

# Shepherd's Voice



**October 2021**



**Renee Patterson**  
**Senior Pastor**

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## WHAT IS YOUR STORY?

I just returned from a whirlwind trip of a lifetime through Ireland and Scotland. It is a land that is filled with breathtaking views of rolling hills and highlands and lots of sheep...LOTS of sheep 😊. It is also a place that has story after story of their people and how they fit into this beautiful and full history. I heard one of those stories on our first night stay in Ireland in the Clontarf Castle (pic above). This is the site of the Battle of Clontarf and has been a castle site since 1172! It has a fascinating history of people that are connected to that castle story and how it is all connected to the bigger story of Ireland.

I have been pondering how we are all part of a bigger story. I have always had this sense that my life is part of something bigger than what I can see....bigger than being Lutheran, even bigger than being Christian. There is a correlation to when I've forgotten my connection to this bigger story and the times when I've felt the least direction in life. Whether I have been navigating a season of excitement or trials, it's always been my grip on what I call the Big Story, or the Big Story's grip on me, that has helped me make sense of life's ups and downs....or helped me remember that there is a place for me in the Big Story no matter what I am experiencing.

So, what sort of story are you in? Do you feel a connection to the wider world in your story, and if not, why not? This is the question I believe everyone should be pondering. I think that this is the question everyone on the planet needs to wrestle. My conviction is that only one story is big enough to address/explain all the beauty and all the brokenness we see in this world, to make sense of our desires, dreams, and disappointments. And that is God's Story for all of humanity. God's Big Story is always one of redemption and redirection towards a renewed creation and WE are part of that amazing Story. In an all too myopic understanding of autonomy that seems to be (over) valued, I believe that we lose our sense of connectedness to each other (and the parts we are called to play) in the Big Story that God has created for this world.

Over and over, we hear in God's Word that WE are part of a bigger Story, and that each one of us plays a part in this grand Story plot. So, my fellow Story-mates, how might a renewed understanding of the part *you* play in this Big Story change how you operate and move in this world? How might a filter of grace (our Lutheran story) alter how you see other people in this Story plot that we share together? And to what action might it call each one of us for the sake of the Story? One thing I know for sure, God is a fantastic playwright who has written a part just for you! Praise be to God!

Playing my part, Pastor Renee

## Shepherd's Governing Board

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ~ 1 Peter 4:10*

### **Rally Sunday and continuing our Season of Service**

September 19 was a beautiful late summer morning, and Shepherd's grounds were crowded with people listening to some of our community mission partners, discussing service kits with members of the Joy Team, working on a Global Health Ministries service project, and eating delicious food from two food trucks. A large bouncy house was available for kids of all ages.

The following mission partners spoke to Shepherd people during the donut hour:

Maggie Mau from Bridging, a local organization that helps furnish homes for people transitioning from homelessness.

Amy from 21 Root Farm. She was joined by Noah Anderson from Shepherd in discussing this farm that raises fresh food for food shelves.

John Sheck from Global Health Ministries, which sends donated medical supplies around the world. Thanks to Tim Faacks for picking up the boxes and to Anna Gutzwiller, Dave Marx, and Sarah Koepp for their professional expertise as a group worked on sorting medical supplies during donut hour.

Kay Kuehn from Open Hands Midway described their services to the disadvantaged in the Midway area of St. Paul.

Pete Evanson from Holy Hammers with Habitat for Humanity.

The Season of Service continues through Sunday, October 3. Leftover kits will be left on tables in the narthex, and people can drop off finished kits in the gray bin near the tables.

### **Trunk 'n Treat on October 31**

October 31 is Reformation Sunday— & Halloween! Trunk 'n Treat is a free family event for trick or treaters from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM in a safe and fun environment. We are looking for 30-35 Shepherd members who can volunteer their car trunk and Halloween candy for the event. Please contact the church office if interested.

### **Raise funds using Amazon Smile**

With the holidays just around the corner, many of you may order a gift or two from Amazon. If you do, please consider signing up for [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile), and list Shepherd as your charity of choice. Shepherd has earned \$847.24 since August 2016 from the program, which directs 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Shepherd's account. We can do much better than that! All you have to do is visit [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and sign up.

### **Governing Board Nominations committee is regrouping**

Vice-chair Deb Kohen is gathering volunteers to serve on the Nominations committee to nominate people to join the Governing Board in 2022. If you feel called to serve on the Nominations committee or the Board, please contact Deb or any other GB member.

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

Hello Shepherd Folks,

What does it mean to you to be Lutheran? Just this past week I was meeting with one of our confirmands talking about their faith statement. We were discussing what brought us to the Lutheran faith and what keeps us there.



**Sister Tashina Good**  
**Deacon**

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For me it has always been acceptance of not knowing all the answers, leaning into the mystery of God. That in this not knowing, questions and wonderment are welcome! Grace upon grace abounds through it all, into every crack and corner of our lives. Other faith traditions, other Christian denominations, all have their good parts for sure. But even when I have struggled with my faith, no other way has given me the freedom to be as fully myself as the Lutheran tradition has. Perhaps you haven't had a lengthy conversation with me around such things, but those of you who have know how much I love to ask many questions. With that I never promise answers just good conversation. Because just like in matters of science, my faith is always changing and growing with each new thing I learn or discover. I could have easily, at any point in my life, determined that what I knew about God and my faith was sufficient and stood my ground when met with opposing views. Yet God is so much bigger than anything I could possibly understand. Being in a tradition that accepts that wholeheartedly, as well as accepting me with all my questions and wonderment, feels like home.

I think that is why I am so drawn to Confirmation. It is said that teaching is the greatest way to learn. And golly, I just love the wonderment of others who are learning and what they bring to the table when it comes to our faith. Questions like: Can God come to us through other faith backgrounds and why does God let bad things happen and how does salvation actually work...are just some of many I hear from our confirmands. I delight in the discussions we can have around what can possibly be, what does scripture say and how can we interpret it in our lives. And so much more! It fills my soul to accompany other wanderers as we explore the amazement of what God is doing in our lives and around the world and how we might make sense of it. Confirmation has got to be one of my very favorite places to be.

The old green hymnal (and yes, I know it is not the oldest), formally known as the Lutheran Book of Worship or LBW, states that Confirmation is something that can be done at any time in our life and can be done frequently. The affirmation of our faith can take place at any and every turn in our life journey. And here at Shepherd we welcome any and all to join in our learning time at Confirmation. Age and experience do not bar you from coming to discuss what the Apostles Creed means or joining in the fellowship and games as we grow in our understanding of God's call for us to be in relationship with one another.

So, I welcome you to join us. Especially on the first Wednesday of each month as we dive into the month's large group lesson time, whether you join in person or online. Just ask for the Zoom link and I will send it your way! Everyone at Shepherd is welcome in that space. AND if you aren't sure how you would answer the question, "What does it mean to you to be Lutheran?" This just might be the exact right space for you! We would love to ponder that question with you!

See you in church,  
Sister Tashina



**Brice Bloxham**  
**Associate Pastor**

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We have talked about the solas before, during a Lenten series, I believe in 2019. We discussed the finer points of sola scriptura (by scripture alone), sola fide (by faith alone), sola gratia (by grace alone), sola Christus (by Christ alone), sola Deo gloria (glory to God alone). Each of these solas represent a key belief in our Lutheran theology. Looking at each of these we can easily see how, yes, of course these are each important for us in our theology and our individual faiths and components of our salvation. Without one the rest would be difficult to understand, attain, and maintain. As I look at these solas I can't help find that, while each are vitally important, one

resonates more with me than others: sola gratia. For our October newsletter, we decided is our month to reflect on our lives as Lutherans and what living Lutheran looks like. For me, of those five it is Grace that stands out.

As I write this article, I also have a word doc open for my October Confirmation lesson. I'm teaching on the second tablet of the ten commandments, four – ten to be precise. As I prep, I can't help but become engrossed in the explanations of the commandments written by Martin Luther. He dives into each one of them and lays out a broader understanding, reminding us that there is far more to them than the few words etched on those first tablets. What's more is that in each of those we can easily see God's loving embrace flowing through and reminding us that even though we are called to care for our neighbor, so too are they called to care for us. In all of that, we do it because God first set that example for us. The currents of grace do not just run through God's laws for us they are present in the sacraments as well. When I chat with families about baptism it's typically to ones with young children. In those meetings I remind them that their child, while young, has not had a chance to really mess up. That time will come soon enough, they will fight with a sibling, color on the walls with a crayon, or refuse to listen to them. However, in that, they as parents will still forgive them, still love them, still be there for them because that is what a parent does. Loves.

In reading more deeply into the commandments, we see that these seven are all solely about caring for and respecting our neighbor, as well as offering reminders present and inherent that we are not expected to be perfect. That is, simply put, the gift of grace. There is no expectation of perfection from our God where we are concerned. Trying and working toward the furthering of our God's kingdom, yes, but being perfect does not figure in. For me, this is why grace alone is so important to me.

Which of the five solas stand out most to you? Find me this month and let's chat about it.

Found with you, in Christ,

PB

## Greetings, Shepherd Community!



I took a picture of Marlys Benshoof-Smith one Easter. She was singing “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” with the choir and congregation and her face was full of confidence and joy. Her smile, her very self, shone!

Whenever I see that picture now, it’s a reminder of the confidence we have as Lutherans that we are indeed saved by grace - that grace being the unending belief in God’s love in us through Jesus. We can, as C.J. Mahaney once said, “approach the throne with confidence” because of that grace.



**Jean Johnson**  
**Interim Director of Music and**  
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One of my favorite Lutheran theologians (Pastor Brian Mundt) says, “God is for you. No “ifs, ands, or buts” about it.”

Think of the confidence and joy around Shepherd. To me, of course, the music and worship components tell us every time we are together that we have reason to be grace-filled and grateful.

Such as...

Listening to the wonderful organ preludes and hymn arrangements Melanie Ohnstad has been playing lately.

Recalling (and soon... hopefully, soon!) hearing the Celebration Choir sing “Go Now in Peace” or some hand clapping versions of “This Little Light of Mine.”

JuBELLation. Honestly, there are times when it seems angels are playing the bells with the ringers. The music floats in the air. Can you feel it?

Praise Band jamming. Watching their faces and smiles as another song comes together. Watch Dave Svendsen someday and see his face concentrating and rejoicing all at the same time. And how Dick Timp jams on those drums, and Rob Caldow so gracefully holds up the guitar lines, and all the singers blend their voices into the mix. And how I get to enjoy dancing around the keyboard.

Even with masks muffling some of the sounds of the congregation, it’s glorious to hear voices singing and speaking together.

We are surrounded with grace—through music, one another, Good News proclaimed. Imagine Marlys and sing along with her, “Jesus Christ is risen today. ALLELUIA!”

Big time ALLELUIA - God IS for YOU!

Grateful for grace,  
Jean

As a Lutheran and more specifically, “as members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.” (ELCA website)

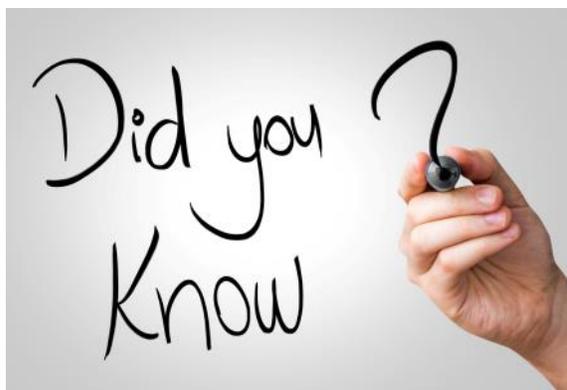


**Miranda Oliver**  
**Director of Operations**  
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Opera-

How do we respond to God’s call to serve and love our neighbors? “We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us. Although some think of stewardship as only a financial response to God’s love, stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is about how we use all that God has entrusted to our care — our time, our talents and our treasures — to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church walls and our homes.” (ELCA website)

For me, that stewardship means many things. Loving and caring for others is so important. Yes, the church needs the income to engage mission and outreach programs, to be able to employ staff, maintain the building, and pay the mortgage. However, it also means to me that a church and more importantly the people in that church care for one another. We might not have the same backgrounds, experiences or political views but the respect that we show one another in honoring those many things shows that we care. During this pandemic, personally, it has been a very trying time. After all, I am the one that is supposed to look out for the best interests of Shepherd, the Shepherd community and be the one who monitors and follows the ever-changing world of rules, mandates and laws. Many times, I have been challenged by those responsibilities and ask for grace as we continue to move through the pandemic.

So, it is a broad view when thinking about our lives together as Lutherans around all that we have and all that we are. We share those gifts that Christ has given us so freely. Some may not have a lot of wiggle room in their budget; others may be lacking free time. Whatever the gifts of time, talent and treasures that you have, being able to see how each one of us can uniquely share those gifts with others is what I think the core of being a Lutheran is all about.



- Shepherd has an app. We have been using it for over a year now. It is easy to set-up, free and also lists the directory all from your mobile device. Let me know if you have questions.
- Shepherd is starting to increase our social media presence. Yes, we use Facebook and YouTube but did you know that we also have an Instagram page?

### 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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Our article this month is to describe what being a Lutheran means to us and how this is displayed in our role here at Shepherd. Our Lutheran faith empowers us to express love and grace to our neighbors. To me, our neighbors are our children and their families we serve.

It is truly a blessing to meet the children and their families in our community here at Shepherd and in our Preschool. The mission statement of the preschool is to reach, empower, and ignite children for Christ. We have the opportunity to share our Lutheran faith with these children each and every day. We pray in the morning for our friends who are ill, we thank God for our food at mealtimes, we incorporate Bible Stories in our curriculum, attend Chapel weekly, and complete service projects for those in our community. These are obvious ways we can share our Lutheran faith with our students, but the most important way we share our faith is through the love we display to all our students.

Our preschool staff each are engaged and active teammates in our students' lives. They teach our students how to love one another by displaying it in our classrooms. We teach our students to care for one another, to apologize when we have made a mistake, to have patience, show kindness, to share, that we are safe, and most of all that Jesus is in our hearts always. This grace that we foster in each child as they relate to others that they meet in our preschool is a beautiful core to our faith as Lutherans.

Grace and Peace to you all,

Jilene



Look! We're baking together!



We are creating our friendship circle.



We are creating flowers!



We're working together to create fall collages!

# Youth Ministry @Shepherd

Stay informed via  
Instagram: @youthshepherd

## Confirmation in October

6:30-8pm Wednesday evenings at Shepherd  
FOCUS: The 10 Commandments (4-10—Love Others)  
2 Day Retreat onsite at Shepherd  
6 Lesson—Youth & Parents  
13 Small Group Time  
20 Individual Project Week—No in person gathering  
27 9<sup>th</sup> Graders: Confirmation Service Prep/  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders: Presentation of Projects  
31 Confirmation Sunday

# 2021-2022

2nd & 4th Wednesdays 6:30-8PM



## October

3 Sunday @11am - 2022 Summer Trip  
Info Meeting

13 - ReFuel: Reconnecting  
27 - ReFuel: Boundless Love 1

## November

Peer Ministry Retreat Date TBD

10 - ReFuel: Boundless Love 2  
24 - Worship & Pies for Praise

## December

8 - Worship & ReFuel: Boundless  
Creation 1  
22 - Worship & Christmas Party

## January

12 - ReFuel: Boundless Creation 2  
26 - ReFuel: Boundless Forgiveness 1

## February

Lock-In Date TBD

9 - ReFuel: Boundless Forgiveness 2  
23 - ReFuel: Boundless Invitation 1

## March

9 - Worship & ReFuel: Boundless  
Invitation 2  
23 - Worship & ReFuel Boundless  
Promise 1

## April

13 - Refuel: Game Night  
27 - ReFuel: Boundless Promise 2

## May

11 - ReFuel: Topic TBD  
25 - End of the Year Party

# ADULT *Faith* FORMATION

**Weekly Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 1 pm  
IN PERSON outside on the side lawn or in the  
Narthex and at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Join us to  
discuss the upcoming scripture text and learn  
together.

**OUTDOOR Donut Time:** Join us each Sunday  
for our Donut Time after indoor worship in the  
parking lot from 9 am-10 am!

**Pour Theology October 14th:** We will be  
meeting at Shore96, where we have their patio  
reserved. Shepherd will be providing appetizers  
and any non-alcoholic beverages.

The pastoral team will always have conversation  
topic options ready but our hope is to chat  
around questions or wonderings you may have  
about the church, God, and the Bible.

## **FALL 2021 Shepherd's Women's Retreat!**

**Dates:** October 22nd 6 pm – 24th 11am, 2021

**Location:** Luther Crest Bible Camp—Offering  
modern hotel style rooms and amazing work  
with meeting dietary needs with tasty food!

**Cost:** \$145 (Register by Oct 6) \$45 for  
Saturday food and supplies only no  
overnights.

**Programming:** We are SOOO very excited for  
The Rev. Susan Miller an amazing Spiritual  
Director and ELCA pastor to be joining us. We  
are looking forward to a time centered on  
Spiritual Care and Self-Learning.

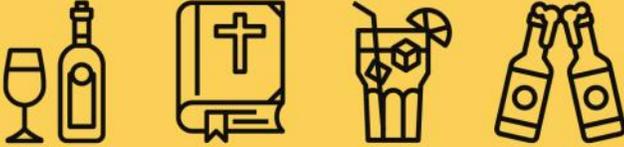
**Registration:** [CLICK HERE](#)

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

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS PRESENTS

## POUR THEOLOGY

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**SHORE96 6:30-8pm**  
**Sept 16 - Oct 14 - Nov 18**

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JOIN US FOR A TIME OF AGENDA FREE CONVERSATION  
AROUND THINGS YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT  
THE BIBLE, CHURCH, OR GOD.

APPETIZERS AND GOOD CONVERSATION ON US  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON YOU



# SHEPHERD'S FALL 2021 SEASON OF SERVICE

SEPT 12 - OCT 3

WE HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF SERVICE OPTIONS  
FOR FAMILIES, GROUPS, AND INDIVIDUALS



God has called us to love our neighbor and twice a year our Shepherd community takes intentional time to practice this work through our Season of Service.

Our Season of Service continues through October 3rd above are some pictures of our acts of service. You can still participate by serving a local organization or simply helping a neighbor in need. Any act of service counts and we want to hear about it! Post about your Season of Service acts on social media with the #ShepherdService2021 or email us about it at [staff@shepherdshoreview.org](mailto:staff@shepherdshoreview.org)



**RALLY**  
*Sunday*  
**AT SHEPHERD**



# Shepherd's Annual Trunk 'n Treat

FAITHFUL CONNECTION EVENT

A FREE SOCIALLY  
DISTANCED  
EXPERIENCE FOR  
ALL AGES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31ST  
12:30 - 2:30 PM

SOHSV.ORG



**All are invited, young and . . . not so young  
to our safe and family friendly trunk or treating event!**

**Join us on Halloween,**

**October 31st from 12:30-2:30 pm**

**for Shepherd's Trunk 'n Treat.**

**Families will go trick or treating around the parking lot,  
visiting members' car trunks.**

**We are in need of many car trunks to be adorned**

**in Halloween/Fall themed décor**

**to participate in handing out treats.**

**Please contact Pastor Brice Bloxham**

**([pastorbrice@shepherdshoreview.org](mailto:pastorbrice@shepherdshoreview.org))**

**for more information or to volunteer.**

**See you on the 31st!**

## 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 651-288-2255**

**All schedule rotations are set to fit your availability!**



**We have immediate needs for:**

**Ushers & Greeters**

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**Parking Lot Attendants**

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**Scripture Readers**

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**Donut Table Hosts**

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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Renee Patterson

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*Our App*