiting for that latest Amazon package (full honesty, both of those describe me), others among us are waiting for important things like medical news, home, job, and other impactful events in their lives. The fact of the matter is we are all waiting for something. In the midst of that waiting, I find myself asking the question, “How good am I at waiting?”

Did you know that Menard’s has their artificial Christmas trees in the lumberyard in June? I have seen displays of trees on sale in July. I am certain that we have experienced holiday commercials in August. I had to do a double take last week because I thought I saw a Valentine’s Day section in a store. What’s with it? I remember when we would not even think about Christmas until after Thanksgiving. Now, marketing firms have found that they can squeeze every last morsel and penny out of shoppers with these early sales. In turn they have made us so eager to look at what’s next we neglect what’s *here*.

Living in this 21st century context of 24-7 news, next day shipping, same day delivery, and the near literal world at our fingertips it is easy to see that we no longer need to be patient. When we do need to wait, we get cranky. Look for a shorter line. Grab our phones and scroll meaninglessly through social media in order to kill the time. We let these little interruptions turn into disruptions and impact our days. We have forgotten how to wait, how to be patient. We have talked about this before, this notion of being unable to wait, or enjoy the anticipation. So what do we do about this? How do we change our attitude of being unable to wait to an enjoyment of anticipation?

I am not sure.

What remains certain is that each year we have an opportunity to look with eyes wide open to the events that are yet to come. Advent is that place and space where we as a Church do just that. Advent provides us with the chance to corporately wait with anticipation of the coming of the Christ Child. It is not the birth that we wait for necessarily, but what accompanies the labor, God incarnate entering the world. It’s hope entering into a place where hopelessness prevails without our God. We have the profound ability to focus in on these things that we’re waiting for and let it put blinders blurring the rest of the world. What if instead of sporting blinders we use the anticipation of the coming of Christ to focus in on what is going on in the world around us while we step into spaces (safely) and engage with our community, both those that we know and those that we don’t? What can happen when we seek to engage in a time of waiting rather than reverting to a space of inward dwelling?

May all of your advents be filled with waiting and anticipation rooted in engagement.

Found with you, in Christ,

PB

Greetings, Shepherd Community!

Have you ever seen “West Side Story”?

“West Side Story—music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. It was inspired by William Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet, set in the mid 1950s in the Upper West Side of New York City, then a multiracial, blue-collar neighborhood.” - Wikipedia

One song from the musical in particular, “*Something’s Coming*” strikes a chord for me this Advent season.

“Could be . . . Who knows? . . .

There’s something due any day—I will know right away, Soon as it shows.

It may come cannonballing down through the sky, Gleam in its eye,

Bright as a rose. Who knows?

Could it be? Yes, it could.

Something’s coming, something good, If I can wait.

Something’s coming, I don’t know what it is but it is Gonna be great!”

The scene involves rhythmic dancing and singing, New York City noise all around and in the background. The singers share an anticipation and energy that’s touchable even through the screen.

They know something is coming. They know something is gonna be GREAT!

Think of the shepherds in Bethlehem. The initial picture that comes to mind is a dark, cold, quiet night as shepherds guard their sheep, just like every other night. Could they know how life would change for them in a moment?

Suddenly, the sky lights up, the sheep scatter from fear, the shepherds try to gather them back, holding their own fear in the background. The light’s intensity increases and suddenly, there is overwhelming music.

Angels fill the sky with their words of hope, their words of unbelievable hope. What does it mean?

The shepherds look at one another with both anxiety and anticipation. What in the world is happening?

Little by little, they allow themselves to become immersed in the joy of the moment.

Slowly, they move together and begin to engage with the excitement—the energy—the emotions charging through their hearts.

Without needing an explanation, they grew into understanding something was coming and it was GONNA be great! They waited, they anticipated—and they sensed something GREAT was coming.

May it be that way for us this year. Maybe we wait with a different sense of rhythm and energy. May we wait with confidence because we have lived this waiting many times and know how it turns out.

May we experience Advent with deep assurance that what we wait for IS already great!

The angels “cannonballed down through the sky, gleams in their eye, bright as a rose” to share the Good News with the shepherds. May we have our own “cannonball, gleaming, bright” Advent season—waiting for what (WHO) is coming!



Jean Johnson
Interim Director of Music and
Worship
651.288.2254
music@shepherdshoreview.org

Grateful for community,

Jean



If you are at least 70 ½, the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) rules allow you to divert up to \$100,000 of your required minimum distribution from your IRA to a qualified charitable organization like Shepherd of the Hills. The amount given to the charity is not taxable, and there is no additional deduction for the charitable contribution. QCDs will lower your tax rate and allow you to fulfill your charitable intentions at the same time.



Year-end Contributions

Shepherd of the Hills will gladly receive your year-end contributions through December 31. IRS regulations state that gifts must be postmarked or received by the 31st in order to receive a 2021 tax credit. Please clearly mark your envelope “2021” for these year-end gifts.

Miranda Oliver
Director of Operations
651.288.2255
Operations@shepherdshoreview.org

Stock Gifts

Have you considered the tax benefits of giving appreciated stock? The process is really simple! Just contact me to request a stock donation form with our broker information. To qualify for a 2020 tax-deductible stock gift, be sure your stockbroker/advisor has initiated the transfer of shares to Shepherd’s account by December 31.

As 2021 slowly ends, I want to thank you for your continued generosity and support of Shepherd’s mission. This past 20 months have been unprecedented in the world of nonprofits and especially churches. We have weathered the pandemic storm together and I wait eagerly for a day to be able to come together as a community in all of the physical ways that we had previously.

One thing that I believe this pandemic has taught us is that we can learn to do things in a new way. One of those learnings is how we steward (offer to God) the gifts that God has given us. This year we will shift gears at Shepherd away from a traditional stewardship campaign of pledged offerings for the year ahead to a blanket request for our people to continue their current giving habits. I will be waiting with your Shepherd staff to see how best to manage our ebbs and flows of time, talents and monetary gifts to maintain the missions and maintenance of this community. As you may be aware, in the past we have done a stewardship campaign in the month of November. While this was done for many reasons, the Governing Board has decided not to do this for the 2022 fiscal year. For the past few years, we have not based our budget off pledges from members but rather from a history of the previous years’ giving levels. Some years we have also had special campaigns (i.e. 20/20 Hindsight, The Welcome Walk, Lighting God’s House, etc.) but this year we are asking you to continue giving what you gave in 2021. If you are called to contribute additionally, we gratefully appreciate it.

The past few years have also shown a significant decrease in the number of pledge cards that we have received. With this trend, we have decided that we will not be doing pledge cards for 2022. However, we do know that some of you would like to continue to make that pledge to Shepherd. If you do still want to complete an offering pledge, please reach out to me and I can take your information and input it into our system. If you have any questions about giving to Shepherd, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are so thankful for your contributions to Shepherd so that we can continue to live out our mission to reach, ignite and empower people for Jesus.

Many blessings to all of you as we await the birth of the Christ child.

How can one support Shepherd financially?

- Mail in your offertory envelopes
- Give online on our Giving Page
- Text To Give - Simply send a text with the word GIVE to 651-412-7495 with the amount you would like to contribute.
- List Shepherd as your beneficiary
- Transfer Stock to Shepherd

With any questions regarding giving, please contact [Miranda](#).





Jilene Ylonen
Preschool Director
651.288.2256
preschool@shepherdshoreview.org



The KIDzone kiddos will be performing our annual Christmas Program on Sunday, December 19th at the 10:00am service. We will do a dress rehearsal on Sunday, December 12th during the 10:00am service. We invite everyone to come and enjoy the celebration with our KIDzone Kiddos!

Preschool Christmas Program

Our half day preschool program will be performed on Sunday, December 19th during the 8:00am service. Our full day preschool program will be performed on Sunday, December 19th during the 10:00am service. We invite our preschool families to come and celebrate with us!



Youth Ministry

@Shepherd

Stay informed via

Instagram: @youthshepherd

Note that Advent Worship will be at 6:15-6:45pm and all Youth Activities will be from 6:45-8pm

Confirmation in December

6:45-8pm Wednesday evenings at Shepherd

FOCUS: Augsburg Confessions/Lutheran Confessions/Book of Concord

- 1 Lesson—Youth & Parents
- 8 Small Group Time
- 15 Individual Project Week/Christmas Party
- 22 Presentation of Projects
- 29 No Confirmation—Merry Christmas/Happy New Year

Shepherd of the Hills
YOUTH TRIPS
Summer 2022




2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

boundless GOD BEYOND MEASURE



SERVE BOLDLY

ReFuel in December

2nd & 4th Wednesdays 6:15-8PM

- 5 9am-4pm—Peer Ministry Leadership Retreat
- 8 6:15pm—Worship & ReFuel
- 22 6:15pm—Worship & Christmas Party

Both our Mission Trip Registration Deadline and our Gathering Registration Deadline have been extended to December 31, 2021

Our Mission Trip Cost remains the same. Our Gathering Cost goes up to \$525 for anyone who registers after November 14th. Registration Info at: sohsv.org/high-school-youth-ministry.html

SERVE BOLDLY MISSION TRIP

Dates: June 18-24, 2022
Location: Milwaukee, WI
Cost: \$400
Grades: 6th-12th

Registration Due: November 14th, 2021

EXTENDED

ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Dates: July 24-28, 2022
Location: Minneapolis, MN
Cost: \$475
Grades: 8th-12th

Registration Due: November 14th, 2021

EXTENDED



Photo from our ReFuel gathering 11.10.2021

ADULT *Faith* FORMATION

Weekly Bible Study:

Wednesdays at 1 pm IN PERSON in the Narthex and at 6:30 pm via Zoom (**6:45 during Advent to make way for our Wednesday 6:15 Advent services**). Join us to discuss the upcoming scripture text and learn together.

INDOOR Donut Time:

Join us each Sunday for our Donut Time from 9:00am-10:00am in Shepherd's Hall.

Shepherd Winter 2022 Book Study:

Our Winter Book Study will be focused on *I Can Do No Other* by Anna Madsen.

We will be meeting via every other week on Wednesdays at 2:30pm and Thursdays at 6:30pm via zoom, join us for the time that works best for you.

Here is our schedule:

January 5/6 – Chapters: Preface & 1

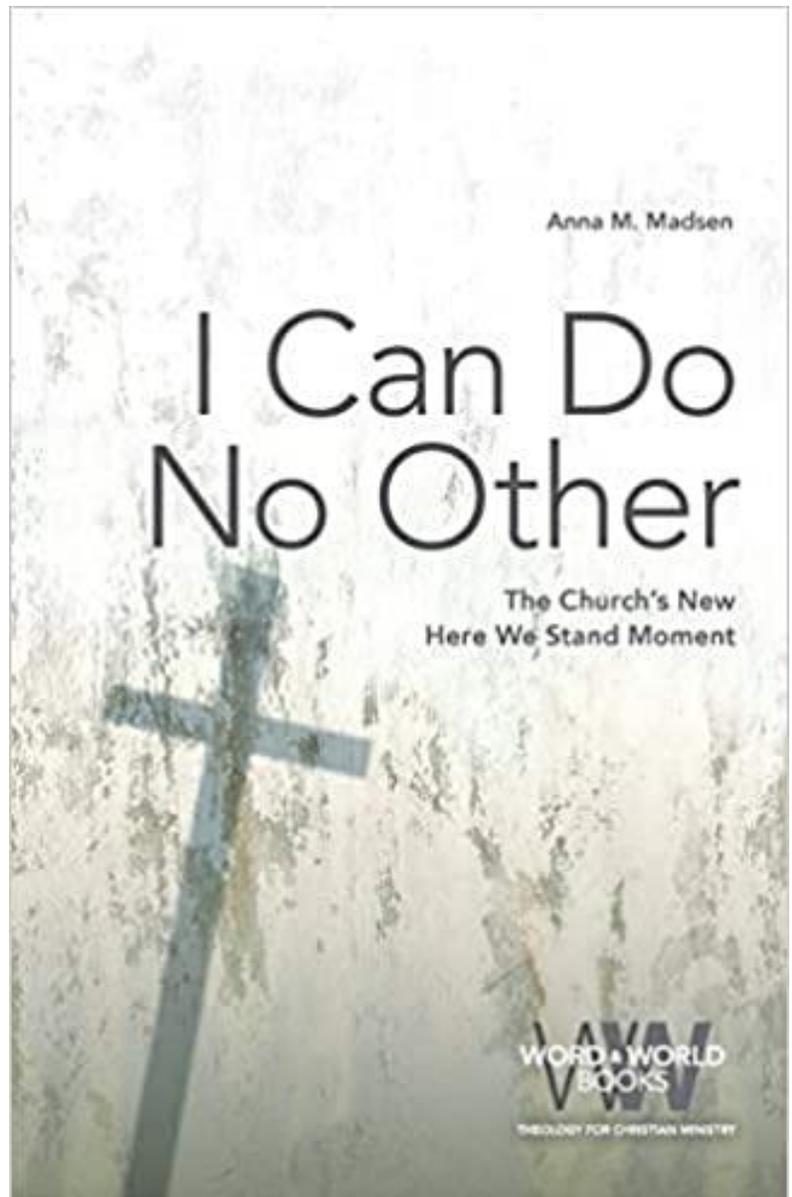
January 19/20 – Chapters: 2 & 3

February 2/3 – Chapters: 4 & 5

February 16/17 – Chapters: 6

You can find this new and used on Amazon or your local book store.

All December Adult Education events are subject to change. Please pay attention to weekly eNews for up-to-date information





Ralph Reeder Food Shelf

COMMUNITY EDUCATION
Mounds View Public Schools

December DONATIONS NEEDED From Ralph Reeder's ALWAYS NEEDED List:

RALPH REEDER FOOD SHELF Fall 2021 - Most Wanted List



- Canned meats
- Tuna & Hamburger Helpers
- Peanut Butter
- Baking Supplies
- Crackers
- Granola Bars
- Cereal
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Detergent
- Mayonnaise
- Ketchup
- mac and cheese cups
- Juice Boxes
- Pudding Cups

Thank you for helping fight hunger in our community.



Each month the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf gives out nearly 75,000 pounds of food to over 2000 people. Online donations can be made at www.ralphreederfoodshelf.org

Thank you to all who donated gifts for Operation Christmas Joy! This is an amazing project that makes sure every child in the Mounds View School District has a gift this Holiday

ADVENT OFFERING

Each year we do a special Wednesday Worship Advent offering to help spread God's love beyond our walls. The past few years we have used these offerings to purchase Family Farms through ELCA World Hunger's God Gift's

program. We are excited about the possibility of purchasing at least two! Help out by donating [online](#) or buy giving in check or cash on Wednesday Evening Advent Services.

For more information on [family farms](#)



S H E P H E R D O F T H E H I L L S L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

THE SIMPLICITY OF ADVENT WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Nov 24 - Thanksgiving Eve/Pies for Praise

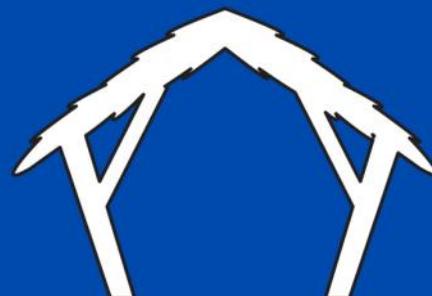
Dec 1 - HOPE

Dec 8 - PEACE

Dec 15 - JOY

Dec 22 - LOVE

PREMIERING IN THE SANCTUARY AND
ONLINE VIA FACEBOOK LIVE
WEDNESDAYS IN DECEMBER @6:15PM



We Need You!

Sunday helpers are needed to fill various positions to help worship flow seamlessly and to welcome all of our guests to worship!

**If you have been wondering how to get more involved in ministry areas on Sunday mornings...please contact Maria Miller in the office to get involved!
office@shepherdshoreview.org or call 651-483-5419**

All schedule rotations are set to fit your availability!



We have immediate needs for:

Ushers & Greeters

===

Scripture Readers

===

Donut Table Hosts

CONTACT INFORMATION

MAIN OFFICE 651.483.5419

Senior Pastor

Renee Patterson

PHONE

651.288.2253

EMAIL ADDRESS

pastorrenee@shepherdshoreview.org

Associate Pastor

Brice Bloxham

651.288.2264

pastorbrice@shepherdshoreview.org

Deacon

Sister Tashina Good

651.288.2261

sistertashina@shepherdshoreview.org

Interim Director of Music & Worship

Jean Johnson

651-288-2254

music@shepherdshoreview.org

Director of Children's Ministry & Preschool Director

Jilene Ylonen

651.483.6885

children@shepherdshoreview.org

preschool@shepherdshoreview.org

Director of Operations

Miranda Oliver

651.288.2255

operations@shepherdshoreview.org

Office Administrator

Maria Miller

651-288-2252

office@shepherdshoreview.org

Christmas

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dec 7 6:15PM Blue Christmas Service

Dec 12 8 & 10AM Homestyle Christmas Sunday

Dec 19 8 & 10AM Children's Christmas Program Sunday

Dec 24 3:30 & 5pm & 10pm In-Sanctuary Worship

Dec 25 10AM Christmas Story Lesson & Caroles service online at sohsv.org

3920 NORTH VICTORIA STREET | SHOREVIEW, MN | 55126 | SOHSV.ORG

Shepherd of the Hills
3920 N Victoria Street
Shoreview, MN 55126

sohsv.org

651.483.5419



@shepherdshoreviewmn



@shepshore



@Shepherd of the Hills Church
Shoreview Minnesota



Our App