

TO REACH, IGNITE AND EMPOWER PEOPLE FOR JESUS...
by welcoming all God's people through Christ-centered worship,
grace-filled relationships and growing discipleship.

Shepherd's Voice

January 2020

A STAR IS BORN

Star Gifts: Words to Ponder All Year Long

Have you ever noticed the almost “let-down” feeling that comes right after Christmas? I’m talking about that time after Christmas and before Lent that can often seem like the “white noise” of the church year—as if we’re simply waiting for another grand church celebration. Whether it is because we are experiencing the normal holiday fatigue or influenced by gloomy winter weather, the season of Epiphany can go by unnoticed.



Renee Patterson
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What is Epiphany about anyway? It is about the Light coming into this world. Epiphany has in it that great story with the three kings coming from the east to see about this newborn King.

It is about these wise men who traveled great distances to offer their gifts to the newborn Christ-child, and how their gifts were responses to actually finding the *true Treasure* lying in the manger right below where the star stopped. Can you imagine their excitement of being led by an actual star? How cool is that?

What if we had our own personal guiding star, something that would *guide us* in this New Year? Have you heard of Star Word Sunday? It happens on Jan 5, 2020. This is the Sunday when we will have 300+ little wooden stars with different words written on them. These little wooden stars have been prayed over and blessed before they come to you. We believe that each Star Word is meant for a particular person to lead and guide them on their path for the year.

We have done this for a couple of years now. We encourage people to let the Star Word choose them, rather than looking for a word they might like. This past year my Star Word was BIRTH. Now to be honest, I wasn’t thrilled at all with this word choice. I had given birth twice in my life and while the end result was the blessing of my two children, the birthing process was painful and messy to say the least. I have since come to love that little word as I have seen the birthing of many things in my life and in those around me this past year.

Often the words seem very timely, as if they were indeed designated for the recipient. It is this sense of serendipity and wondering about how the Holy Spirit might be working through this simple Star Word gifting that we seek. There are SO many stories of God moments that have flowed out of these little Star Words, like a person in leadership receiving the word *power*, or a student off to college turning over her star to read *responsibility* or a choir member laughing as she receives the word *music*. We have heard story after story of how people have seen God leading them through their little word.

I’m not sure how it will work for you, but I can say with certainty that I was able to recognize the Holy in far more places *because* I was looking for it through that little word. What a gift that has been! It has given me tangible and clear signs of God’s presence just when I’ve needed it. It has allowed me to “*ponder that little word in my heart*” all year long.

So, join us on **Sunday Jan 5** and let that little Star Word pick you as we reflect on the God who continually encourages and leads God’s people, because Epiphany is the celebration of God’s presence breaking through to shine as a light in the darkness. Perhaps that is the delight of these little Star Words—they truly are a gift that keeps on giving, even long after the season of Epiphany is over. So come and rejoice in the reminder of our generous and giving God—one Star Word at a time ☺

In One Peace, Pastor Renee

Shepherd's Governing Board

January 2020

And with that he breathed on them and said,
"Receive the Holy Spirit."

John 20:22

Looking Back and Looking Forward

This is a time of the year that your Governing Board spends looking forward and backwards financially. We look forward to the coming year as we set our budget for the church. We look back at the year that is coming to its end, comparing our results with last year's budget. Our discussions around these topics inevitably also include discussions of our programs and the impacts they are having. This year we heard many stories about how the Holy Spirit is alive and active in our congregation and in the world. In this season of joy, we feel joy to serve as your representatives on the Governing Board.

Advent Wednesday Services

We hope you were all able to attend at least one of our amazing Wednesday Advent services featuring the senses of Christmas. These services featured dinners with fellowship, a petting zoo, a wonderful preschool musical program and raising enough money to buy two family farms with our offerings.

Annual Meeting Coming Soon

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26 after the 10AM service. At this meeting we'll all be looking forward and back at our finances and at Shepherd as a whole. We'll look at the financial results for 2019 and approve our budget for 2020. We'll hear from the staff. We'll talk about changes to our constitution. And we'll elect two new members to the Governing Board. Tim Kane and



Lisa Vannelli will be leaving the Board. The Nominating Committee has recommended Maria Miller and Kristen Goligowski to join the Board. We give thanks for their willingness to serve God and our Shepherd family in this way.

With you in Christ,
Your Shepherd Governing Board

Dave Webb, Chair
Deb Kohen, Vice Chair
Elizabeth Kohen, Treasurer
Tim Kane, Secretary
Chriss Latterell
Lynn Mears
Lynette Palmgren
Lisa Vannelli
Pastor Renee Patterson

Hello Good People of Shepherd,

As you may notice from my colleagues' articles we are taking time here in our January articles to reflect upon our 2019 Star Words. For those of you who might not know the past few years on Epiphany Sunday, the first Sunday of the year and the celebration of the Magi arriving to witness the birth of Jesus, has become Star Word Sunday here at Shepherd. With the Star of Bethlehem guiding the Magi to where Jesus lay, these little wooden stars with a word on are meant to guide us through the year and bring us focus. They are a way to let our faith permeate our daily lives.



Sister Tashina Good
Director of Congregational Life
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This year I have the honor of writing the Star Words and as I hold each one in my hand praying over how it may be a light in your life, I also reflect upon my own Star Words from the past two years. My Stars sit upon my dresser next to where my glasses live each night, a place to see them and reflect at the close and start of each day. Now I admit there were MANY days when these words blended into the background and that intended reflection never took place (scandalous I know, but it happens to all of us). However, it always seemed that the days I needed to pause and reflect and remember to let God in were the days I was in a rush knocking my Stars on the floor while grabbing my glasses. Almost like God saying, "Chill out, take a breath, let's do this together" as I picked them up, rubbing them between my fingers and pondering their meaning for me on that day.

In 2018, my Star Word was 'goodness' and I found it quite humorous each time I saw it. What did it mean for someone whose last name is Good to reflect on 'goodness' all year long? Even when the Good jokes get old the humor can shine through. With a tough year in 2018 it was something to make me smile each day that I needed.

In 2019, my Star Word was 'character' and this was a little more difficult. What in the world did it mean to reflect on the depth of the kind of person I am and how I behave in the world? Felt a bit too deep on some days (yes, even for me, again scandalous I know). Then, part way through the year, I found myself reading *A Year of Biblical Womenhood* by Rachel Held Evans and one of the chapters focused on Proverbs 31, where the description of a Women of Noble Character (better translated as Valor, but we will go with Character here) is laid out. For centuries Christians have made this into a check list of all the things women should be, but Evans takes time to explore the Jewish tradition behind Proverbs 31 and the original intent behind this long list of impossible tasks. The Jewish people see it as a praise to God for creating the amazing people who are women and for giving them/us the gifts they/we each uniquely hold. That it is not about checking off each skill but using one's own gifts for God's glory, be that winning the Nobel Prize or just making it through a tough day, and everything in-between. Evans goes on to say that from the time of her rediscovery of this Biblical chapter she would cheer others on by shouting "Women of Valor!" when others would do amazing things like successfully grocery shop with a tired toddler or land that desired job or speak up for themselves or others. This reflection stopped me in my tracks. What does it mean for me to use the gifts God has given me for God's glory? It is not about the role I play but the character in which I live out my life. As a person who often gets caught up in perfectionist tendencies, the thought of not needing to do it all or do it perfectly but instead to do it with 'character' was a whole new perspective that continues to slow me down and remind me that God's plans are always bigger than mine, even if I play an important role. Just like each of you.



I pray that your own Star Words have caused you pause and reflection at God's working in your lives during 2019 and I look forward to hearing how your 2020 Star Words play out in your lives in this coming year.

See you in church,
Sister Tashina



Brice Bloxham
Associate Pastor

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Siblings in Christ,

Simul Justus et Peccator, simultaneously saint and sinner, is what Luther reminded us that we are. We are at all times in all spaces both righteous and sinners. At the beginning of the year, I drew my Star Word from the basket. I remember it well. After helping with communion, I pulled my word. There was some anticipation as I drew the word from the brown woven basket. I was hoping my word would be one that would somehow define my year. Something I would carry with me both physically and in my mind. So, as I pulled the word out with a bit of eagerness, I saw my word. Satisfaction. Oh, satisfaction, I can live with that. Then I began to ponder it. I looked at it again, closer this time to sear the star and its grooves into my memory. It was then that I realized I misread my word. Instead of satisfaction, it turns out I grabbed sanctification. SANCTIFICATION! AGH. I wanted another. My knee jerk was to run from it, yes, even though I am a pastor, I do not have the power to declare something Holy. Or do I? Do you? I put it in my pocket and carried it with me in my pocket for about a month and a half until it went missing one day. Earlier this fall, my wife and I were cleaning Silas' (our youngest) room. Who would have thought, I found that word. It had been colored on one side with one of his markers but he kindly left the side with the word open and exposed and there it was, that reminder of Sanctification.

I have a confession to make my friends, I cheated. I began the readings for our Reading The Bible In a Year initiative. The reading for day one is Genesis 1-3 and it reminds us that everything was created by God, for us. In that creation, God spoke and said, "it was good." What God has created is good. You, me, our world that we dwell in. It is good. Which is a helpful thing for me because it is not on me to declare something holy because that has already been taken care of by God. Where it gets tricky and a bit sticky is when we have to discern where and why something might not be.

How do you recognize the good in the world? Our call in this place is to be truth-tellers and making the uncomfortable decision to call a friend out when their actions do not align with what we are called as Christians to do. Love God, and love our neighbor. The flip side of this coin is being able to boldly declare something as good. There is great power that comes in this. We all know what Spiderman's Uncle Ben said, "With great power, comes great responsibility." We are able to call what God has made good because God has already done so. We live in a place and space where we are surrounded by darkness but the good news in this is that God has even more intensely put profound sources of light in our lives and world. A light that the darkness has no chance to besting. Even in the midst of my own discomfort for having the agency to declare something holy I found myself unconsciously doing just that, all year. Calling something good. Praising God in ways that I have never done before. It never felt weird, unnatural, or uncomfortable. In fact, quite the opposite, it felt really good to do so, it felt right.

So, maybe my word was not too bad after all. I think we all look at our words when we get them and say, what am I going to do with this!? We are told to take a word out and run with it. We do not receive instructions except to ponder it. Being someone who yearns for explicit instructions spelled out, living in the gray space is at times unnerving. I look forward to taking these words for the challenges they bring, if you have not felt challenged by a word yet then I would push back and say you have not yet pondered your word. This January 5th, when we participate in our 2020 "Star Word Sunday" pull that word out with boldness and ponder it with curiosity and intentionality to look at the world using the lens of your new Star Word.

Here's to hoping my word challenges me and all of us just as much next year as this year's did.

PB

Dear friends,

For this newsletter, we as a staff agreed to write about our Star Words from last year in preparation for Star Sunday on January 5th. My word was "Insight". I didn't really love it at first, but in thinking back to 2019 as a whole, I've seen subtle ways in which I've felt God urging me to lean into my gut and trust what my insight was trying to tell me.

I used to think insight was just the useful way you knew how to make decisions. I actually had to Google the word to double check. Merriam-Webster defines 'insight' as:

- 1 : the power or act of seeing into a situation
- 2 : the act or result of apprehending the inner nature of things or of seeing intuitively

As I've gotten older, I've realized that utilizing insight is actually quite... complicated. Insight doesn't lead us to the answer we want. It leads us to the answer we need. It's God's way of correcting course, leading us into the unknown, or keeping us firmly planted where we are. And sometimes, frustratingly enough, insight feels like all of the above.

My hope for myself, for you, and for our community as we venture into this new decade is that we lean into this gift of insight that God has given us. May we use it to discern in our lives what's working, what needs to change, and what we can do about it. Growth is both a uniquely joyous and incredibly uncomfortable experience. May God grant you the insight you need to chart your path.

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.
-Reinhold Niebuhr

Soli Deo Gloria,

Joe



Joseph Trucano
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To serve our Shepherd family and our neighbors during times of unexpected physical life changes, to provide friendship, support, and assistance with non-medical needs.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself."

- Luke 10:27

**Welcome 2020 -- a New Year....are you looking for a New Year's resolution?
Shepherd's LYN (Love Your Neighbor) Ministry would love to have you join us.**



Love Your Neighbor (LYN) Ministry has a very simple structure -- two coordinators and the care givers. The coordinators receive the requests for a service and contact a volunteer care giver who then provides the help that is requested. This simple structure makes it easy to get involved and to stay involved. Shepherd members volunteer to provide services such as meals, errands, communion, and transportation. There is no set amount of dates or times -- only what fits your schedule.

Care givers can be of any age! We'd love to add to our list of helpers and also we would like to start a few new areas of service. Do you like to bake cookies, send a note to someone to brighten their day, or just make a phone call to say hello? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please give me a call or e-mail me, Joan Kapaun (651/429-7226 or lynnjoankapaun@hotmail.com). I would love to chat with you about any possibilities you might be interested in doing for LYN Ministry.

ADULT *Faith* FORMATION

Lutheran FAQs

Interested in learning more about scripture and the Lutheran faith? Join us this year for Lutheran FAQs. Each month we will offer new and exciting topics for people of all ages!

- January 12 at 12-1:30pm—Current Events: Addictions—Guest speaker from Youth Service Bureau
- February 9 at 12-1:30pm—Life of Jesus: Birth, Journeys, Friends, Death & Resurrection

Weekly Bible Study @Shepherd

Winter Schedule: 1 hour on
Wednesdays, at 1pm & 6:30pm

Study based on the following
Sunday's scripture readings

All Are Welcome!

Pour Theology is a space where conversations are based on topics of attendees choosing and focused on God, church, and faith, etc.

Our location will be:
Shore96, 1056 HWY
96 W in Shoreview.

Shore96 - Shoreview

7pm - January 9

7pm - February 13

Pour Theology 7pm - March 12

w/Shepherd

INTERSECTIONS:

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

**Conversation and Learning on:
ELCA Social Statement –
For Peace in God's World**

January 23rd- 7:30pm

Beginning with light refreshments
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
3920 Victoria Street N. Shoreview

Save the Date! Men's Retreat

Join Pastor Brice and Joe for our second Men's retreat March 6—8. We'll be revisiting our friends in Nisswa, MN for time to connect and engage with one another. If you are interested and want to get your name down email Pr. Brice at PastorBrice@ShepherdShoreview.org or Joe at Music@ShepherdShoreview.org



KIDzone

Sunday Morning Children's Programming
10:00am



Shepherd of the Hills
Preschool and Childcare

January Schedule:

January 5: KIDzone
January 12: KIDzone
January 19: KIDzone
January 26: KIDzone

Save the Dates

3rd-5th Grade Event

Snow Tubing at Como 1-3pm on
January 5th

Winter Fest

Saturday February 1st

Vacation Bible School

July 13-16, 2020

Camp Week @ Shepherd

August 3-6, 2020

Determination was my Star Word for 2019. It is the essence of increasing your chances of being successful in a particular thing or achieving a particular goal, and it can also help you to stay motivated and continue striving towards the one thing you want to achieve. For me, having determination keeps me motivated to continue along the path of achieving a long term goal. Without that, I would not be able to push through and keep moving forward when times start to get tough. It's important to know what gives you that determination to keep going and remember during a challenging situation. For me that is having the opportunity to change children's lives for the better and seeing the transformation happen in front of my own eyes. That's what keeps me determined in continuing to go after that long term goal.



The definition of determination is when you are wanting to do something very much and not allowing anyone or any difficulties stop you from doing it. This definition could not be anymore accurate and that is what the beauty of determination is and why it's so important for anyone to have. As a teacher, I watch children who are determined, and I think to myself, you will change the world, but in this moment it can be a struggle. As teachers and parents, we try to provide choices, redirect, or distract, but those who are determined struggle with that. I know when I was younger, one birthday, from my grandma, I was given a frame with a picture of me in it, and the words "My Way" printed on it...Not sure if this meant anything at the time:-) Without determination, it can lead you to give up on the one thing that you wanted to do because of the difficulty that you face. No one should ever give up on something they truly want to do, because everyone can achieve something if they are willing to put in the work and have a strong mindset towards overcoming the particular challenge.



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In Christ's Love, Jilene

Youth Ministry @ Shepherd

ReFuel Events For January:

- **Sat., Jan 4—12:30-3:00pm** Snow Tubing
- **Sun., Jan 12—12:30-1pm** Lutheran FAQs—Addiction with guest speaker
- **Wed., Jan 15—6:30-8pm** ReFuel Meeting
- **Thurs., Jan 16—7:30-8:30pm** Intersections Conversation: Peace in Wartime
- **Wed., Jan 29—6:30-8pm** ReFuel Meeting

ReFuel Snow Tubing:

When: Saturday January 4
12:30pm-3:00pm

Where: Green Acres Recreation,
Lake Elmo, MN

Who: All 9th-12th Grade Youth

How Much: \$15 per person

Why: FUN Tubing, Watching chaperones try to keep up, why not? :-)

Confirmation Changes beginning in January— See Sister Tashina with any questions

- **Beginning Wednesday, January 8th we will be having a middle school youth group experience each week from 6:30-8pm.** They will be a mix of fellowship, service learning, and education times that are open to those in our Confirmation program and any friend they wish to invite for their faith straitening opportunities. Large group and small group like events will take place and a calendar Jan-May will be completed during the Christmas break.
- **Monthly Sunday Mentoring for all of our Confirmands will continue.**
- **Our March 27-28 Confirmation Retreat will remain scheduled as is.**
- Lutheran FAQs will continue and considered optional, though recommended, just as our Wednesday activities for the same reasons we previously made them expected.
- **All Worship hours, Service hours, Sermon notes, etc. will be considered optional, though recommended** for the same reasons we previously made them expected.

Schedule for January:

Key: [Wednesday Evenings](#) [Lutheran FAQs](#)

January

Wednesday, Jan 8, 2020 @6:30-8pm:

Sunday, Jan 12, 2020 @12-2pm:

Wednesday, Jan 15, 2020 @6:30-8pm:

Wednesday, Jan 22, 2020 @6:30-8pm:

Thursday, Jan 23, 2020 @7:30pm:

Wednesday, Jan 29, 2020 @6:30-8pm:

Game Night in the Lower Level Assembly

Current Events: Addictions

Lesson: Who is this Jesus Guy? Part 1

Poverty Simulation and Onsite Service Project

Lutheran Living or Current Events: Intersections Conversation on the ELCA Social Statement Peace in Wartime

Lesson: Who is this Jesus Guy? Part 2

My Star Word for 2020 is SHARE. While reflecting on this, I needed to first ask Pastor Renee “is this a verb or a noun?” Her response, “it could be either or both.” Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word SHARE as a verb as “to partake of, use, experience, occupy, or enjoy with others” and as a noun as “a portion belonging to, due to, or contributed by an individual or group.” So guess what I think? That it is really both.

I think that SHARE is a word I first learned of as a young child. I have three other siblings and we used the word SHARE a lot in our home. SHARE the toy, SHARE the tv viewing time, SHARE your portion of the chores, and my favorite... SHARE your love! As a parent, I often used those exact words. Sometimes even, stop SHARING that with your sibling. As I have participated in a group, taught or led a class/meeting, we have often had a SHARE time. How many of you remember SHARE time in kindergarten? To me the word SHARE is really truly both a noun and verb. When you feel that sense of belonging or experiencing something as a group you have both belonged to something and have partaken in something.



Miranda Oliver
Director of Operations
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SHARE

Shepherd is really about SHARE. We are asked by God to SHARE of our time, ourselves and to SHARE God’s Word. Do we really do this each day? I can say that I do not but in 2020 I am going to focus more on that goal. I have been truly blessed in life. Yes, life throws us all challenges, curveballs and roadblocks but because some amazing people including God have SHARED, my life is richer. As I type this, one of my favorite performers, Andy Grammer, is on Pandora. The song is, “I found you.” It is all

about finding yourself, making mistakes and growing as a person. If people wouldn’t have SHARED who they are, why they act a particular way and their interests, I don’t know if I would be the same person I am today. Much of life is all about growing and one way we can do that is to SHARE. SHARE those gifts you have been given, SHARE those struggles, SHARE solutions, SHARE love and SHARE His Word!

Did You Know?

Conservation Item

The communion cups that we use at Shepherd are 100% compostable and 100% biodegradable.

Gift Team

You can designate Shepherd as your life insurance beneficiary.

Google Metrics

346 asked Google for directions to Shepherd in 2019.

Committees, Teams, and Boards, Oh My!

Shepherd, as a church and community, has a lot of moving pieces and it only works well when we all come together to do our part. So over the course of the next year or so, we will be introducing you to all of our committees, teams, and boards. Find out more about our community and possibly see a place where you can fit into it as well!

Library Committee

If you want to feel inspired, need some quiet time, acquire some new information or stretch your imagination we have just the place for you: Our church library! Here you can find books to help you with Bible studies and devotions, either for personal use or for groups you might be leading. There are books that explain more about our Lutheran faith and just might hold an answer to a question you have. We have many Christian-based fiction books and great books to share with young children. A grandparent who had visiting grandchildren brought them in to the library to get some books and remarked, "I forgot about all the good materials we have here."

The library is open every Sunday morning and at other times when there are church functions. There is no need to sign out a book. We use an honor system. Find a book, take it home, enjoy it and return it to the library when you are finished with it.

We do accept donations but reserve the right to not put a book on the shelf if it is a duplicate, too dated or worn out (well read) or has inappropriate subject matter for a church library. We also try to add new books that have been discussed in a sermon or meet some other activities of Shepherd.

Any questions about the library or interested in helping with the library, see Judy Knutson or Barb Hanson.

A Place Of Welcome:

Here at Shepherd we see ourselves as a place where all are welcome, but what does that truly mean? This was a question brought before the Governing Board and

Shepherd has taken steps to explore this deep dive through the help of Reconciling Works to explore how we here at Shepherd understand welcome with regards to the LGBTQA +(Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Ally) community. Through invitation both in our worship announcements and by personal request, a team has been formed. We are excited to hear your thoughts and facilitate some time learning alongside one another. Look forward with us to opportunities of learning, temple talks, and more information in our future publications.



During our January Ministry Moment we will be asking you these questions, offering an option of answering them in writing, if you wish:

- What would you like to know about Reconciling Works?
- What is important for us to know about how you feel?
- What other questions do you have?
- How does this sit with you?

We will be hosting listening sessions:

- Sunday, January 19th at 11:15am
- Sunday, February 23rd at 11:15am
- Wednesday, March 11th (During Dinner)
- Thursday, April 9th (After Worship)

Worship with Us

Sundays

8:30 am	Traditional Worship
9:30 am	The Gathering
10:00 am	Blended Worship
11:00 am	The Gathering



Connect with Us

Website: sohsv.org

Phone: 651.483.5419

Email: staff@shepherdshoreview.org

Office Hours

Mondays 9:00 am-2:00 pm

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 am-5:30 pm**

Fridays 9:00 am -3:00 pm



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