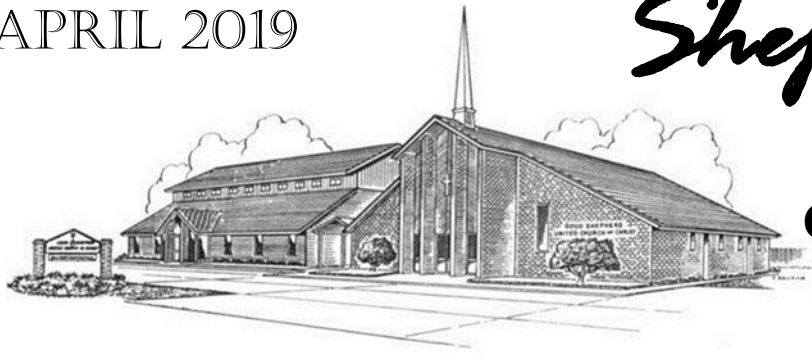


APRIL 2019



# 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—TO THE CROSS**

As we journey through the forty days of Lent, we journey toward the Cross at Calvary. It is only through the horror of the Cross that we can reach the beauty of the Resurrection. It may seem a silly question, but allow me to ask it any-  
way. Who makes the beauty of the Resurrection possible? Christ Jesus of  
course—by the shedding of his blood and laying down his life on the Cross.

In Matthew 16, Jesus asks his disciples “Who do people say that I am?” (v.13)  
before he asks an even more pointed and important question: “Who do YOU  
say that I am?” (v.15). That second question is of utmost importance to our  
Christian faith. If you cannot answer it like Peter (v.16) “You are the Messiah,  
the Son of the Living God” then I would encourage you to consider who Jesus  
tells us he is.

In John's gospel account, Jesus gives us the so-called “Seven I Ams” to reveal to  
us who he is. As we continue through the latter part of Lent, en route to the  
death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord, I invite you to meditate on these “I  
Am” statements of Christ, and with a heart of gratitude, giving thanks to God  
for each.

**I am the Bread of Life** (John 6:35) – *Thank you, Lord, for your body and blood  
offered for me.*

**I am the Light of the World** (John 8:12) – *Thank you, Lord, that I need never  
walk in darkness.*

**I am the Gate** (John 10:7) – *Thank you, Lord, that through you I may enter into  
salvation.*

**I am the Good Shepherd** (John 10:11) – *Thank you, Lord, for laying down your  
life for mine.*

**I am the Resurrection and the Life** (John 11:25) – *Thank you, Lord, for the gift  
of eternal life.*

**I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life** (John 14:6) – *Thank you, Lord, for mak-  
ing a way for me to reach the Father.*

**I am the Vine** (John 15:5) – *Thank you, Lord, that I can do all things through  
you.*

Until next month, let your light shine!

**The Reverend Randall M. Graf, Pastor**

## CHURCH GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS UPDATES

Spring is a time for renewal and beautification. With that in mind we are making changes around the Good Shepherd's campus. Here is a list of the projects on tap:

Earlier this year the playground equipment "monkey bars" was removed and the remaining swings will be pressure washed and cleaned up.

A contract with Roofing Solutions (Todd Mondello's employer) for \$1750 was released to repair the front and rear of the Sanctuary gable ends. There was much rot especially in the rear of the building and council decided the time had come to repair. The schedule is for the work to be done on the week of March 25th

J&W Tree Service is scheduled to remove the tree and grind down the stump for a cost of \$1300. This is the tree on the west side of the Sanctuary. The tree is showing signs of dying and the branches are above the electrical service. This should happen about the first week in April.

After these are done we will receive a load of sand to fill in areas of subsidence and to elevate the side yard where we are installing a memorial prayer garden. This will be funded entirely on memorial giving gifts we have received. We plan a small concrete area with two benches. Planting will be installed with some small trees and statues. The design is coming together and the area should be complete by summer.

The Men's Club is still actively pursuing the purchase of a permanent electronic sign. We have raised about \$3000 which is a little less than half of what we will need to move forward. In the meantime a replacement banner has been purchased for our service times and some minimum repairs made to our current sign to give us a more presentable appearance on the street.

We will be looking for help as always with either physical labor or finances to make these repairs/improvements a reality. Our outward appearance to our neighbors is important for our future growth!

In late February we were contacted by the production company filming *NCIS New Orleans* needing a commissary with full catering for a location shoot on Kent Ave. They rented the fellowship hall and two of the side rooms for makeup stations on February 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>. The first day had close to 200 actors and support people and the second day about half that number. The church was able to earn \$1600 (\$800/day) and we were still able to accommodate volleyball on the evening between the two days. I am reporting this not to brag, but to point out that close to 20% of our budget is from various rentals throughout the year. If any of our members or friends have need of meeting or party space please see the Pastor or myself. We will try our best to accommodate. The GSC price list is posted on the bulletin board church's narthex toward the fellowship hall side.

**Mel Aucoin,**  
**Building Manager**

## SHEEP IN THE NEWS

Our very own sheep at Good Shepherd have been very busy accomplishing great things!

**-Sydney Mondello** made the honor roll once again as a 3rd grader at St. Rita.

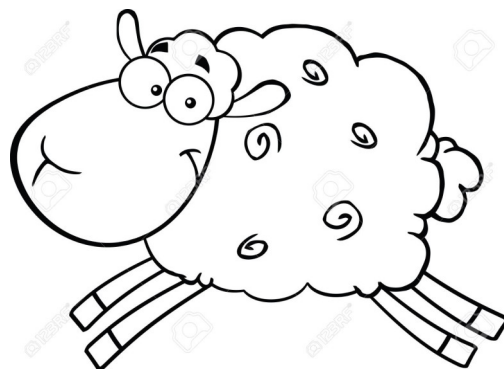
**-Madi Graf** has been selected to be a Romaguera spokesperson for senior photos for the upcoming school year. She also made the honor roll at John Curtis.

**-Gabe LaGarde** made the honor roll as well at John Curtis. It was announced that he had the highest GPA among his JC 6th grade baseball team.

Congratulations to all of our sheep!

We are so proud of all of our youth at Good Shepherd!!

If you have news to share about the young people of our flock, please let Heidi LaGarde know about it so we can share their accomplishments with all!

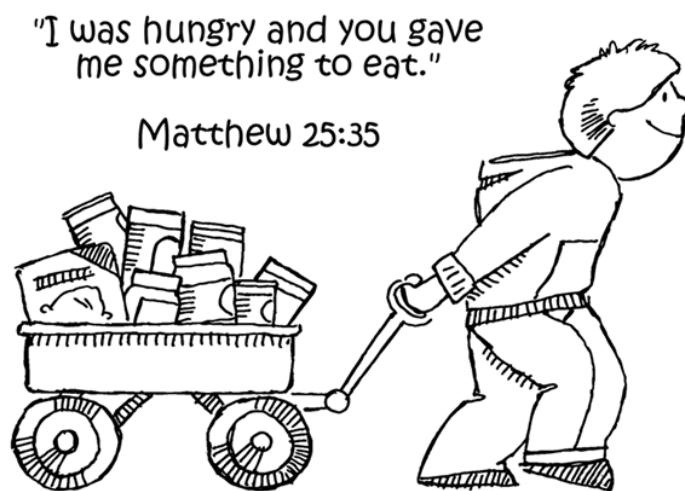


## TAKING A BITE OUT OF HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY

For the month of March, Joan Lyles reports that Good Shepherd Church delivered 196 pounds of food to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans! This is almost TWICE the amount of a typical delivery from our church!

A BIG thank you to all who participated in the Youth's Souper Bowl challenge and helped make the collection such a success!

Please continue to bring in non-perishable food items to church. You can bring them to services on Sundays or Thursdays. As summer approaches, the stress on our local food bank often increases as storms across the country will often result in the need for the New Orleans area food bank to assist in neighboring regions.



## HYMN SING ON APRIL 2 AT GSC

Good Shepherd Church is pleased to host our next "Songs of Celebration and Sanctuary" on **Tuesday, April 2** at **2:00 PM** in the sanctuary.

This old fashioned hymn sing is open to all and promises to bless all in attendance. Pianist Patsy Engles will once again join with vocalist Rev. Jerry Bass to lead the faithful in songs that celebrate our faith and honor our God. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.



## MISSIONS UPDATE

*By Heidi LaGarde*

Our Spring mission at Good Shepherd will be 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."

## CHURCH PICNIC

*By D.J. Estopinal*

Everyone who attended last year's church picnic told me what a great time they had. So, mark your calendar! This years Good Shepherd Church's Picnic will again be held at **Wally Pontiff Playground, Shelter # 3 on Sunday, April 14, 2019, (Palm Sunday)**. Shelter # 3 is the exact same shelter that we had last year. It is the closest shelter to the bathrooms and children's playground.

Please **PRINT** your name, the number of people you are planning on bringing and what covered dish you will be bring, on the picnic sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in the church's narthex. We need this information so we can plan on how hamburgers and hot dogs to purchase. Just like last year, there will be **NO** cost to attend our picnic. All we ask is that you bring an appropriate picnic covered dish, folding chairs for your group and whatever everyone in your group wants to drink. **PLEASE**, no alcoholic beverages! Please wear your "We Love Our Saints" black T-Shirts!



For further information, see D. J. Estopinal.

## NOTES FROM RINDA

April is a beautiful time of year. This April is particularly poignant to me because my Daddy would have reached his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. I guess you could say I was a “Daddy’s girl.” He had high expectations, and I always tried to live up to those expectations. Nothing less than honor roll, practicing piano, taking care of my younger sisters—always doing what was expected without complaining. Well, at least most of the time. Daddy wasn’t perfect, but I knew that he loved his family. I’ll never forget the only time I ever saw him cry—my Master’s recital. His comment to me when I saw him immediately afterwards was “When are you going to get your doctorate?”

As we approach Easter, we should remember that our Heavenly Father loves us even more than my Daddy loved me. I am eternally grateful for the gift of music which can sometimes express that love better than words alone.



***Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!***  
***Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!***  
***Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!***  
***Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!***

**Rinda Coleman**  
**Music Director**

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## YOUTH AND WORSHIP

The Good Shepherd Christian Education Board and Reverend Graf have been meeting since the beginning of the new year to discuss and develop ways to more directly involve and engage our youth in a worship experience at church, and not just a Sunday School experience. As we move forward into the year, adult Sunday worshippers will begin to see greater involvement of our younger members in multiple aspects of the Liturgy.

As a reminder to parents, a workshop will be held for youth on Thursday, April 4 at 7:15 PM (after Midweek Holy Eucharist) to begin training our youth to take on various roles during worship. On Thursday, April 11, at our 6:35 PM Holy Eucharist, participating youth will be given actual roles to assume during the service as they progress toward being prepared to participate in Sunday services. For more information, please see Rev. Graf or any member of our GSC Christian Education Board.

**Make sure you’re keeping up with everything happening at Good Shepherd Church!**

**Subscribe to our weekly e-news letter by visiting [www.GSCMet.com](http://www.GSCMet.com).**



## GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

The Women's Guild will meet on Tuesday April 9th with a Guest Speaker, Patsy Engles. She will speak on The Ten Commandments of Common Sense, based on Scripture. It sounds interesting! You may want to come join us!!

Pam will have Devotions and Sharon is scheduled to have Refreshments.

Please join us if you can.

**Barbara Mehrtens**  
**GSC Women's Guild President**



## WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SIN? JESUS.



It's true, only Jesus can wash away our sins. But when it comes to washing away dirt from the parking lot, Good Shepherd's own Irvin La-crouts, Jr., and his power washer get the job done!

When you see Irvin, make sure you give him a BIG GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH THANK YOU!

## SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2019

**Thursday, April 4**—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, April 7 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM**—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist

**Thursday, April 11 @ 6:35PM**—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

**Saturday, April 13 @ 11:00 AM**—Monthly Service of Intercessory Prayer

**Sunday, April 14 @ 10:00 AM**—Palm Sunday Service held at Church Picnic (no services at church)

**Thursday, April 18 @ 6:35 PM**—Maundy Thursday Service

**Friday, April 19 @ 5:00 PM**—Good Friday Service (Please enter and exit the church in silence)

**Sunday, April 21 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM**—Easter Sunday Service

**Thursday, April 25 @ 6:35 PM**—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, April 28 @ 10:00 AM**—Sunday morning worship service

## GSC MEN'S CLUB NEWS

This is to remind all Men's Club members, men who would like to become a member or men who just want to attend our next meeting.

The next Men's Club meeting is on **Monday, April 8, 2019**, starting **promptly** at **6:00 P. M.** This meeting will be held in the small meeting room in the Church's Fellowship Hall Building.

We will be eating Pizza before our meeting starts.

In addition, if you have **not** paid your \$25.00 Men's Club dues for the year of 2019, they are overdue. If your dues are **NOT** paid by our next meeting, Monday, April 8, 2019, you will be dropped from our active club rolls until you bring your dues up to date.

***D.J. Estopinal, President***  
***GSC Men's Club***



## EASTER EGG HUNT AND FLOWER CROSS

On Easter Sunday, April 21, we will have an Easter egg hunt for nursery ages through 2nd grade. We need donations of plastic eggs filled with candy. If you can provide some, please bring them to church beginning Sunday, April 7.

In keeping with our Easter morning tradition, the youth of the church will team with our Sunday School teachers and other adults to decorate the flower cross before the 10:00 AM Easter Sunday service. If you can help, meet us in the conference room at 9:15 AM. Don't forget to bring some fresh flowers! Everyone is invited!

As a side note, some folks may not realize that the beautiful Easter Sunday flower cross is the same ugly cross that we placed nails into at our Good Friday service. As the nails represent our own sins for which Christ died for us on the Cross of Calvary, seeing the Cross "born again" on Easter Sunday morning with beautiful flowers can be a powerful and moving spiritual experience.

Thank you for your help.

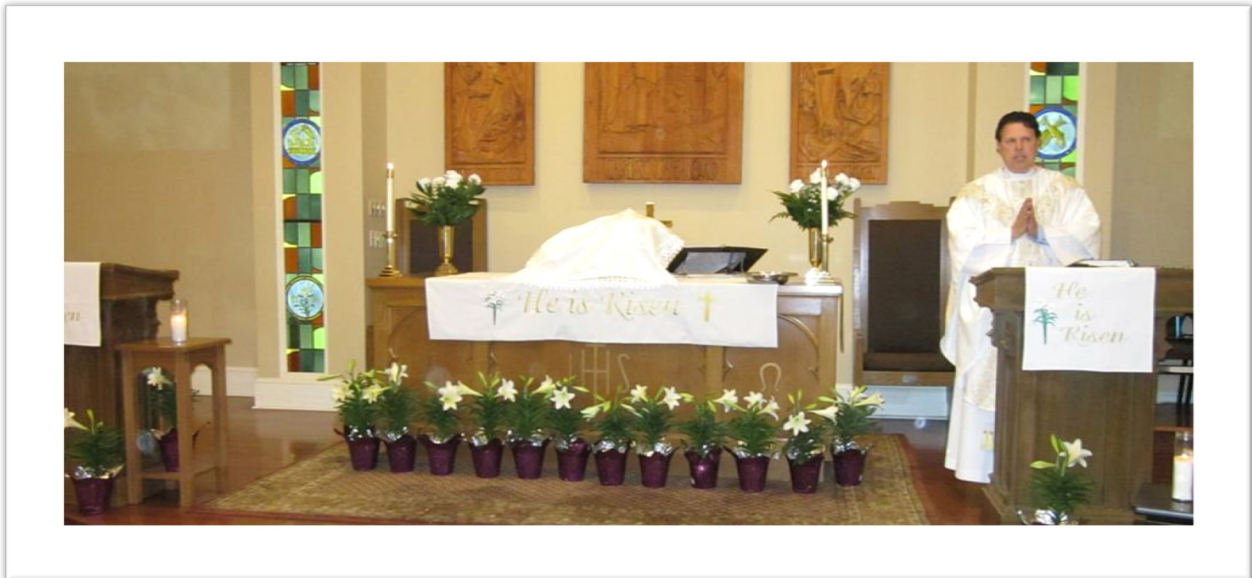
***Renee F. Graf***  
***Christian Education Director***



## EASTER LILIES

If you wish to purchase Easter Lilies this year, they will cost \$8.00 each. To sign up, PRINT your name and the number of Easter Lilies you wish to purchase on the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in the church's narthex. Please make your check payable to Good Shepherd Church and note in the memo "Easter Lilies". If paying with cash, write "Easter Lilies" on the envelope that you turn in. You may place your payment in the offering tray when it is passed around at church service.

The last date to sign up and/or turn in your payment to purchase the Easter Lilies will be Sunday, April 7, 2019.

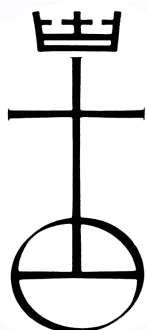


*Beautiful Easter Lilies adorn the Lord's Altar at our Easter Morning services last year 2018. (Photo by D.J. Estopinal)*

### Good Shepherd Church

5122 West Esplanade Ave  
Metairie, LA 70006  
504.454.0764  
[www.GSCMet.com](http://www.GSCMet.com)

The Rev. Dr. Randall M. Graf, Pastor



### Sunday Services

10:00 AM every Sunday  
8:30 AM 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

### Midweek Services

6:35 PM Thursdays

### Intercessory Prayer

11:00 AM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month