

# Shepherd's Voice

## Star Words



January 2021

**In the future, whenever they try to give examples of what can go wrong due to bad decisions, they will point to this year... because hindsight is 2020** 😂😂😂



*Renee Patterson*  
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pastor-

Decisions!! The theme for our newsletter articles this month is our Star Words for 2020. **My Star Word is CHOICE**. Who knew that I would lean into that word more this year than ever expected? Did you know there is related research surrounding a new mental health diagnosis? It's called decision-making/choice fatigue and it is turning out to be a very real thing in this 2020 pandemic year of constant decision-making. SO many decisions have needed to be made in this *moving puzzle of a year* when we weren't even sure what the puzzle was supposed to look like!

To have lived any length of years at all reminds us that to be human is to experience more than a few of life's choices. We make difficult decisions/choices with health, with career, with family, with relationships, with money, and yes, with faith. At every turn, the question is never if we will be faced with choices, but rather how will our choices be informed by the gift of this faith, as people following the Way of Jesus Christ?



Throughout this year, as we made our way through the Gospel of Matthew and now into the Gospel of Luke, I am continually reminded that we are not alone in this decision-making/choice dilemma. Truth be told, more than a few of life's unsettling situations have both problem and opportunity wrapped up inside them. The disciples of Jesus were all too aware of this reality. From the beginning to the end they are faced with having to make choices. To leave their nets and follow or not. To see people as Jesus saw them or not. To publicly admit that they were one of Jesus' followers or not (before the rooster crowed 3 times). They knew all too well that choices can be difficult.

It is the same for us as Christ followers of the Way. Let's be brutally honest with each other. It's one thing to say in the midst of meaningful worship, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord," and quite another thing to choose to live by those words day after day, month after month, as if they had impact and agency on our lives. Especially in the midst of this pandemic and societal strife. In all of this, the promise our Lord gave to those first disciples is still the promise He offers to us. He promises to be with us...always. Our choice is to trust that no matter how difficult life becomes, God chooses to love us, strengthen us, guide us, even bless us no matter what. All of that because we have favored status with God in all of these challenging choices (see/hear sermon from 12/13/20)!

Hear the Word of God: Challenging choices will no doubt come to every one of us. When they do, make the choice to speak and act in faithful ways, trusting Jesus Christ, Who promises to be with us always. Amen!

Still in One Peace,  
Pastor Renee

# Shepherd's Governing Board

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.  
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.  
- 2 Corinthians 5

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**Worship:** We will be moving our worship to live stream only in January. We will remain in that worship model during the winter months until it becomes warm enough to be outside again.

It has been a challenging year full of complete changes in how things are “normally” done. The entire amazing staff of Shepherd of the Hills have made it their goal to keep us all connected to God and to each other while keeping everyone as safe as possible during these challenging times. Please join the Governing Board in thanking all of the staff as they continue to move us forward into the new year!

**Donut and Coffee time on Zoom** continues each Sunday! We have been having intentional conversations around the scripture text from that day's worship. Please join us for this opportunity for some social time with your fellow Shepherds.

**Renewal Team Check-In Calls:** You may have received a call from a volunteer of our calling team. The purpose of these calls is to maintain the connection between our members and the church and to check in with everyone. Thank you to our calling team ministers. They are looking forward to reaching out to all the families throughout the upcoming year.

**Annual Meeting in January:** The Annual Meeting will be on January 31<sup>st</sup> via Zoom. We encourage you to participate. We will be discussing our current financial standing and next year's budget; we will be bringing forth the new Welcoming Statement to be voted upon; there will be a recommendation to change our constitution to allow for the inclusion of teens and young adults to be active on the Governing Board; and also, we will be voting for open Governing Board positions. The nominating committee has put forth Sally Peters to serve on the Governing Board to fill the opening that will arise from Lynette Palmgren completing her term as an At-Large member of the Board. Sally's nomination along with Lynn Mears continuing for another term as an At-Large member and Vice Chair, Deb Kohen, recommitting for an additional two-year term will be made and voted on at this annual meeting in January.

Please plan to attend this online event. More information will be coming soon on how you can participate. We are looking forward to sharing with you all of the good things happening at Shepherd.

The Governing Board wishes to extend a **full-hearted thank you to Lynette Palmgren** for faithfully answering the call to be on the Governing Board for the maximum allowed consecutive four two-year terms. Her presence and input on the board the last eight years has left a big impact on our Shepherd community.

Your Shepherd Governing Board,  
Dave Webb, Chair  
Deb Kohen, Vice Chair  
Elizabeth Kohen, Treasurer  
Maria Miller, Secretary  
Chriss Latterell  
Lynn Mears  
Lynette Palmgren  
Kristen Goligowski  
Pastor Renee Patterson

Happy New Year, Shepherd Folks,

Praying that this New Year brings fresh hope and anticipation in what is to come.

As I sit down to write this newsletter article, I am surrounded by little wooden stars. I keep returning to them, in midst of my work, to pray over and write Star Words on each one, as a way to break up my day of writing and meetings. Words like “deliberate” and “grace” and “insight” and “enough” and “marvel” surround me. In looking at them, I wonder what person will be blessed with this or that word in 2021? How will it inspire them or guide them? Each little wooden star flipped over bears the word “Empower,” the third word in our mission statement, “To reach, ignite, and empower people for Jesus Christ.” Each little wooden star bears a prayer of hope for the one who will carry it throughout the coming year. It causes me to breathe deeply the anticipation of what is to come.



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“Anticipation” was my Star Word for 2020. I am sure I have talked about this many a time, but I recall pulling it out of the basket and instantly regretting that I had just told the whole congregation they could not put their star back if they did not like the word. Why? Because I now held a seemingly terrible word, and everyone would see if I put it back. I was stuck with “anticipation.”

I have thought about this word so very much over the course of the past year. First, in trying to figure out what in the world God could do through the act of “anticipation” in me. Seriously, what a lame word! Then it was in midst of the excitement and hope of planning for summer youth trips and activities, along with my own family spring and summer vacations, coupled with an exciting gathering of pastors and deacons from across the country in July, that I realized: I was brimming with “anticipation.” As you all know, 2020 was a year of change and most, if not all, of those anticipated events were canceled. The ones not canceled were changed drastically for the sake of safety. My “anticipation” changed from big plans to what will happen next? How do I adapt youth ministry to be fully virtual? How do we meet the needs of a community when we can’t be together? Will anyone come to parking lot worship? How do we keep people from getting sick when they come? What will it mean not to hug my grandma or my sister until this is all over and how long will that be? “Anticipation” became a whole new thing, looking at later in my day or tomorrow and not so much about next month or next season.

The strange and almost miraculous reality, however, is that even though my world never seemed to slow down, and my ability to plan became almost nonexistent, I was finally able to focus on the day at hand and not already two weeks or two months beyond. For the first time in the ten years of being on staff in a congregation, I found myself able to fully participate in the season of Advent and not be already elbows deep in Lent preparation and summer trip planning. As frustrating as that was, it has also been refreshing and rejuvenating. My eyes have continued to be opened to how God uses what enters into my life in new and amazing ways.

My prayer for each of you is that whatever little wooden star blesses your life in the coming year, that it may open your mind and your heart to how God is at work in your life. May it challenge you, may it give you insight, may it bring you joy and peace. I would also love to hear all about it!

“See” you in church,  
Sister Tashina

My Star Words from the past three years  
and the back of our 2021 Star Words





Star Words, most of us have them. Many of us use them to draw inspiration. Some use them to interpret meaning. However ever you might utilize your Star Word, we pray that it increases meaning in your lives. My Star Word, don't laugh, had been missing for a while. . . like months. So long ago that I forgot what it was and then I rediscovered it in its "hiding" place. Would you like to know what my word is? Finding. A bit ironic.

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Have you ever misplaced something? Of course, you have. I can think of any number of things that have gone missing over the years. Losing things always seems to happen at a disproportionate rate when I am in the garage working or on a project in the yard. "Can I get another pencil or tape measure?" Anyone

else have that problem? How long have we spent over the course of our lives attempting to locate the things that have disappeared? Well, I'm glad you asked. Pixie Technology conducted a survey and found the average American will spend 2.5 days a year looking for things they have lost.

I have spent a great deal of time considering my Star Word as locating something I had lost. Something that had gone missing from my life that needed to be rediscovered. I would not have been wrong in that assumption. There has been no absence of opportunities to reevaluate and rediscover things and aspects of my life that needed tending to this past year. Any sort of reflection would offer up areas that I could work on. I could slow down, be more present with my family, teach my children how to use tools and build with them, put the technology away and simply be.



In all reality, we have spent a large part of this year finding things and ways that we can continue to be a community when being a community is all the harder to do. When we began our quarantine, we mobilized 25 people who called our 275 Shepherd families. Six weeks later we did it again. As we entered the summer, we knew that our people craved personal connection and worshiping in person needed to happen safely. We went outside to our parking lot, and we thank God that apart from a few ridiculously hot Sundays and one rainout, summer worship could not have gone better!

Now that we are settling into another stint of online worship, seeing the faces of our community won't happen in the same way. That yearning for connection is still there, and knowing that winter is setting in makes these connections all the more important. So, we are revisiting the congregational calling. Instead of 25 callers, we now have 41! 41 people who will be calling each person with a phone number listed in our directory. Those folks have a list of about eight people to call. What's different about these calls from the others is that they will happen every other month over the course of the next year. The lists will not change, which means you will get called six times by the same person! What a blessing this community is to its members. We have an opportunity in this time to reach out and build on what we've got, establish new connections, and deepen our community. I, for one, am eager to hear how it goes!

Finding certainly took on different meanings this past year. Far from what I typically think of it as being. It is funny how that happens, is it not? We look at these words that we draw from a basket at the beginning of January and then sit back and see how the Spirit moves through them and us throughout the year.

How did you see your Star Word play out this past year? I would love to hear about it!

Found with you, in Christ  
PB



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Dear friends,

*HAPPY NEW YEAR! We've finally made it through 2020. In the spirit of new beginnings, I have to come clean about something. We as your staff decided to write our January Newsletter articles about our Star Word from 2020. There was only one problem. I lost mine. I remember my 2019 Star Word was INSIGHT. 2018 was SPEECH. But 2020... well, I have no clue.*

I'm sure it's somewhere. Maybe near the organ. Maybe in some choral music that still needs to be filed. Perhaps on my cluttered desk. I'm sure it's somewhere, but that still leaves me without a clue of the word I had. So, I decided to choose a reverse Star Word. That is, I took a deep breath, cleared my mind, thought about this past year and picked the first word that popped into my head. That word?  
**GROUNDDED.**

Yes, I probably should be 'grounded' for losing my original word, but in this sense, I'm talking about that feeling of your feet on the earth,

present in the moment, fully aware of the world and your place in it grounded-ness. Of course, this only felt a little bit ironic due to the fact that 2020 was the year of a worldwide pandemic, significant racial justice turmoil, and extreme isolation.

But in that time, I've found simplicity, clarity, and forgiveness. If 2019 was "full steam ahead", 2020 was "why?" What are we carrying from year to year that needs to stop? What works? What needs more attention? How do we know the difference? Are we clinging on to anything because of a guilt of letting go?

I'm looking forward to my 2021 Star Word. I also promise to take a photo of it this time. But perhaps sometimes God is just calling us to tune in, be aware, and let go.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Joe

# “Share”- Will of course I can do that.

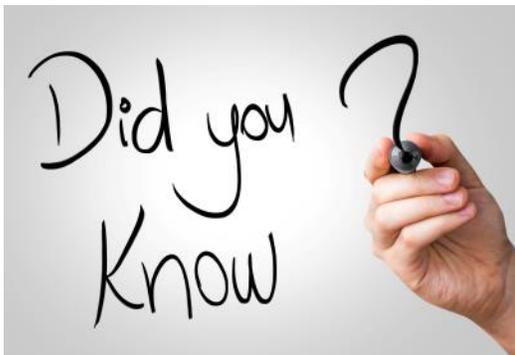
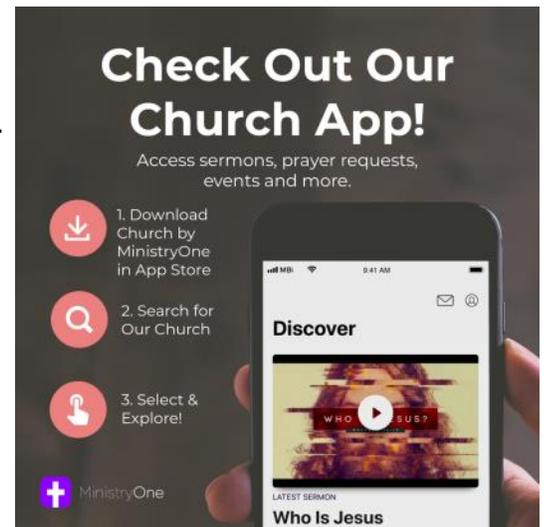
My star word for 2020 was “share” and I reflected on it in my January 2020 newsletter article, so of course, I had to rethink what the word actually meant for me in 2020. At the end of that article from a year ago, I had stated, “SHARE those gifts you have been given, SHARE those struggles, SHARE solutions, SHARE love and SHARE His Word!” Wow, only if I would have known.

I think most of us can say that we had struggles in 2020; not being able to share a warm hug with our loved ones or a meal with friends, illness and death, live events or worshipping together in our beautiful sanctuary. However, I feel that we did “share” really well. Of course, the obvious of trying not to share a virus but we shared in newfound ways. We shared in worship in the parking lot or online. We shared that with our loved ones, neighbors and fellow community members. We shared Zoom bible studies, coffee, and donuts. We shared our emotions being it raw, hurt or joyous feelings we were able to share them with our families. Perhaps you shared a book with a loved one over social media or wrote more letters and notes to those loved ones.

Sharing is really what we did a lot of in 2020. I look forward to sharing more in the future whatever that may look like. I also share in the hope of a wonderful 2021 for all of you!



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We had many property improvements that occurred the last part of 2020 and a few that will be completed the first part of 2021.

- Parking Lot Lights changed over to LED
- The flat roof that has leaked every year for the past 7 years was replaced.
- A new furnace for the lower level area that replaced one that was at least 35 years old.
- HVAC automation for the sanctuary and also ionizer added.

## 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](#).





# 2020 at Shepherd of the Hills Preschool



Jilene Yonen  
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“Thank you for pouring love and care into our children.”

“SOTH has been a lifesaver.”

“Thank you for all you do to keep our kids safe and educated.”

“Thank you for being our saving grace.”



# Youth Ministry @Shepherd

## CONFIRMATION IN JANUARY

Wednesday Evenings

**FOCUS: Wisdom and Poetry...the Psalms & Stuff**

**6:30PM—7:30PM Confirmation**

**7:30PM—8PM Optional Game Time Fun**

6th—Lesson—Large group via zoom

13th—Small Group Time—via zoom

20th—Individual Project Week

27th—Project Presentation Week—Small groups  
via zoom

## ReFUEL IN JANUARY

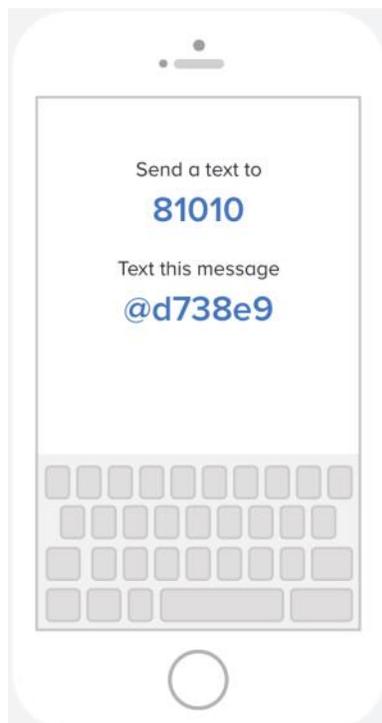
After an AMAZING and FUN Christmas Party we thought we would do it again! Party Packages to arrive at your door for a January 17th evening of fun! Be on the lookout for more information via:

Instagram: [@youthshepherd](https://www.instagram.com/youthshepherd)

Website: [shepherdshoreview.org/high-school-youth-ministry.html](http://shepherdshoreview.org/high-school-youth-ministry.html)

Via your emails and via Remind texting (see below)

For all up-to-date ReFuel related information sign up for our Remind Texting. Follow the directions in the picture here.



# ADULT *Faith* FORMATION

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

**Weekly Bible Study:** Wednesdays throughout January at 1pm and 6:30pm via Zoom. Join us to discuss the upcoming scripture text and learn together.



Join us each Sunday in January for our Virtual Donut Time from 10:30-11:30am.

This is a BYOD (Bring Your Own Donut). We will have time for casual check in, as well as, intentional conversation around the Gospel text for that day. Also, you will get to learn fun facts about your staff members so be sure to check in!

Links are sent out on Saturday in the Worship Information emails.

## Update 1.1.2021

**Happy New Year!!** We had all hoped that we would be saying good-bye to this page of COVID updates just like we did to this last year....but alas. Here are the updates for now:

**Our worship:** We had a glorious Parking Lot Worship run that lasted WAY beyond when we

thought it would. Your Shepherd staff worked tirelessly to make that all happen as we made our way through tech challenges, sound challenges, weather challenges and lots of other logistical challenges that we encountered on the fly and needed to make quick adjustments. We are most fortunate to have the team that we do.

BUT...our Minnesota weather has done what it does every year...gotten really cold. So as of January 3 our Sunday morning worship will be **online only** as we live stream it from our sanctuary on Sunday mornings at 9:00. We are unsure as to how long this worship model will be but we promise to keep you updated on any and all changes that happen. We are anxious to worship together in our sanctuary again but truly feel that we need to do that when we feel that it is safe to do so.

**Our building:** The only activity that is currently occurring in the building is our childcare/ preschool and limited staff presence. The office is open but we ask that you drop items off at Door G rather than coming into visit us. While we miss seeing all of your faces, this helps to ensure that the childcare program has distance from the visitors. Feel free to email or call the office at anytime though.

**Our (other) gatherings:** All other programming has moved to zoom until we feel that it is safe to gather inside together. See the eNews or speak with your group lead on details about the specifics. As always feel free to contact the office.

As we cross over into 2021 your Shepherd staff wishes you a safe and happy New Year! We are blessed to have this wonderful community and thank you all for your patience and your willingness to be the shepherd to others.

In God's Peace, Your Shepherd Staff

Pr. Renee, Jilene, Pr. Brice, Joe, Sr. Tashina, Miranda, and Michelle





## Connect with Us

**Website:** [sohsv.org](http://sohsv.org)

**Phone:** 651.483.5419

**Email:** [staff@shepherdshoreview.org](mailto:staff@shepherdshoreview.org)

### **Office Hours**

**Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 4:00pm**