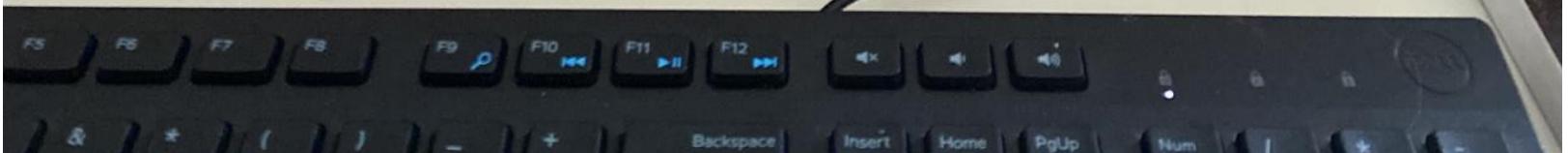




Shepherd's Voice

Digital Church

May 2020



TTDTUIS

(Things They Don't Teach Us In Seminary)

So...when I went to seminary I learned a lot of new things. I learned Greek and Hebrew. I took classes on the Gospels, the Torah, the Epistles and all kinds of systematic theology classes. I had classes on pastoral care and preaching and prayer. However, I do not remember a class offering called "How to Do Virtual Church During a Pandemic." I wonder what the syllabus for a class like that would have looked like.



Renee Patterson
Senior Pastor
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pastorrenee@shepherdshoreview.org

Did you know that there is a Facebook group (actually) called TTDTUIS? I joined the closed group a couple of years ago and it has been a wonderful platform for hearing how other pastors around the globe have handled different (and sometimes hilarious) situations. But currently the group chat has clearly hit a wall of wondering as ALL of us agree that we have no idea what we are doing in this uncertain time, as NOTHING in seminary prepared any of us for any of this. Some of the threads have, however, offer what these gifted pastors have discovered in this crucible period. I thought I would share with you some quotes of the things that they have learned (some borrowed from the TTDUTIS and a friend's FB page):

- I have learned that I love and hate virtual worship/Bible study/coffee time, but that I am grateful for any manner of gathering in this time.
- I have learned that Holy Week and Easter worship can still be incredibly holy even if it looks entirely different than I ever expected, and that God can (and does) show up in all kinds of surprising ways.
- I have learned that you CAN have a prayer shawl knitting lesson, Baptism lesson, youth gathering or premarital counseling session virtually.
- I have learned that a heartfelt/hand written card "snail-mailed" to someone in need is a fine way to do pastoral care.
- I have learned that my dog/cat has the ability to snore through my ENTIRE sermon.
- I have learned that I would need more than "one take" when recording *anything* and that I should create a "pastor's bloopers" folder for a laugh later.
- I have learned that I miss Walter Cronkite. I miss accurate, factual, non-biased information which we can all trust.
- I have learned that some people react to a crisis by grabbing all they can and some people react calmly and responsively.
- I have learned that some people think TP memes are the best thing ever.
- I have learned that I am all of these people as I remain truly grateful for how God is working through all of this.

I am not sure what new things you are learning in these unprecedented times, but I am certain they are things for which you were not prepared. It is my hope that one of those new learnings is how to experience the whispers of the Holy Spirit (in all kinds of unexpected and amazing ways) reminding you that God is here for you, and that GOD loves you *in and through* all of this!

Be well my friends!
Pastor Renee 😊

Shepherd's Governing Board

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord.
"Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to
give you hope and a future."*

~ Jeremiah 29:11

Shepherd's Governing Board Update

The Governing Board has been meeting semimonthly to stay in touch and keep abreast on the ways our staff and community have been connecting and faring during this unprecedented time.

We celebrate with each other the joys and challenges we've experienced or witnessed. With the leadership of Pastor Renee, our Shepherd staff have done a phenomenal job of reaching out to our flock in so many creative ways. These celebrations include our ability to continue worship and fellowship together thanks to technology; and for outreach to our members from our youngest pre-school friends, to our school-aged and teen friends, to our older friends who may be struggling to feel connected and need extra support right now.

Staying connected with the entire Shepherd family has been the primary focus of the staff. The Board is so impressed with the preschool's amazing team headed up by Jilene Ylonen. Their ability to quickly and creatively shift to online learning has been inspiring to see. The program they created includes story time, baking, singing, and art and science projects. All supplemented with special online Zoom sessions to include Chapel Time with pastoral staff and Music Time with Joe. They even go on virtual field trips that sound so fun we wish we could participate! The children have been able to stay connected to their Prayer Partners, volunteers in our church community, who are now able to connect with them pen-pal style through e-mail. The preschool staff continues to share the love of Jesus and learning with these young children and their families.

Pastor Brice also spread the love of Jesus to the young children of Shepherd by playing the role of the undercover Easter Bunny, making Easter Egg Hunt deliveries to the Kid Zone families' yards on Easter

weekend. He continues to reach out to members on Facebook and Zoom by participating in worship services, Bible studies, and various fellowship gatherings online like coffee and bagels and coffee and donuts. We thank God for the work of the LYN Ministry and the volunteers who have taken time to reach out by words and deeds to all the members of the congregation, especially those who are feeling alone and isolated during this time.

Holy Week services were lovely and well received. We agreed that Joe's Easter Virtual Choir rendition of "Go Now in Peace", which involved merging 25+ individual vocal tracks into one choral performance, was one of the highlights of the Easter service. We are grateful for Joe and Sister Tashina's technical skills during this time where technology has served us in innovative ways. Sister Tashina is using her tech savviness to stay connected with the youth of our community and to supply us with daily prayers. We're joyful that the pleas for homemade masks, camping supplies for the homeless, and cleaning supplies for the VA all have been met through the generosity of our Shepherd community. Christ is Alive!

We look forward to celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus anew when we are back together in person as a church community.

With you in Christ,

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

Hello People of Shepherd,

What an interesting time this past month and a half has been! My goodness, I have missed seeing you all in person. How we “do” church has changed quickly along with everything else changing. It can often feel like whiplash trying to keep up. That and with many looming questions on what the future will look like. What will church “look like” in the future? This is where I reassure you that church will always “look like” it always has...because church is not just something we “do,” church is “who we are.” The church “looks like” YOU!



Sister Tashina Good
Deacon | 651.288.2261
sistertashina@shepherdshoreview.org

When I think about what it means to be the church, as in the Body of Christ that is us, I think about the Good Samaritan from the Gospel of Luke. This man went out of his way to tend to the care of another man, who was looked down upon by the Samaritan people as the enemy, the other, a dirty one to be avoided at all costs. The Samaritan cared for the man when the man’s own people turned away from him; he cared for the man like he was one of his own.

This deep love I have always seen in how we support Ralph Reeder. It shows up in our time on mission trips and at Holy Hammers and at Open Hands Midway. It is there in our partnership with Kidamali, Tanzania (both their care for us and our care for them). I see it in the care given to one another during Donut time and Bible Study, the love shown to new people in the narthex. It is ever present in the abundance of support and hands at work each Day of Service. Even when we are not together in person, I still see it. It is present in the masks being made and the hand sanitizer donated, in the prayers written, in the phone calls made, in the donations to Ralph Reeder. It is in the conversations taking place during our virtual donut time and Zoom game time with our Confirmation youth. And it will continue regardless of what comes in the months ahead. Because, although being together makes our community so much richer, being the Body of Christ does not require a building or in-person gatherings. Jesus shows up and works through us in every way and place.

So, as we look to an uncertain future and continue to gather in virtual ways, we are learning together what it means to be community in this way. Doing so at your own pace is just the right speed. We are all learning new things! Have patience with yourself; I know I need to do the same thing. After all, we are all in this together. And if history is any indication, the Body of Christ is good at adapting.

So although I look forward to seeing you in person soon, I will continue to look forward to seeing you at Donuts via Zoom on Sundays or at Game Night for Confirmation or ReFuel, or perhaps on Bible Study via Facebook or at Lesson Nights for Confirmation or ReFuel or perhaps when I am recording a portion of worship and I feel your prayers, knowing we will be participating in worship together in Spirit. Because as Aiden Wilson Tozer once said, “Keep a Christian from entering the church sanctuary and you have not in the least bit hindered [their] worship. We carry our sanctuary with us. We never leave it.”

Thanks be to God.

See you “in” church,
Sister Tashina



Photo from one of our Donut Time Gatherings



Greetings Friends,

Brice Bloxham
Associate Pastor

651.288.2264

pastorbrice@shepherdshoreview.org

Covid-19 bites. Can I just start by saying that? I miss our community, I miss being able to shake hands, hug, carry on a conversation with someone face to face. In many of the meetings that I participate in we do check-ins, we offer our high and low points; “ditto” has become a term that’s used to articulate our lows because so many share that feeling. It is not all bad though. For the Bloxham household a forced life slowdown has afforded me the opportunity to lay in the back yard with Simon and identify what the cumulonimbus clouds high in the sky look like.

This new way of conducting life together and how we are community with one another is no small thing. It has pushed us to think up new and engaging ways to be together when we are not able to be together. Zoom has become a new favorite and necessary tool for how we conduct ministry. We gather, looking and viewing each other through our computer, tablet, or phone screens in tiled views, to have worthy and meaningful conversations. But it is not the same thing. It is, however, something and something is indeed better than nothing.

In this forced reevaluation we have found some things about ourselves. First, we are a resilient and unwavering people. While the pandemic is impacting us in unprecedented ways, we still worship our God. We may not be able to be side by side, communing like we normally do, but our worship in this time has become meaningful for us in new ways. We are a resilient community! As our activities have been taken away from us, those things at the fabric of who we are, deeply important parts of our lives, we have shifted to find new ways to keep connected. I have also witnessed care for our people that warms me to my core. When this hit, people stepped up wanting to help. Calls were made and connections established.

The question now becomes, how do we move forward? How do we maintain our community from a distance? The answer is, it is not going to be easy. There is nothing about sheltering in place and physical distancing from one another that is easy. We yearn for connection and touch, something that is illusive in this time. Our knee jerk response could be to back away, move into the periphery and out of the fold. I would implore you to not let this happen. Stay close, stay with us. We are stronger when we are together. Please reach out to us if you need anything. This time is hard, unfamiliar, and it is anything but what we would like to be doing. It does not define us, but has the ability to fortify us and bring us closer as a community.

Be well beloveds.

PB

Dear friends,

How are you? It's been a long time since I've seen many of your faces and I miss you. I miss being in worship with you. I miss seeing you while stuffing a donut in my face. I miss seeing you pop into my office for a quick hello. I miss seeing my littlest preschool friends walk down the hall, doing their best to stay quiet. I miss being in one room for staff meetings. I miss choir. I miss bells. I miss praise band. I miss life.

I'm sure I'm not the only one feeling these things right now. This is a hard time, and the fact that the light at the end of the tunnel seems to always move back *just* a week or two every time only makes it harder. But as a global community, we're finding new virtual ways to make it through. As a church community, we're finding new virtual ways to make it through.

They're not what we were used to, but it's hard for me to not see these new means for community as a gift from God. One of my favorites has been our Facebook video premieres for Sunday Worship. Basically, we get a bunch of Shepherd folk to watch the worship together at 10am on Sundays so that we can watch, comment, and be together. I also love my Zoom preschool music classes. Last week I was absolutely OUT OF BREATH while dancing to music with them. The week before was coloring



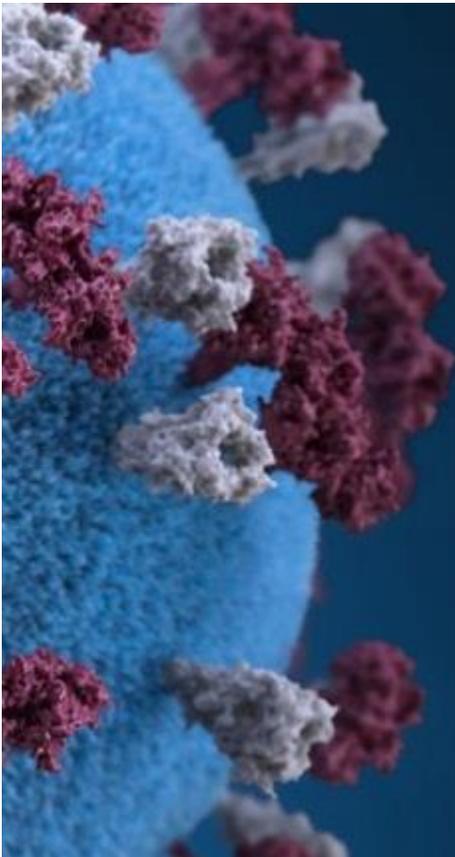
Joseph Trucano
Director of Music and Worship
651.288.2254
music@shepherdshoreview.org

to sounds. I've loved going on walks with the sounds of Brice, Tashina, and Renee in my ear while listening to our podcast. There are so many different ways that I've felt connected to our community and God's presence in the world.

These new ways are not a replacement for in-person community, but they help. If you need any help charting these digital waters, or just want to say 'hi', shoot me an email at music@shepherdshoreview.org. I'd love to hear from you. I miss you. We'll make it through.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Joe



OUR CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

LATEST UPDATE

Good People of Shepherd,

As we step into the month of May many things are unknown. When will we be able to worship together in person? When can Bible study in person resume? Will graduations take place in person? Will we be able to travel to our favorite Memorial weekend spot? Will Confirmation and ReFuel be able to celebrate the end of our school year with pizza and a bonfire? How will COVID-19 impact our community and our families in the weeks ahead? We want to provide you with a newsletter filled with information on what we will be doing. However, the truth is we do not know.

What we do know is that God's love is unchanging and is bigger than our fears and bigger than all the unknowns we wonder. So, as we step into this month, we commit to keeping you informed each week via our eNews, emails, COVID-19 Update page on our website, and Facebook. If our local and state governments give us permission to be opening up in any way, you will be the first to know. If KidZONE resumes in person, you will be the first to know. If we need volunteers to set up and lead worship, you will be the first to know.

If you have any questions or concerns or amazing ideas, do not hesitate to reach out. We are all in this together. Praying for your patience and a promise, in good faith, to keep you as informed as we can.

Your Staff,

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



**As we have not been able to gather in person,
we are often asked, how can one still support
Shepherd financially?**

- Mail in your offertory envelopes (our mail is checked frequently and deposits are done at least weekly)
- Give online on our Giving Page
- Text To Give Simply send a text to 651-433-6564 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](#).



KIzone

Sunday Morning Children's Programming
10:00am or on Zoom at 10:30am



Shepherd of the Hills
Preschool and Childcare

Teacher, Oh to Home you go!
Today is your day. You're off to Great Spaces! You're off and away!
You jump on Zoom with thoughts in your head.
You have hands on your computer to steer you as you implement new plans ahead.
You are on your own. And you know what you know.
And YOU will decide how to go.
You look up and down the space, look it over with care.
Because you know soon you will be teaching there.
With your session full of kids and your heart full of joy you're too careful not to stop and enjoy.
You may discover it's opener there in wide open air.
Out there things can happen and frequently do to the best people like you.
When things start to happen, don't worry, don't stew, just go right along and do what you do.

Oh! To Home You Go!
You'll be on your way up!
You'll be seeing great sites!
You'll join the decision makers who determine what is right.
You won't lag behind, because you'll have the speed.
You'll join the whole team and you'll take the lead.
You'll try to provide the best of the best.
Except when you don't.
Because, sometimes, you won't.
I'm sorry to say so but, sadly it's true that disappointments can happen to you.
You can get all hung up in all the messes
But you know how to make the best out of messes
Your team will fly on
You'll be left to Zoom on
You will come to a place with a new understanding of teaching and play
But simple it's not, I am afraid you will find.
The place we all find
The Waiting Place...
Waiting for kids to come on,
Waiting for the decisions to be made,
Or the email to come, or the rain to go, or the order to be delivered, or the waiting to play
Everyone is just waiting
No! That's not what we do!
Somehow we escape all that waiting and find lots to do!
With the lesson planning you're ready for anything under the sky.
Ready because you never know who might be shy.

Oh to Home you'll go! There is fun to be done.
There are lessons to be learned. There are games to be won.
You join in the fun and play with the best.
Whether you like it or not, there is a plan to be met
But on you will make it through I bet.
On you will go.
On and on you will go and I know you will go far and learn new responsibilities whatever they are.
Step with care and great tact and remember that life's a great balancing act.
Just never forget to be faithful and strong.
And never mix up what's right and what's wrong.
So...be your name, Mrs. Ylonen, Jilene, or teacher indeed.
Today is your day!
So...get on your way!

*This article was based off *Oh, the Places You'll Go* By: Dr. Seuss.



Art class on Zoom



Sent hugs from preschool!

This is what distance learning looks like for preschool!



We put our "listening ears" on for Zoom class sessions.



Music class on Zoom with Joe

Save the Dates:
Musical Camp
August 3-6, 2020
Vacation Bible School
August 3-6, 2020

Youth Ministry

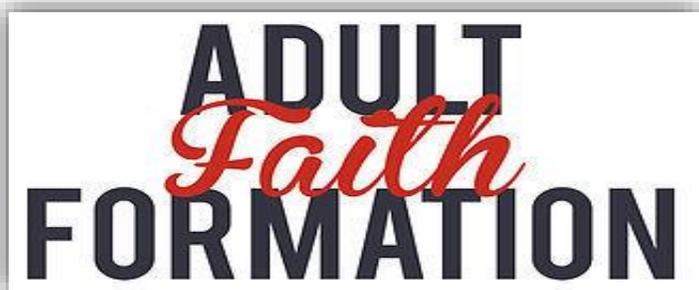
ReFuel Events For May—Mondays & Wednesdays at 4pm via Zoom or Houseparty (info via Discord & Remind) Contact Sister T with questions.

Confirmation/Middle School Ministries — All Confirmation in May will be via Zoom Call. Emails with Joining information will be sent out directly. **See Sister Tashina with any questions**

Schedule for May:

Mondays @6:45pm Games & Hangout time

Wednesdays @6:45pm Confirmation Lesson



May Weekly Bible Study @Shepherd

Join us via Shepherd's Facebook Page: 'Shepherd of the Hills in Shoreview MN' for our online Bible Study for one hour each Wednesday at both 1pm and 6:45pm.

Our study is based on the following Sunday's scripture readings

All Are Welcome!

Youth Summer Camp @Shepherd is still a go!

When: August 10-14

What: Helping run VBS and Musical Camp, as well as hitting up local hot spots for summer fun with friends!

Who: All (2019-2020) 6th-12th Grade youth

Cost: \$70 (to cover the cost of afternoon outings)

Why: Friends, Food, Leadership, Adventure, WHY NOT!?!

Intergenerational Mission Trip That means EVERYONE!

When: July 31-August 2

Where: Duluth, MN

Contact Sister Tashina for a link to our Zoom Informational Meeting on May 17th at 1pm.

This is an opportunity for fellowship, service, and more!

Lutheran FAQs

We are postponing Lutheran FAQs from April and May into June and July. We look forward to learning about how we as Lutherans engage in this world later this summer!

Bible Study is subject to change based on social distancing recommendations by our local and state government

Pour Theology w/Shepherd:

At this time Pour Theology is Postponed until we can safely gather in public spaces once again. When that time comes we will update this space and invite you all to join us!

What is Pour Theology? Each month we host an open conversation at a local eatery where you are invited to bring questions and conversation topics of your choosing.

We provide non alcoholic drinks and appetizers (alcoholic drinks are welcome but on you). Looking forward to seeing you there. Our Pour Theology location will be at Shore 96, 1056 HWY 96 W in Shoreview.

How are our Mission Partners doing and how can we support them during this time?

-Holy Hammers—Habitat for Humanity’s volunteer opportunities are currently put on hold but we can all continue to support them financially and through prayer during this time. We are also invited to join their Hard Hat and Black Tie Virtual Gala. You can sign up for the Gala by clicking on [THIS LINK HERE](#)

-Ralph Reeder—A note from Ralph Reeder: We are still operating through a fast, friendly and safe drive up model using prepackaged bags and boxes. We are condensing staff shifts and are currently seeing about 50 families at each drive up - about 35% more people than we were seeing prior to the quarantine, and seeing 5 times the usual amount of new families. Last week alone, we served 60 new families in 3 days and served 170 households. We continue to connect people to additional resources over the phone. While we appreciate you thinking of us, most food shelves like ours are NOT accepting volunteers, food donations or food rescue at this time. You can make financial donations at [THIS LINK HERE](#)

-A note from Open Hands Midway: Open Hands Midway will be reopening on Monday, May 4th with a limited number of volunteers. Our volunteer dates will not begin until June. Although, we will be looking for volunteers to help on Wednesdays in the coming weeks as well. Once we learn more about volunteer safety and restrictions, we will be reaching out for Open Hand’s volunteers. Open Hands Midway is in need of mask donations if you are making any and looking for some place to donate!

If you are interested in joining this group connect with Marge Salstrom or Sister Tashina. You can make financial donations at [THIS LINK HERE](#)

- Kidamali, Tanzania—We received an email from our Brothers and Sisters in Tanzania last week. Here is a part of that email: Tim Kane, and all brothers and sisters in the Shepherd, the peace of the Lord be with you. We write to share with you what is happening and especially during this challenge of corona pandemic we are facing. We have always been praying for God's intervention in this challenge and by faith we see the light ahead us (the world). We believe God will make a way. Therefore, don't be troubled in your hearts as you believe in God as it is written in the gospel according to John: 14: 1. We are grateful for your prayers that we are all doing well. No case has been reported in Iringa and Kidamali in particular. It is good news that even national patients have started being discharged. Yesterday about 37 patients were discharged and we are waiting for some more to be discharged. We are praying for health care workers who are serving corona patients as they are in risk of being infected if necessary precautions are not taken to save them. Let God protect them. Tim Kane, we appreciate for your endless and tireless efforts, endeavor and determination in communicating with us. We believe you have other activities to do but you have been so committed in communicating with us. We are praying for your tireless service you are doing to make our partnership live. God will pay for your service; in Jesus name we pray. As the church, we have been very keen listening to the day to day health instructions as regards to the pandemic. We are now instructed to minimize the time for worship services. We are required not to use more than 50 minutes for the whole service, observing distancing and the necessary seatings to be in open spaces. Some pastoral care services like holy communion have been suspended. As our kindergarten project is concerned, all the activities are going well. We are in plastering, windows and doors fixing and blackboard fixing. By next week we will be doing paintings and electrification. We are grateful for your support.

Hoping to hearing from you for the whole week since we emailed each other.

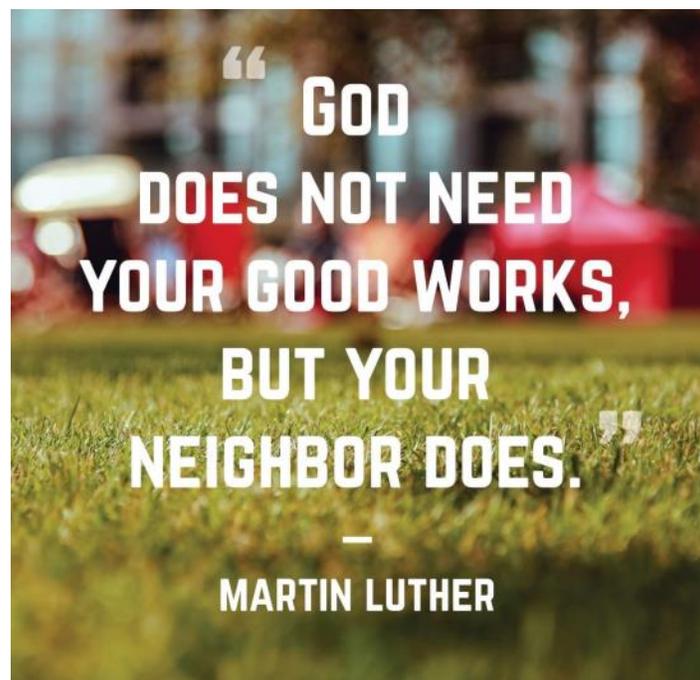
" Mungu awe nanyi daima" , God be with you forever. Amen.
Clemence, on behalf of the church.

Other ways to continue serving our Neighbors:

Recently we have reached out to all of you seeking help from other organizations that our people are connected to. Here is an update:

-Masks for People Incorporated—You responded and they have met their need! If you have more masks to donate reach out and we will find where they are needed most

-VA Hospital in Minneapolis—There was a great need for cleaning supplies and you responded! There is still a need for peroxide wipes. If you have any or find any while shopping the VA could use your support in this way! Reach out to Sister Tashina or Dave Marx to get your donation where it needs to go.



Worship with Us

Sundays
10:00 am

Worship-join us online!



Connect with Us

Website: sohsv.org

Phone: 651.483.5419

Email: staff@shepherdshoreview.org

Office Hours- Currently Closed

Mondays 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

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

Fridays 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



3920 North Victoria Street
Shoreview, MN 55126