

A photograph of four lit candles in a brass holder. The candles are red, blue, white, and blue from left to right. The background is dark with warm, out-of-focus bokeh lights. The text "Shepherd's Voice" is written in white cursive at the top.

Shepherd's Voice

*Anticipation
of Advent*

November 2020

Pastor Renee...slow down!



Renee Patterson
Senior Pastor
651.288.2253

The other day I was walking behind a congregational member when he jokingly said, “I always know when it’s you behind me Pastor Renee.” We both chuckled at how fast I walk, but that interchange got me thinking. Have you heard of the slow movement? Slow food? Slow living? There’s even a website called slowmovement.com.

I suspect that this movement has been coming for a long time as we have been lamenting the pace of life but didn’t know what to do about it. Maybe a global pandemic simply gave us the chance to experience/explore it. It’s all about creating the space needed in life to draw closer connections between individuals and communities.

For me, the exploration of slowing down has created space for experiencing the connection between humans and the Divine. It’s about being present, being grounded in who and where you are, and focusing on the journey of life and not simply goals and outcomes. To do that you need to slow down.

This year many of us have experienced a forced slowing as we stayed home to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This slowing down brought with it many challenges, but also blessings. We took time to arrange virtual meetups and, in some instances, engaged more with distant friends and family than prior to COVID. Our worship was simplified (though its creation wasn’t simple), and church meetings looked different. I don’t wish for a resurgence of COVID or the coming of another pandemic, but as real as all the loss of life, employment, dreams, and opportunities are, so are the glimpses of good things that arose in and through the pandemic. It’s important that we don’t lose the good. And one of the good things was the slowing down.

This slowing down has brought with it a kind of awakening for me. As the Advent and Christmas seasons approach once again, I find myself actually looking forward to them with a kind of anticipation and understanding that I have not experienced before. By that I mean being intentionally aware of God’s activity among us and wondering why God has placed us in this specific time and place. This newly formed anticipation has brought with it an awareness of this in-between time in which we find ourselves, the time between God breaking into this world as the incarnate Christ and the return of our glorious Savior.

Advent is most certainly about anticipation and waiting...but it is also about slowing down enough to be aware of God’s activity right in front of us. Advent isn’t simply/only about preparing for Christmas, buying gifts, and putting up decorations. It is also about slowing down to experience the presence of Christ all around us in the here and now. It is about watching and waiting to see what God is doing in our lives and in the world in the midst of this pandemic, and then joining God in that Kingdom-building work. Advent is packed with anticipation of the coming of the Christ child, but it calls for us to slow down—to watch, to look, to listen....to be aware.

So this Advent, as we all anticipate the arrival of this new season, may you create the time and space to slow down enough to truly prepare your hearts for the coming of the Christ child. And in that *slow down space*, may you fully experience what it means for us (and this aching world) that God came among us.

In One Slow-paced Peace,
Pastor Renee

Shepherd's Governing Board

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

~Psalm 150:6

Worship: Our outdoor parking lot worship experiment was a resounding success! We send a big shout out of thanks to the staff and to the MANY volunteers that made it possible. Let's do it again next summer!

Join us in November as we shift to worship in our sanctuary. Please follow all of the guidelines set up for our sanctuary worship, found on Shepherd's website: sohsv.org/covid-19-update.html or go to our website at sohsv.org and click on the far-right dropdown menu at the top of the homepage, labeled 'more...'

Fall Stewardship: Thank you to those who have already responded to our special appeal during our *20/20 Hindsight: What This Pandemic Has Taught Us About Being the Church* stewardship campaign. The staff and Governing Board members will be setting up some Zoom meeting opportunities to talk with you about the appeal and answer any of your questions. Please visit the Shepherd of the Hills website to make your pledge for 2021 and to commit to the appeal. Thank you!

Song of Shepherd concert events: Mark your calendars for these upcoming nights of music entertainment!

- **Tuesday, November 10, 7pm:** Joseph Trucano, organ concert in the Shepherd of the Hills sanctuary or via livestream.
- **Tuesday, December 8, 7pm:** A Charlie Brown Christmas (Skål Chamber Collective) via livestream.

Building project updates: During the October Governing Board meeting, we accepted the motion to go forward with some of the building maintenance projects that had been put on hold at the beginning of the COVID-19 shutdown this past spring. In addition to the repairs, after careful review of the budget, the finance team has brought forth the good news that we find ourselves in a position that will allow us to release some funds to assist our ministry partners at Open Hands Midway as they begin an expansion of their services. We are blest with a generous congregation that allows us to maintain our current budget and fulfill line items on our budgeted expenses as we continue to help our neighbors in need.

Please join us online for our **Thanksgiving Eve Service** on Wednesday, November 25th at 6:15pm. This will be a prerecorded service that you and your family and friends can view at any time after it goes live.

Advent worship series: We look forward to our season of Advent worship experiences entitled, *Be Not Afraid*. These will be online recorded worship experiences for you and your family to view from home. Look for them each Wednesday during Advent.

Wishing you all a blessed Thanksgiving!

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 Good People of Shepherd,

Anticipation. That is my star word for 2020, you remember those little stars we draw from on Epiphany, the first Sunday of the year, those little stars with a word written on them to focus on and guide us through the coming year. Anticipation. How boring, how not me. Or so I originally thought as I stared at my word after pulling it out, kind of regretting the fact that I told everyone they couldn't put theirs back to draw a new one. Would anyone notice if I did? However, this year has been filled with anticipation. Such as, what does it mean to be in a global pandemic? How do I alter youth ministry to be 100% virtual and will anyone even engage? How do I teach Zoom to people while on Zoom, will anyone even show up? When will we be back in person? How do we keep people safe? And on and on my anticipations about tomorrow go.



Sister Tashina Good
Deacon | 651.288.2261
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Anticipation is also how my (and hopefully your) calendar year will end. Anticipation is what Advent is all about. Advent, that month-long time between Thanksgiving and Christmas when we put up our trees and get all our shopping done and prepare for family gatherings. Advent is meant to be a time of anticipation for the coming of Jesus into our midst, the coming of God into flesh, the coming of the Word into our likeness.

This is a time easily filled with Christmas planning, and shopping, and decorating, and my favorite: cookie making. However, Advent isn't actually about preparing for the celebration of Christmas. Christmas has twelve days of celebrating and fun. (For real! And we end it so soon most years.) Advent is about the anticipation of God coming into our lives. It is about preparing our hearts more so than our homes.

November 29th will be the First Sunday in Advent. The important question, I think, is what is the difference between preparing and anticipating God coming into our lives and getting ready for Christmas? The only answer that I have is that it is all about our frame of mind. When I think about the anticipation of Christmas I think about family dynamics at the dinner table, I worry if the gifts I purchase will be just right for my nieces and nephews, I fret about writing the perfect children's message for Christmas Eve and how are we going to do Christmas Eve worship during a global pandemic. However, when I think about the anticipation of God entering the world and breaking through the barriers I put up, to enter my life right here and right now, it feels different. It causes me to want to go for a walk, breathe in fresh air, and witness the beauty of creation. It causes me to pause. It causes me to remember that devotion I started a few months ago that has tapered off, and kick starts me back into giving God space in my day each day. It causes me to wonder where I fit in the grand scheme of cosmos, and am I fulfilling the purpose God has created me to do.

This in-breaking of God made flesh, this reminder that God is not elusive or obscure or only present in our lives when we decide, but instead this ever present, all-encompassing love that shines not only on us but through us onto others. This God that desires for us not just to come to church sometimes but yearns for a deep and intimate relationship with us all of the time, in all of the areas of our lives.

This is Advent. It isn't meant to be guilt-ridden or anxiety-producing or worrisome. Advent is this Holy and wholly encompassing of the realization of God in our lives and discovering how we respond to that, as our complete and whole authentic selves, right here and right now. It is raw. It is beautiful. And dear friends, I am excited with the anticipation of stepping into this strange Advent season alongside you all as we discover this in ourselves, and as a community... as a whole.

See you in church,
Sister Tashina



"Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King, His love endures forever, For He is good, He is above all things, His love endures forever"¹ Forever – Chris Tomlin

Greetings siblings,

Admittedly, I am not much for mainstream Christian music; the lyrics don't often resonate and the theology isn't always helpful to me. My musical forays tend to land closer to early 2000's punk or classic rock. If I do listen to music with a spiritual feel, I spend my time on a Spotify playlist titled "Hymns for Hipsters." All that is to say there are exceptions to every rule. Chris Tomlin's song *Forever* is one of those songs that gives me pause.

Brice Bloxham
Associate Pastor

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Each year as we approach the onset of the holiday season, we work toward meal planning, prepping, and setting. This year gatherings will look different but the same theme remains: Thankfulness. Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday hands down, and it has everything to do with the food. Thanksgiving is a chance to gather with those we love and eat together. Some gather with one another around a table with a feast that resembles Rockwellian art while others sit on couches. Kids play underfoot, giggling, football is watched, and thanks are given. The reason we gather is for the food. The reason for the food is to give thanks.

I think it's only fitting that we kick off our holiday season in a time of celebration, gift giving, new beginnings, love, and so many other things with an opportunity to give thanks. The shopping season for Christmas and the commercialism that follows is extending back to well beyond September. I have seen holiday displays up since late July! Nevertheless, our gatherings at the end of November no matter how muted they may be, how few people are able to attend, how many people feel uncomfortable being near others outside of their bubbles, the same reason still exists to celebrate: Thankfulness. We can't kick off our season of celebration until we first pause and give thanks.

What are you going to give thanks for this November? I would implore us all to go deeper and beyond the civic engagement that currently surrounds us. The electoral process is incredibly important and I would never seek to diminish the power of the vote and our voice. But, fellow beloveds, our God has done so much for us that merits rejoicing! For what will you pause and give thanks?

Will you give thanks for continued health? How about more time outside? Working from home, spending less time in the car?

For me this year, I think I will give thanks for awareness of the limited time I was able to spend with the family members outside my own home. Not because I prefer not to be with them, on the contrary. Because of COVID we have had to intentionally pick and choose, limit and distance the times we spent together. I wasn't able to take for granted those times like I normally would.

No matter what you give thanks for, our thanks should be directed to our God, who's love truly does endure forever. These are not idle words that we use casually. They are the bedrock of our faith. Our faith tells us that we are a forgiven people who depend on the grace of a Savior whose sacrifice allows us to live as the reconciled people we are. That sacrifice can only come from a place of love.

So give thanks, not because we have to but because we can.

PB

Mark 13:33 | Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.



Joseph Trucano
Director of Music and Worship
651.288.2254

Dear friends,

What day is it again? What month? Snow is in the forecast and yet it feels like the entirety of a year has gone by in the blink of an eye. We start Advent soon, but if I'm honest, this whole year feels like it has been one giant season of waiting. And anticipation. And hope. And disappointment. And more waiting...

And in all of this waiting, I think we've all become more appreciative of the small things in our lives that give us hope. I know I have. Thanksgiving. Christmas. Cuddling with pets. Seeing friends and family (even if just over Zoom). The new and creative plans we've made that provide anchors in this time of perpetual standstill.

There are so many beautiful things to look forward to. And the depth of creativity that goes into planning life and events around a global pandemic is unfathomable. Your staff at Shepherd has been working hard to be as creative as we can be in this time. There are

several things I'm looking forward to this month:

Sunday, November 1 (9AM):

All Saints Taize Service

This service will feature a string quartet, Koreann, and beautiful prayer-songs from the Taize tradition as we commemorate those we have lost this past year.

Tuesday, November 10 (7PM):

Solo Organ Recital by Yours Truly

I will be presenting an in-person and livestreamed organ recital at Shepherd as part of our Song of Shepherd series! Be sure to watch our Facebook page for more information regarding the recital and to find the live stream video!

We're all waiting. But we are waiting together, and I hope you will join us. It might not be how we've always done things, but perhaps part of the beauty of the times we're living in will be found among us.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Joe

Change to Electronic Giving

We will be transitioning from Vanco Payment Systems to Simple Church Giving by the end of the calendar year. Simple Church is the main program that we use to manage our database, registrations, and contributions. I found that during the pandemic we need to reevaluate all of our vendors and focus on what Shepherd needs and how to manage our systems in a more efficient, cost conscious manner. So a few questions I'd like to address that you may have.

How will this be done? I'll be contacting you each individually to get permission to switch you over to the new system. Due to all donations occurring on different timelines, please be patient if you are not contacted for a few weeks.

Why is this change occurring? This change was made to help save Shepherd the cost of the rising transaction fees, streamlining our contribution and accounting systems and reducing the risk for human error.

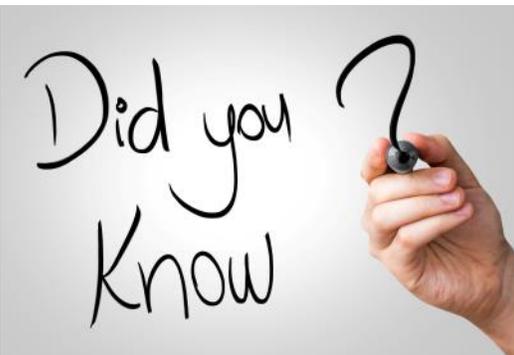
Is this new vendor safe? Yes, this company has gone through the stringent guidelines for electronic services.

Can I still give via text? Yes, in the next few weeks there will be a new text to give number available that you may use.

One more thing— with Simple Church we also have the capability of having an app that you can monitor your giving, give on the app and also some fun new features that information will be coming out soon.



Miranda Oliver
Director of Operations
651.288.2255
Operations
@shepherdshoreview.org



- There are only 61 days left in the calendar year? Donations to Shepherd can be accepted in person up until Noon on December 31st or postmarked by December 31st. Electronic giving can be done at any time.
- If you are a Thrivent member you may be able to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars directly to Shepherd. Check out our website for more information sohsv.org/giving
- If you shop with Amazon there is a way for a portion of your purchases to come back to Shepherd. See our giving page on the website for information on this as well.

How can one support Shepherd financially?

- Mail in your offertory envelopes
- 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](#).





Jilene Ylonen
Preschool Director
651.288.2256
preschool@shepherdshoreview.org

As I began thinking about writing this article about gratefulness, the first thing that came to mind was our preschool staff. Last March, we had to make decisions as to how we were going to continue teaching and meeting the needs of our students. We had a small group here and had a large number of students online.

As a staff, we came together to not only provide care for our students here but also to those who were at home. We created at-home bags, discovered Zoom and how it worked, created at-home videos and distance learning lessons for our students.

When rolling out our plan, they all jumped on board and made this time a success. They shifted as we needed to shift, we celebrated the 2019-20 year from a distance, ran a summer program, and now began the 2020-21 school year. All of this happened because of our team!

Each and every morning, I spend time praying for our students, families, and staff and ask God to be with us throughout the day. I thank Him for the privilege I have been given, working with our staff, students, and their families. I am very grateful for the Shepherd community and the many blessings I have been granted over the years.



Youth Ministry @Shepherd

CONFIRMATION IN NOVEMBER

Wednesday Evenings beginning at 6:30PM

FOCUS: Pentateuch: Moses, the Law, and the Israelite people

4th—Lesson—Large group via zoom

11th—Small Group Time—Onsite/Social Distancing @Shepherd

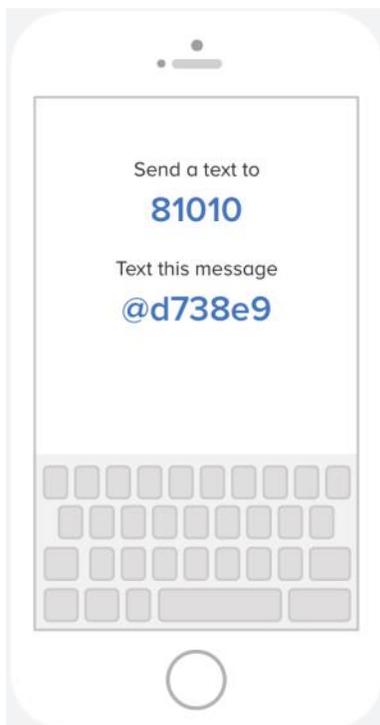
18th—Individual Project Week

25th—Presentation of Projects—Onsite/Social Distancing @Shepherd

ReFUEL IN NOVEMBER

- November 11th—Backyard Bonfire, Bible Study & Fellowship
- November 20th—Bible & Breakfast Event
- November 25th—Backyard Bonfire, Bible Study & Fellowship
- One-on-One Coffee or Ice Cream with Sister T...judgement free check in and hang out with free ice cream or coffee!
- This month we are beginning weekly virtual discussions. A video will be sent out on Sundays and throughout the week we will use Discord to engage in conversation. Contact Sister T to get on our Discord platform.

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

Weekly Bible Study: Wednesdays at 1pm at *Shepherd on the back deck (if it is too cold we will move inside Shepherd's Hall so bring your masks!)* and 6:30pm via Zoom. Join us to discuss the upcoming scripture text and learn together.

Shepherd's Book Study Fall 2020: Once we have gathered and opened in prayer we will break off into two groups based on the book folks have chosen to read.

Our Book Options:

- Dear Church by Rev. Lenny Duncan
- White Fragility by Robin Diangelo

We meet at both Wednesday at 2:30pm and Thursday at 6:30pm every other week. Both times will have the same questions and focus so choose the time that works best for you. Both of these will be via Zoom at this time.

November Schedule:

November 11th at 2:30 pm or November 12th 6:30 pm - Discussing:

If you are reading Dear Church: Chapter 6 & 7

If you are reading White Fragility: Chapters 7 & 8

Skipping Thanksgiving Week we will be back on December 2nd & 3rd

Update 11.1.2020

Appreciating our time together, no matter how it may be...

At this time of Thanksgiving, we are very appreciative of the Shepherd community. Being able to come together, however it may be, and share our faith as something that together we can all be grateful for. As the times change, so does our church, as we come together in how we serve the greater community.



Here are the recent changes that Shepherd has adopted in these changing times.

Our worship: Starting November 1, Indoor Worship and Online Worship! As listed in last month's update, we are moving to this new format. If anyone is uncomfortable with the guidelines, or chooses not to follow them, we ask you to please consider protecting the congregation by worshipping at home; as we will continue to live stream our services. Also, if you are in a high-risk category (and for your own safety) please join us via our live streaming of the service. Our goal as a congregation is to protect each other from contracting COVID-19. We need to be willing to take precautions to protect each other, the community and ourselves. These guidelines can be found on our website under sohsv.org/RSVP. Worshipping on-site is a decision you and your family will need to prayerfully make. Some of you will decide to return to the sanctuary for worship, and some of you will choose to remain at home for worship. Either way you choose, God is still speaking among us. Be well and know that you are greatly loved!

Our building: We have made some changes to our heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC). We have added an ionizer onto our sanctuary system that will continuously be helping to provide cleaner air for all of those using that space. We have also installed many touchless hand sanitizer stations throughout the building and floor decals reminding all to stay at safely socially distant. We have some groups that have moved back into the building and please know that we are doing whatever we can to ensure that we are following the best protocols of this pandemic.

Our (other) gatherings: Wednesday 1:00 Bible Study has now moved to the narthex. Please enter in Door A and as a friendly reminder, masks are required. 6:30 pm bible study is still available on Zoom each week. Book Studies are also on Zoom and information is on our website under Adult Faith Formation. Coffee & Donuts is also continuing and will be offered online on Zoom. See the eNews for information on this.

As always, we appreciate all of your flexibility in the continuous changes and supporting each other in being the church.

In God's Peace, Your Shepherd Staff

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



SCANDINAVIAN DINNER

UFFDAH!!

Our 33 annual Scandinavian Dinner will ne held next year Thursday, December 2nd, 2021! This year stay home, stay safe, and stay healthy! We are strong Scandinavians and can do this!!



I do have an idea. How about a drive to the Day Fish company in Day, MN (near Mora & Beaham) to buy skinless Lutefisk and pickled herring. They will open about November 1st. The phone number is 320-983-3408. We also buy the Swedish sausage and Julekage at Cub. Any questions call me...Shirley Carrigan...651-484-6935 or text me 651-442-1542.

Through the years we have been able to donate \$1,500-\$3,000 each year to our beloved church. Yesterday I received a letter from Shepherd about the Hindsight 20/20 Campaign and decided one thing I could do was make a donation in honor of our Scandinavian traditions and ancestors this year.

My family an I will so miss our dinner on December 3, 2020 and look forward to Thursday, December 2nd 2021!!!

Mange TAKK
Shirley Carrigan and family



2020 SHEPHERD'S POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER

Please consider purchasing for your family
or donating to beautify Shepherd's Sanctuary.

Proceeds will be used for the Preschool program.

Red, Pink, or White Poinsettias \$15.00 each

Please indicate a quantity

Red Pink White

Please indicate either personal use or donation:

- Personal (may be picked up on Friday, December 4 from 1-4 pm)
 Donate to Shepherd for use in the Sanctuary

CONTACT DETAILS

NAME

EMAIL OR PHONE

FOR DONATION TO SHEPHERD FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATING:

PLEASE CIRCLE AND INDICATE IN MEMORY/IN CELEBRATION/IN HONOR OF.

IN MEMORY

IN CELEBRATION

IN HONOR

PLEASE LIST NAMES OR WHAT IN CELEBRATION OF

Payment must accompany order form or be done on Shepherd's website sohsv.org/giving
either mail to Shepherd at 3920 North Victoria Street, Shoreview, MN 55126 or
email with electronic payment indicated to staff@shepherdshoreview.org

Deadline of Sunday, November 22nd

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

THANKS GIVING WORSHIP

*Bring your own pie & Join us for our
Virtual Thanksgiving Worship Service
Premiering Online November 25 @6:15PM*

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP INFO:

- Premiering Wednesdays Nov 25-Dec 23 at 6:15pm on Shepherd's Facebook page, YouTube page, and at SOHSV.org
- Videos will be available online indefinitely
- Worship will have a Family Faith Engagement Moment for families of ALL shapes & sizes.
- Pick up your Faith Engagement Supplies for Nov 25 anytime on or after Nov 8 at Shepherd.
- Supplies needed for Dec 2-23 are a Bible and safe candle of some kind.

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

FAMILY-FOCUSED ADVENT WEDNESDAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Nov 25 - Thanksgiving Eve

Dec 2 - The Hopes and Fears of
All the Years

Dec 9 - Fear of Disappointment

Dec 16 - Fear of Change

Dec 23 - Fear of a Ruined
Reputation

PREMIERING ONLINE WEDNESDAYS IN DECEMBER @6:15PM





Connect with Us

Website: sohsv.org

Phone: 651.483.5419

Email: staff@shepherdshoreview.org

Office Hours

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

Need a Prayer?

Contact Michelle at 651-483-5419 (Monday-Thursday)
office@shepherdshoreview.org
or any of our staff at
staff@shepherdshoreview.org
We will respond and send it out.

