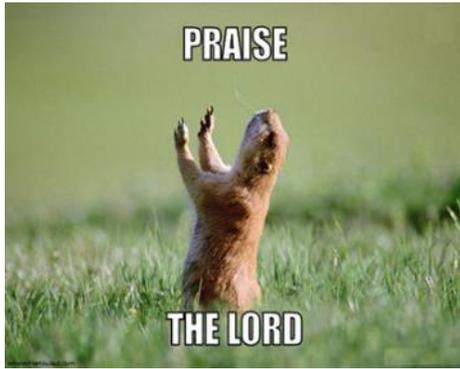




***SHEPHERD'S
VOICE***

**JANUARY
2022**



ADORATION

was my STAR Word for 2021



Renee Patterson
Senior Pastor

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What?

I love STAR Word Sunday and really look forward to it each year. **January 2, 2022** will be our fifth STAR Word Sunday at Shepherd of the Hills. It's also a Sunday when we gather to celebrate a new church season called Epiphany as we talk about how the Magi (the Wise Men) had traveled from the East following the biggest and brightest star they had ever seen, in their search for the newborn King of the Cosmos. This new star had guided them through the dark deserts and paths unknown, providing light for the Way. We come together to pick a STAR Word with the hopes that our new star (word) will do the same for us in the coming year.

As all the fantastic words get written on the little wooden stars, I ponder which word will be the one that I will draw out on STAR Word Sunday. SO many great words. We (as a staff) have only one rule for STAR Word Sunday... whatever word you draw is the word you get. No backsies. So, when I drew ADORATION I was less than thrilled. Adoration: reverence, glorification, exaltation, veneration. Note to self: take some of those "churchy" words out next time. What is a Lutheran pastor supposed to do with a churchy word like adoration?

Yet another word for adoration is also worship. As I think back to all the ways we have experienced worship over this past year I have realized what a gift gathering for worship is for us as a faith community. Our adoration of our Lord is the central thread that is woven in and through each of us making this beautiful tapestry of God's people. As much as I was not thrilled to get the word adoration as my STAR Word, I have come to discover that God hid these wonderful gifts of discovery for me in that word. I wonder if that is the way it always is in God's order of doing things. God always gives first, and then we are invited to respond with our gifts, our appreciation and ourselves. All that from a little wooden star with a word written on it. My story is not unique either, as I have heard many of the same sentiments from you.

Why would such a simple gift take on such deep meaning? What is it about receiving a word on a wooden star that touches us? I believe that we are yearning for tangible, clear signs of God's presence and guidance in our lives. And these little pieces are reminders to pay attention to what God is doing in our lives and this world. I also believe that God has already placed gifts of discovery for us all over the place and these little words remind us to see them. My STAR Word for 2021 was a great example of seeing/discovering those gifts.

So...if you aren't thrilled with your STAR Word for 2022, be patient and open to how God might be guiding you through that word to see and discover things in a new way. After all, this Season of Epiphany where we lift up those Wise Men who followed that bright star has also been called the Season of Discovery.

May your STAR Word of 2022 bring new discoveries of God's activity and presence in your life in this coming new year.

In One Peace, Pastor Renee

Shepherd's Governing Board

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

~ Acts 20:28

Annual meeting planned for January 30

Shepherd's annual meeting is scheduled for January 30; we will review 2021 and look forward to 2022.

The congregation will ratify changes to the constitution and vote on the following new and continuing members of the Governing Board:

Dave Webb is returning for another term as chair.

Elizabeth Kohen is returning for another term as treasurer.

Joshua Koepp is nominated for the position of secretary.

Anna Grace is nominated for the member-at-large position that Chriss Latterell has held for the last eight years.

All confirmed members can vote at the annual meeting. We are hoping for a large group and even needing to put the staff's overflow plans into effect. (If more than 150 members attend, extra people will attend via streaming from Shepherd's Hall.)

Amazing children's Christmas Program held

Our children from the Preschool joined Shepherd's KIDzone children in the Christmas program at the 8:00 and 10:00 services on December 19. The Preschool has held their Christmas programs on Thursday nights in the past, but for this year joined the KIDzone children on Sunday morning.

A little girl in red boots and candy cane tights from the program figured into Pastor Renee's Christmas sermon as someone whose joyful, energetic singing and dancing helped her feel Christmas joy. The children's program and their enthusiastic celebration of Christ's birthday filled everyone's hearts. Thanks to Jilene Ylonen, our Preschool Director, and her staff for the wonderful program.

For 2022, the preschool will plan to hold their Christmas program on a Saturday morning.

Favorite Christmas songs

After the opening prayer, the first few minutes of the Governing Board meeting is a personal check-in with a question. The December meeting question was, what is your favorite Christmas song? Answers included: *Oh, Come All Ye Faithful*; *Ode to Joy*; *Oh, Holy Night*; *The Little Drummer Boy*, *Do You Hear What I Hear*; and *Breath of Heaven* (especially Anna Madson's version).

Winter book study in progress

The subject of our winter book study is *I Can Do No Other* by Anna M. Madsen. Google Books describe it as, "a fresh and challenging look at the legacy of Martin Luther and the new reformation that is calling people of faith to action today." The book study will kick off January 5/6 and everyone is welcome to join.

New projector installed

A few weeks ago, Pastor Renee tried to show a photo of her grandmother, and the projector did not project. We're happy to report that Shepherd's sanctuary now has a projector that works! The new projector works quietly and can hopefully be used to enhance our virtual and in-person church services.

Speaking of virtual services, the Governing Board discussed how attendance at the in-person services combined with online attendance brings us near to the pre-pandemic numbers. Plans are to continue with online services even after the pandemic slows down.

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

Merry Christmas Dear Shepherd Folks,

What a joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus with you all! What a beautiful season of worship it has been. And after a year and a half of ups and downs and in-person and parking lot and virtual worship, it is easy to ponder what it means to worship. Is it only worship when we are in the sanctuary or only when the organ is playing or perhaps only when we have communion? Is being in person a requirement? Does there need to be a sermon? After this past month, filled with beautiful and meaningful worship that has followed some difficult times, have you pondered the same?



Sister Tashina Good
Deacon
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Well, my Star Word from this past year was “Worship.” I have kept it by my computer in the church office throughout the year, causing me to ponder this question every time I have sat down at my desk. You see, worship may be the thing that brings us all together as a community and where we hear the Word of God proclaimed and fulfil Jesus’ command to engage in the sacraments. But my faith has always been much more richly filled outside of the sanctuary.

Don’t get me wrong, I love the feeling of being together while fed by sermons or music or communion, and I feel so deeply at home in the rote of the liturgy. However, my faith is fed and grows through Bible studies, activism, coffee with someone as we talk about the real and deep things in life. It is filled through writing Confirmation curriculum and having amazing discussions with youth and parents about how all of this actually applies to their lives, and then seeing them live it out. It is filled through my time volunteering at Open Hands Midway and in the ah-ha moments of witnessing someone else volunteering for the first time and realizing how much their time can make a difference, and how deeply God is present in that moment. It is filled by the laughter of pure joy coming from my nieces and nephews as they play without the worries of the world on their shoulders. It is filled sitting silently with someone as they cry or vent about the struggles in their lives. Those side conversations we have in the hallway about hard or amazing things, those are Holy moments, and they feed my faith in unspeakable ways. My dear friends, all of these things, too, are worship.

The Apostle Paul, when writing to the Church in Rome states, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” (Romans 12:1) This is the beginning of one of my favorite Biblical passages. Paul is reminding the Romans that how we live our lives is an act of worship to God. Yes, we are called to come together and praise God and learn about our faith together in the way we generally call worship, but we are to live it out in our everyday lives as well. Worship is about pausing to recognize the Holy in each moment and allowing the Holy Spirit to use you in that moment to reflect God out into the world and to let it change you. Sometimes that is in a worship service. Sometimes it is in the parent pick-up line at school. Sometimes it is when you bump into your neighbor while out for a walk. Sometimes it is when you aren’t sure if you have the time, but something is telling you to call that one friend. Sometimes it is in quiet moments of contemplation. Sometimes it is giving more of yourself than you thought you had to give. Sometimes it is letting someone care for you this time. God works in mysterious and wondrous ways!

As we enter the time of Epiphany (the season after Christmas when the wisemen found Jesus) and we ponder all that it means for God to have come live life as we do, I pray you ponder how your life can be a “living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

If you wonder what that could look like but aren’t sure, let’s grab a cup of coffee and chat. The coffee is on me!

See you in Church,
Sister T





Brice Bloxham
Associate Pastor

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“It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.” Psalm 92 1-4

Here we go, another year has dawned and with that comes another time to ponder our Star words from the previous year and to look toward the coming year’s word. In previous years I have been less than thrilled with my picks. Words like; finding, sanctification, and apparently one that was so unmemorable that I could not tell you what it was. Yet this past year, I found myself happy with what I had. . . or at least I thought I was. For my word was: **festivity**. I could work with that. Who doesn’t love a good bit of festivity, am I right? Parties are great. Especially in the midst of a pandemic. Ugh.

Festivity is defined as “the celebration of something in a joyful and exuberant way.” It seems no matter what word I pluck out of the basket, I find myself struggling to step out of the limitations and slide into a space of eagerness in the possibilities. Living in the midst of our 2021 context where being able to gather was unwise at times, we longed for connection and were fatigued by all the pandemic guidance. All of this made celebrations all the more tough to grasp. The thing is, just because pandemic life exists does not mean occasions for celebration have not manifested, because they have been there in abundance. In making this word easier to digest, I came to think of this word, festivity, the same as we think of celebration.

The year 2021 gave me and, I pray you, opportunities to celebrate. For me most notably, the COVID-19 vaccine becoming available for us was a game-changer. For over a year, ministry looked markedly different. Huge accommodations were made in visitation to make it possible to even see our folks: no communion, no inside visits, zero contact, extra distancing, ALWAYS masked, and a certain amount of fear. However, much of that changed for me at least, on March 27, the day before Palm Sunday. I received my second dose. To say that I was more than a bit emotional is an understatement. I found myself with tears welling up because of what the previous year had looked like and more importantly, what it meant going forward. This was a profound moment of festivity. We know that we are far from past this pandemic and great caution is still called for. But to be able to see each other with just a little less fear, with the possibility of quick embrace and communion, has gone a very long way.

Friends, if my opportunity to festively celebrate getting vaccinated has taught me anything, it’s the simple fact that celebrations exist beyond being together. We can be festive in the moments and not just occasions where we are together at a party with food and beverage in hand. To be festive in the moments, and not just the occasions, allows for a change in posture when looking for joy and excitement. Living into a place, looking for joy, means we are willing to find what God does in us, through us, and around us. In that change, hope permeates and changes us from within. What a place to be!

Beloveds, I pray you may find a similar place.

Found with you, in Christ,

PB



Reverence



Jean Johnson
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Worship
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REVERENCE is my Star Word.

Some definitions: A feeling of profound awe and respect and often love; To consider or treat with profound awe and respect; A feeling or attitude of deep respect, love, and awe, as for something sacred.

When I first got the word, I was elated. A word full of meaning—a word expressing a whole different level of appreciation for something/someone.

Yet, how do I explain what that means to ME? That's when I got stuck.

We have all seen movies where religious figures are bowed down to—like “The Ten Commandments”. Or, maybe it's more like “The Godfather” where underlings bow before Don Corleone as a show of submission or devotion.

“Reverence” to me is much deeper, wider and stronger than a movie film illustration. The word is full of gold and silver and clouds and power. I dare not even say the word because it feels so much bigger than me. It stands before me like a tower—a tower looking down on me.

Yet, “reverence” in my daily life includes gratefulness for my granddaughter's hug, a slobbery kiss from a dog, a look of assurance from a friend. I choose to not let “reverence” distance me from the object I revere.

If anything, “reverence” becomes more like “cherish” or “in-love affection”. I don't revere my granddaughter, but I DO revere her hug because it means love, joy, humor and plain old LOVE from her to me. It's something I treasure. A slobbery dog kiss certainly does not equal the regal “reverence” I think of. Oh, no, “reverence” in that context represents fall down, roll on the rug, snugly messy fur kind of affection.

I can look at a friend and feel a sense of “reverence” because of the experiences we have shared, the personality of that dear one and the depth of commitment we feel to one another.

Maybe the regality of “reverence” keeps me at a distance. Dare we think we can approach God with anything other than eyes-lowered, bowed-down, knee-bending? That maybe works for some people, but the “reverence” I feel for God or other experience in my life is deep inside my heart, nearly exploding with gratefulness.

Wendy Francisco wrote a song that brings me to tears nearly every time I hear it. Maybe it's because this comes close to defining what “reverence” means to me. What do you think?

GOD and DOG—*Wendy Francisco*

I look up and I see God, I look down and see my dog.

Simple spelling G O D, same word backwards, D O G.

They would stay with me all day. I'm the one who walks away.

But both of them just wait for me, and dance at my return with glee.

Both love me no matter what - divine God and canine mutt.

I take it hard each time I fail, but God forgives, dog wags his tail.

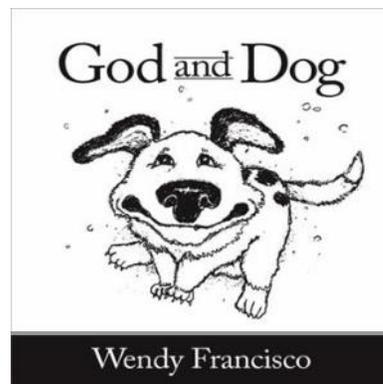
God thought up and made the dog, dog reflects a part of God.

I've seen love from both sides now, it's everywhere, amen, bow wow.

I look up and I see God, I look down and see my dog.

And in my human frailty...I can't match their love for me.

Grateful for community, Jean



My Star word for 2021 was *language*. Interesting one for me, I think. First thing that comes to my mind is the written or spoken language. Very pertinent as this year I worked again on my second language. I minored in college in the Spanish language however, I have never really used it. Well, my son married a wonderful woman this past summer and her first language is Spanish. For sure a change for me and I am now back to dreaming in both languages.



Miranda Oliver
Director of Operations
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Language can mean so much more, though, than the spoken or written word. Language is a way that we can demonstrate something to someone. After all, you probably have all heard of your “love language” by Gary Chapman. How one shows love and prefers to receive love is done or received in different ways. Perhaps it is a hug, or preparing a meal, or buying a gift. My husband and I actually took a class online in 2021 on our love languages. It was a free class with Gary Chapman himself. I thought, what do I have to lose besides a few evening hours? It was actually quite interesting to think about those around me and what their LOVE language is and how I assume they know that I love them. I encourage you to read the book or listen to Gary talk about his philosophy.

In the donation side of Shepherd (i.e. Gift Team or Joy Team), I often think about how we can engage others to show their love language. Is it an act of love, a gift, a hug, receiving a gift, or words of affirmation? Finding out someone’s love language can help you have a stronger relationship with that person.

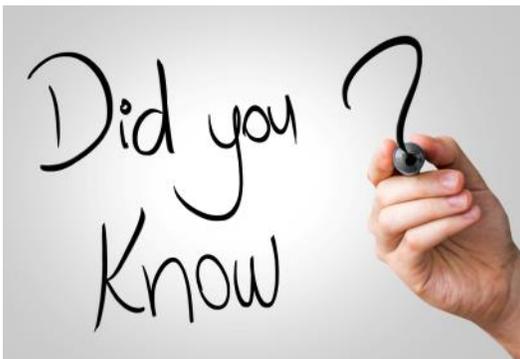
So getting back to that Star word *language*. I empower you in 2022 to look for ways that you can connect with others through language either the spoken or the written word or through a love language. Que Dios esté contigo! (May God be with you)

Check Out Our Church App!
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WHO IS JESUS?
LATEST SERMON
Who Is Jesus



- Recently one of the churches that uses our space had their pastor become ordained. Shepherd gifted money to their chosen charity in honor of this event.
- We replaced the broken projector in the sanctuary. Now, we need volunteers to do projection :)
- A furnace that was over 30 years old was replaced in December.
- Shepherd sent out over 3000 emails in the 2021 year. Also, with a higher than industry standard of open rates.

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
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preschool@shepherdshoreview.org

Heading into 2022, Shepherd of the Hills Preschool is growing once again. After Christmas break, on January 3rd, we will be welcoming toddlers to our program for the first time. We have added an additional classroom by transforming room 238 into a new classroom. We are excited to welcome new students and their families to our community! This transition wouldn't be possible with all the help of our many volunteers who donated their time to putting together furniture and organizing the classroom. We are truly grateful!



Thank you to all our KIDzone kiddos and their families who made our Christmas Program possible this year!



Youth Ministry @Shepherd

Stay informed via
Instagram: @youthshepherd



Confirmation in January

6:30-8pm Wednesday evenings at Shepherd

FOCUS: The Lord's Prayer

5 Lesson—Youth & Parents

12 Small Group Time

19 Individual Project Week

26 Presentation of Projects

ReFuel in January

Per youth request we are going to try every Wednesday in January. If we do not have good attendance we will go back to 2nd & 4th Wednesdays in February

ReFuel is from 6:30-8PM Wednesdays in Shepherd's Hall

- 5 ReFuel Murder Mystery Escape like Event
- 12 ReFuel Games and Devos
- 19 ReFuel Murder Mystery #2
- 26 ReFuel Games and Devos



Photos from the Confirmation Christmas Party

ADULT *Faith* FORMATION

Weekly Bible Study:

Wednesdays at 1 pm IN PERSON in the Narthex and at 6:30 pm via Zoom. 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

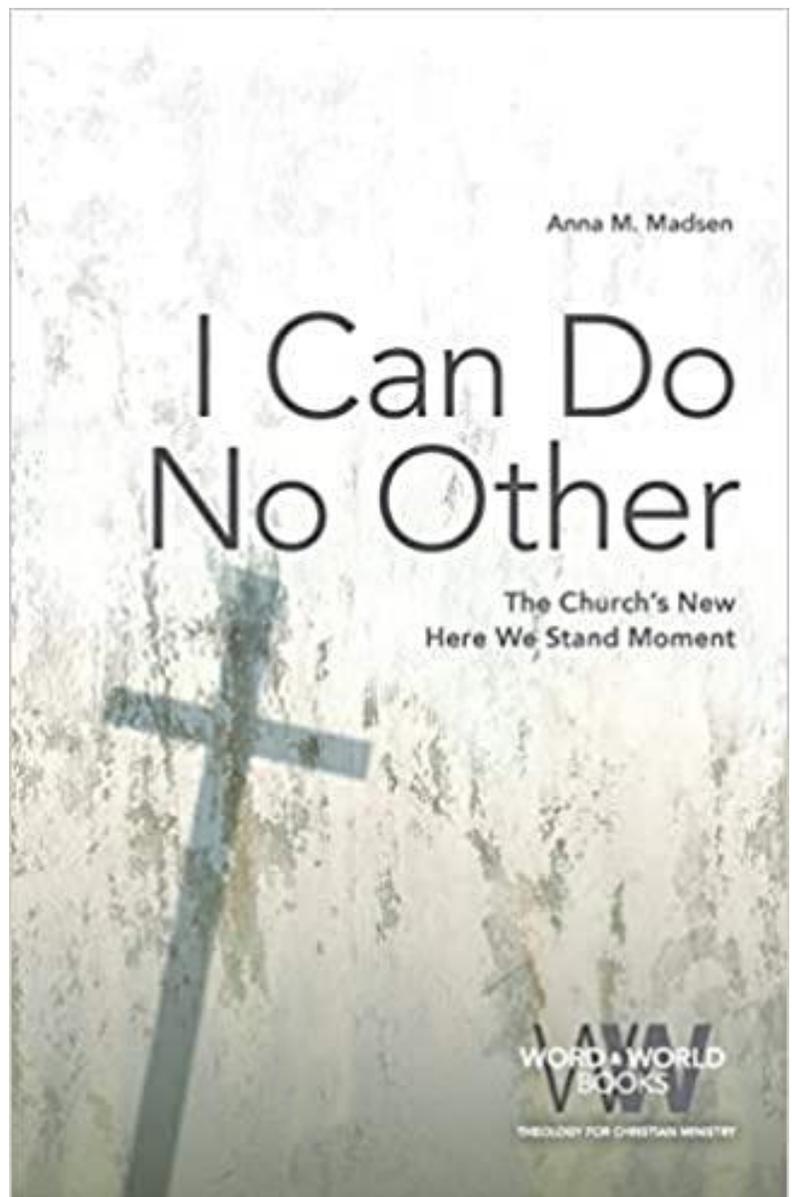
February 16/17 – Chapters: 6

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

Contact Sister Tashina to get on the Zoom email list.

All January Adult Education events are subject to change.

Please pay attention to weekly eNews for up-to-date information.





January DONATIONS NEEDED

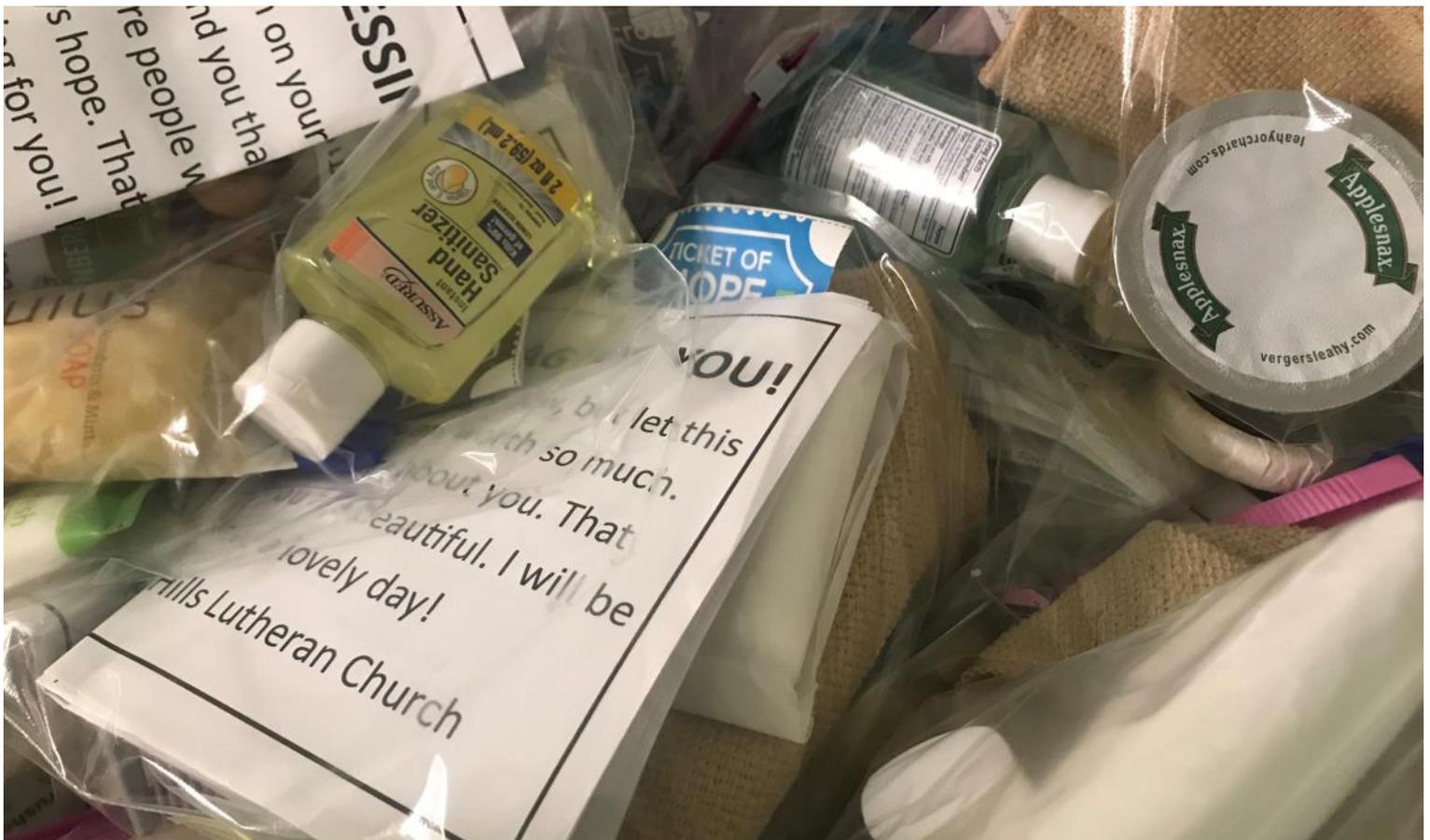
Shepherd has committed to filling the volunteer needs at Open Hands Midway for the fourth Monday of each month in 2022. All volunteers need to sign up online at least one week in advance.

See our website: SOHSV.ORG under the Ministries tab. Click on Mission Partners to access the online sign up.

Contact [Sister Tashina](#) or Marge S. if you have any questions.

January Drive—Spring
Season of Service Blessing
Bag Needs:

- Chapstick
- Travel size:
 - Lotions
 - Soaps
 - Toothpaste
- Feminine products
- Socks
- Washcloths
- Toothbrush





Our Annual Meeting is coming up the end of this month. You will receive the annual report and the financials the week before the meeting. We also need to let you know that the following information will be discussed at the meeting as our congregational constitution requires that we give you a 30 day notice on the information.

This year we will be voting to ratify the votes taken last year. The ratification will require a 2/3 vote. These are the bylaws we changed last year (changes in red) that require ratification to be made official:

Shepherd constitution changes voted upon at the 2021 Annual Meeting (January 31, 2021) to be ratified at the 2022 Annual Meeting:

C11.02. The voting membership of the Governing Board shall consist of the Senior Pastor, the elected officers of the congregation as described in C11.01, and four other board members at large, **at least one of whom may be a youth and at least one of whom may be a young adult.**

C11.03. All Governing Board members including the officers, shall be voting members of the congregation ~~eighteen years of age or older,~~ and shall be elected by a majority vote of the congregation, or by written ballot if more than one candidate is nominated for a position.

Nominations for Governing Board:

Dave Webb, Chair

Joshua Koepp, Secretary

Elizabeth Kohen, Treasurer

Anna Grace, Member at Large



GOAL

6 farms purchased and 3 of those were matched by a donor, so 9 farms total!

\$1430=Two family farms

Goal Met

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 Serving Hosts

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SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOIN US SUNDAYS
8AM IN-SANCTUARY/ONLINE
AND 10AM IN-SANCTUARY WORSHIP

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Our App