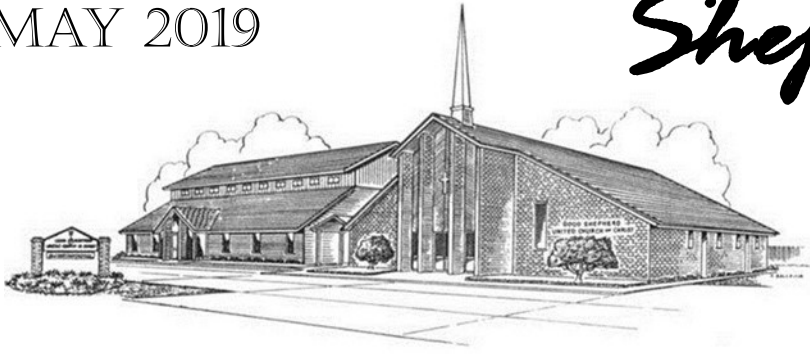


MAY 2019

Shepherd's Voice



The monthly parish newsletter of
GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

WHAT WE BELIEVE...

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down
from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver
of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son
who with the Father and the Son is wor-
shiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the for-
giveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

THE CHURCH AS HOSPITAL

Recently, I took a selfie in front of Good Shepherd Church and posted it on Facebook. In the picture, I made certain to capture the name of our church because I wanted to use it as an evangelization tool. I posted the picture with a caption that read "I'd consider it a blessing if you joined us for worship on Sunday at 10:00 AM. We're not a hotel for saints; we're a hospital for sinners and we love visitors! 5122 W. Esplanade Avenue in Metairie."

Now, truth be told, I don't believe that post resulted in a single one of my Facebook "friends" who aren't already members of GSC, coming to church that Sunday. However, having said that, I was also amazed at the reactions that the post stirred. It got a bunch of "thumbs up LIKES" and that's great, but more specifically, what really caught my attention was the number of times the post was reposted, or "shared," to use a Facebook term, by folks who ARE NOT members of Good Shepherd Church. In fact, more than a couple of my Facebook friends who shared the post are actually stalwart members of their own particular congregations—yet, they felt moved to share my shameless attempt to market Good Shepherd Church. One friend who clicked "LIKE" even wrote a comment that REALLY caught my attention. He said "I know this man; He means it." Now, let me state for the record, I'm not tossing out that quote to make me look good. I'm tossing out that quote, because not only is the gentleman who made it NOT a member of our church, but he's not even a Christian—he's a Jew!

In the days after I made that post, I ended up talking to a few friends who reposted and commented, and I thanked them for their support of my ministry and the ministry of our church.

Continued on page 2

I even asked a few, "Since I was clearly attempting to promote the church I pastor, and you're a very active member/leader of the church you attend, what made you repost my attempt to advertise Good Shepherd Church?" Each person answered in essentially the same way. They said something to the effect of "The caption made me do it. When you declared that Good Shepherd Church was a hospital for sinners, I realized that that's what all churches need to be."

What purpose does a hospital serve? One definition of the word I found online simply says a hospital is an institution that provides medical and/or surgical care and treatment, as well as nursing care, for those who are sick or injured.

Isn't that what a church is called to be? An institution that provides care and treatment for those who are sick in our souls and injured in our being? And truth be told, aren't all of us suffering at least a little bit with sinful souls and injured lives?

My friend, Reverend Malcolm Richard, pastors a church in Baton Rouge and their motto is "No perfect people allowed." I love that quote because not only does it speak to the truth of the way a church should operate, but it takes an unnecessary and impossible burden off the church member or church visitor who goes to that church. They don't have to put up a front and pretend to be something they are not. They can go to church, in their sinfully sick, soulfully injured state and receive the life-changing healing treatment that God our Father provides through His Son, Jesus Christ!

It's so important for all who read this to know this fact: You don't need to get yourself perfect to come to church. In fact, you CAN'T get yourself perfect. Only God can perfect you and He actually desires to do that, through the ministry of Christ and His Church. You might already understand this reality, but there's a good chance that there are people that cross your path daily who don't understand this. How are they to know it unless somebody shares it with them? That somebody, may be you!

As we continue to celebrate this joyous Easter season, do yourself a favor if you haven't been to church in a while. Come. It's just that simple. If you're a regular attender, invite someone. There are people in our world, who need to know that there are churches who want to minister to their sick and injured souls with the Truth of God's Word and through His Resurrected Son.

I ask you to also pray for me. Pray that the Lord will continue to give me words that serve as a healing balm for those who are in spiritual pain, and that my ministry in the Name of Jesus Christ, will be for those in need, just what the doctor ordered.

Until next month, let your light shine!

The Reverend Randall Graf
PASTOR

MAY DAYS 2019



- ♦ **National Day of Prayer**, May 3
- ♦ **Cinco de Mayo**, May 5
- ♦ **Mother's Day**, May 12
- ♦ **Armed Forces Day**, May 18
- ♦ **Memorial Day**, May 27
- ♦ **Feast of the Ascension**, May 30



SHEEP IN THE NEWS

By Heidi LaGarde

Congratulations to **Joan Frilot** for achieving straight As at Ecole Classique! We are so proud of you, Joan!

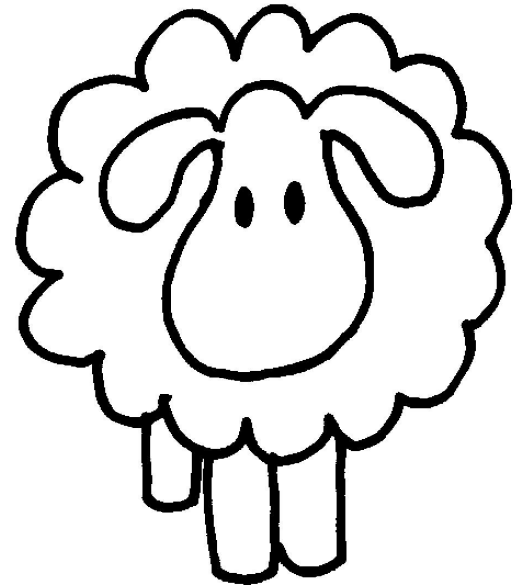
Madi Graf was selected captain of the John Curtis Dance Team. Congrats, Madi! We know this position will make your senior year even better!

Kate Boudreaux, Mr. Stan's granddaughter received the Triple Crown Master Award for her schooling. Congratulations, Kate!

Speaking of grandkids, Mrs. Sharon Wetzel's granddaughter Michelle is graduating this month from LSU with her master's degree in speech and language pathology and her grandson, Jason, is graduating high school from Holy Cross. Jason will be attending Louisiana Tech in Ruston in the Fall.

Finally congrats are in order for **Gabe LaGarde** for achieving A/B Honor Roll at John Curtis Christian School. Keep up the GREAT work Gabe!

Congratulations to all of our sheep!



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH MEMORIAL PRAYER GARDEN

Article and photos by D. J. Estopinal

It has started! Yes, phase one of the GSC Memorial Prayer Garden has been completed.

Phase one of construction, of the Prayer Garden, was getting that old tree taken down, removed and the tree stump ground down. This was completed on Friday, April 5, 2019. In reality, with or without construction of the Prayer Garden, the tree was in a condition that arborists call "end of life" and that was placing it at risk for coming down during a storm--something that could cause significant building damage.



Tree

Tree removed

Load of dirt

Future Site of the Good Shepherd Church Memorial Prayer Garden

Phase two is getting loads of mud to level the area where the Prayer Garden is going to be constructed. Phase two is now in progress as dirt was delivered on April 30. If you can help move sand, Mel Aucoin will be heading the sand moving. He expects it to take several dates, so please let him know if you can lend a hand.

Finally, the Prayer Garden Committee has picked out several beautiful statues and vases for the garden, including a life-sized statue of Jesus kneeling in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane and most of those items have had their costs covered by donations. We need the plants that will go into the Prayer Garden donated, after the construction is completed. If anyone would like to donate items needed or funds for the items still needed for the Prayer Garden or help in its construction, please contact Mel or Margaret Aucoin.



HYMN SING ON MAY 7 AT GSC

Come on out and join us on **Tuesday, May 7** at **2:00 PM** for our monthly *Songs of Celebration and Sanctuary!*

Pianist Ms. Patsy Engles and vocalist Rev. Jerry Bass have some beloved tunes to lead us in singing and this month, it will be a mix of some fun oldies but goodies along with some good old fashioned Gospel tunes! Whether you can sing well or not at all, it doesn't really matter. These monthly programs promise to be a fun time for all who attend!

And as always, after the music program, we'll enjoy some light refreshments in the conference room. Bring a friend and come pass a good time!



GSC MEN'S CLUB NEWS

The next meeting of the GSC Men's Club will be on Monday, May 6 at 6 PM! We hope to see all the guys!

In the month of May, the Men's Club will be announcing an incredibly fun activity for the entire church, as well as for those outside of church. Keep your calendar clear for Saturday evening, June 29! You won't be disappointed!

D.J. Estopinal, President

GSC Men's Club



GSC WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will NOT hold a meeting this month but will have a Mother's Day Banquet on Tuesday, May 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited to come!! All we ask is you bring a covered dish to share!

We will play games and have lots of fun. Please sign your name on the sheet on the Bulletin Board and how many you will have in attendance! Thanks.

Barbara Mehrrens, President

GSC Women's Guild



MISSIONS UPDATE

By Heidi LaGarde

Our Spring mission at Good Shepherd is the **Free Indeed Home**. This organization helps young women who were victims of trafficking. The Free Indeed Home provides housing as well as counseling to help rehabilitate those that have been victimized. If you would like to donate to Free Indeed Home, please place your donation in one of the white envelopes and label it "missions."



MOTHER'S PRAYER GROUD

The next meeting of the Mother's Prayer Group will be held on Tuesday, May 7 at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. All ladies are invited.

For more information, please see Gwenn Martinez.

REMEMBERING EASTER SUNDAY 2019

Article and photos D. J. Estopinal

Sunday, April 21, 2019 was a very special Sunday at Good Shepherd Church. First, it was Easter Sunday. The very special day that we celebrate Jesus Christ's arising from his tomb. The church service that Reverend Graf prepared was especially meaningful and beautiful.

Second, as is the tradition at Good Shepherd Church, was the children decorating a cross with cut flowers. The children did an especially beautiful job.

Upon completion of them decorating the cross, it was carried in a procession by the children, into the church's sanctuary.



Next, this was the first Sunday communion church service that the newly formed "Acolytes" served in our church service.



The "Acolytes" formed a procession at the beginning and end of our service. They also served assisting Pastor Graf during the church service.

The children served as scripture readers, altar servers, torch bearers, during the offering, sang in the choir and assisted Pastor Graf in the preparing of holy communion.





After the church service had ended, the young children of the church were treated to an Easter Egg hunt.

As Pastor has reminded us, Easter isn't a single day—it's a season! Come and continue the Easter celebration with us in worship!

NOTES FROM RINDA

May is a month of both beginnings and endings. Promotions and graduations, planning for new activities and resting after completion of other tasks. I remember several particular dates in May that are significant milestones—my senior voice recital in college followed shortly by graduation, my sisters' graduations from high school and other perhaps less significant happenings, like celebratory parties.

This year our granddaughter will be graduating from high school in a couple of weeks. It reminds me that there is a continuum of time that we are all caught up in. What does that have to do with music? At first glance maybe nothing. But music is always an emotional recording of life happening around us. And I remain convinced that music is a strong element of worship.

How many sermons can you quote? Now, how many hymns can you remember at least one stanza? I can't remember when music has not been a part of my life, first at church and then spilling over into the rest of my life.

My husband and I met in the hallway of the Music Building in college. I enjoy working with the choir at Good Shepherd Church and listening to the congregation behind me in worship. I would love to turn around and look, but that probably wouldn't be a very good idea!

A student gave me a coffee mug that has this quote: "I don't sing because I'm happy, I'm happy because I sing." This is my message for May—sing!

Rinda Coleman

Music Director



LITTLE THINGS

The story is told of a giant tree in Colorado which fell to the ground after having stood majestically on a hill for over 400 years. A mere sapling when Columbus landed in San Salvador, over the centuries it had been struck by lightning 14 times, braved great windstorms, and even defied an earthquake. In the end, however, it was killed by some little beetles. Boring under the bark, they chewed away its mighty fibers until one day that lordly king of the forest came thundering down.

So, too, apparently insignificant things often make substantial inroads into our spiritual lives, and if left unchecked may cause our downfall. The idle word spoken, the prayer time omitted, and the occasional fleshly pleasure indulges—these things "spoil" the vineyard much more than we realize. If Satan gets an entering wedge on inconsistency, the leverage he then exerts is greatly increased.

From BulletinDigest.com

JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD

- * A hug for no reason.
- * Belly laughs.
- * The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- * Smiles and giggles.
- * Mud pies.
- * Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- * Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- * Quiet moments on the couch.
- * Reading aloud together.
- * A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- * Watching your child be kind to another.
- * Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- * A child's look of surprise and joy.
- * A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- * The words "I love you"— and a sticky kiss.

—Unknown



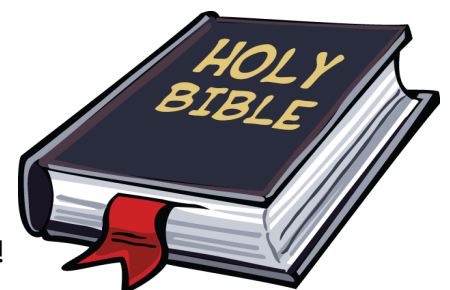
PRAYER REQUESTS

A reminder that you may submit a name or cause to be entered on to the Good Shepherd Church prayer list by completing a prayer card found in the pews and placing the card in the offering plate. Please note that the computer program used to track our prayer listings places a time limit on entries. If a name or cause that was included on the list is no longer listed and you would like it to be, simply complete another prayer card. Likewise, if you would like to update a prayer request and have it removed from the list before it automatically cycles off by reaching its time limit, this too can be done using the pew prayer cards.



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY AT GSC

Good Shepherd Church holds a Bible study every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM in the classroom directly behind the conference room. The current study is focused on the Book of Revelation. Interested participants may enter into the class on any given Sunday. All are welcome!



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH PICNIC

Story and photos by D.J. Estopinal

On Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019, Good Shepherd Church held their church service and annual picnic at the Wally Pontiff Playground, Shelter Number 3 in Metairie. The weather was a little cool with a slight northwesterly breeze, but the sky was a beautiful clear blue. It seemed like all of our church parishioners were in attendance.

The children of the church enjoyed the playground equipment, while the adults caught up on their fellowship with each other. Our own Reverend Graf held the Palm Sunday church service under the playground shelter and Mrs. Rinda Coleman played hymns on an electric piano while the church's choir sang beautifully, as usual.



Good Shepherd Church Palm Sunday Worship Service

At the annual church picnic, April 14, 2019
Wally Pontiff Playground

Mr. Jacob Aucoin BBQ'ed hamburgers and hot dogs, and as usual, did an excellent job. All of the families who attended brought a covered dish. There was more food than could be consumed by twice as many people. Mel and Margaret Aucoin transported and set up all of the needed items from the church. I would like to thank all of the parishioners for a job **WELL** done.

After everyone finished eating, a game of kick ball was played by the adults and children. It seemed that everyone in attendance had a great time.



SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2019

Thursday, May 2 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist (National Day of Prayer)

Sunday, May 5 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, May 7 @ 7:00 PM—Mother's Prayer Group

Thursday, May 9 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

Saturday, May 11 @ 11:00 AM—Monthly Service of Intercessory Prayer

Sunday, May 12 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Worship Service (Mothers Day)

Thursday, May 16 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 19 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Thursday, May 23 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 26 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Worship Service

Thursday, May 30 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist (Feast of the Ascension)



ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR



You can always check out what's on the Good Shepherd Church calendar by visiting our online calendar page. Go to www.GSCMet.com and from there click "Resources" and then "Church Calendar." And while you're on the website, if you have not yet signed up for our weekly e-newsletter, go ahead and do so! You'll receive our weekly e-news in your inbox every Thursday morning!



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

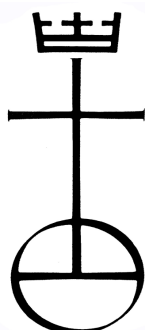
5122 West Esplanade Ave

Metairie, LA 70006

504.454.0764

www.GSCMet.com

The Rev. Dr. Randall M. Graf, Pastor



Sunday Services

10:00 AM every Sunday

8:30 AM 1st & 3rd Sundays

Midweek Services

6:35 PM Thursdays

Intercessory Prayer

11:00 AM

2nd Saturday of the month