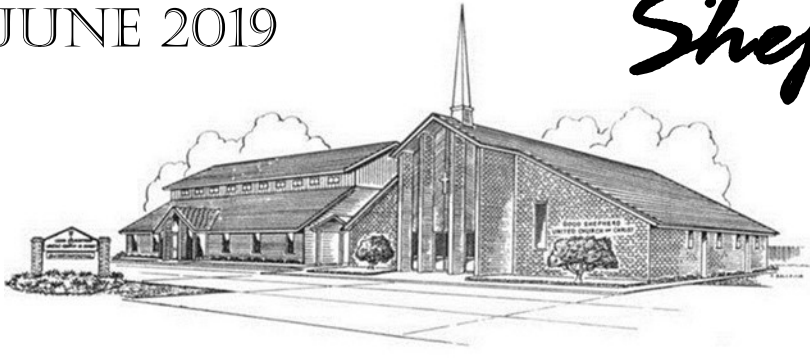


JUNE 2019



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

ARE YOU (REALLY) A CHURCH MEMBER?

Think about this question: "What does it mean to be a church member?" Realize I did not ask "What does it mean to be a Christian?" nor "What does it mean to have been baptized or confirmed?"

While it may "technically" be possible to be a baptized and confirmed Christian without being a member of a local church, it would seem that this would require some very specific and extraordinary circumstances. It would also seem that it would be very hard to envision these circumstances lasting for more than just a very temporary moment in time.

Likewise, it is hard to imagine that declaring oneself as a member of a church yet not being an active and regular worshiper at the church and/or not being a regular supporter of the church, would not disallow someone's truthful claim to church membership.

In a 2016 Pew Research Institute study, it was revealed that only 51% of Americans who consider themselves Christians actually go to church with any degree of regularity. To add some further context to this statistic, "regularity" was defined in this survey as ranging from "several times a week" all the way down to only "once a month."

Forget for a moment what the Pew data may reveal. Try also to forget for a moment what you personally believe about the relationship between church attendance and actually being a Christian. Let me ask you this question: "Do you know what God actually says about being a Christian and practicing that faith?" I mean... DO YOU REALLY KNOW? Can you cite chapter and verse?

Continued on page 2

On June 9, 2019, we will commemorate the 50th Day After Easter—a holy day in the Christian Church known as Pentecost. In the Book of Acts, this day of Pentecost marks the "birthday" of the Christian Church.

Beginning on Pentecost Sunday, I will be offering a six part teaching series on the Biblical understanding of church membership. My Sunday sermons will be loosely based on the devotional book "I Am a Church Member" authored by Thom S. Rainer. Each week, we will examine God's Holy Word and what it has to say about truly being a church member and I will give an opportunity for each person attending worship to recommit themselves to being a member of the Body of Christ by pledging to recommit themselves to being "a church member."

Topics will include:

1. *I Will Be a Functioning Church Member* (June 9, 2019)
2. *I Will Be a Unifying Church Member* (June 16, 2019)
3. *I Will Not Let My Church Be About My Preferences and Desires* (June 23, 2019)
4. *I Will Pray for My Church Leaders* (July 7, 2019)
5. *I Will Lead My Family to Be Healthy Church Members* (July 14, 2019)
6. *I Will Treasure Church Membership as a Gift* (July 21, 2019)

You might have noticed that it will take seven full weeks to get through the six sessions. This is due to the fact that I will not preach on Sunday June 30. As is our tradition, we will continue with our Good Shepherd Church Fifth Sunday Celebration. In keeping with this fifth Sunday of the month tradition, June 30 will primarily feature music during our morning worship service.

As I conclude this month's column, let me offer a spoiler alert or two... church membership really matters. It doesn't "have privileges" but rather IT IS a privilege. You can never fully be who God would have you be until you submit to Him, and you cannot submit to Him if you do not obey Him, and He says "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). Jesus said it this way, "You shall love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38).

Are you truly a church member? Allow me to invite you to church each Sunday for this summer teaching series. I pray that you'll accept the invitation and that you will declare by both your words and your actions "I am a church member."

Until next month, let your light shine!

The Reverend Randall Graf
PASTOR

SPECIAL DAYS IN JUNE 2019



- ♦ *D Day*, June 6
- ♦ *Pentecost Sunday*, June 9
- ♦ *Flog Day*, June 14
- ♦ *Father's Day*, June 16
- ♦ *First Day of Summer*, June 21
- ♦ *GSC Jambalaya & Jam*, June 29



WEAR **RED** TO CHURCH ON PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 9

PENTECOST SUNDAY

JUNE 9, 2019 - 10 AM

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1-4

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

5122 W. ESPLANADE AVE – METAIRIE, LA 70006

www.GSCMet.com

MOTHERS CELEBRATED AT GSC!



It was a packed house for the annual Good Shepherd Church Women's Guild Banquet held on Tuesday, May 14. Great food and great fellowship were enjoyed by all!



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
Women's Guild
Mother's Day Banquet
May 14, 2019



On Mother's Day, May 12, members of the GSC Men's Club showed their love for the ladies by presenting all the ladies present at the 10:00 AM worship service with a red carnation.



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.



Prayer Requests

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 in the bulletin prayer list but 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.



PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH LEADERS

On Saturday, June 15, our Pastor and Lay Leadership will gather together for a day-long leadership retreat. Please remember our church leadership in your prayer offerings. These leaders work hard, week in and week out, and day in and day out, for the continued betterment of our Good Shepherd Church family of faith. Many important items will be on the leadership retreat agenda, including issues as diverse as "transportation to church for our older members" and "attracting new families to our church parish." Pray for your leaders!



MOTHER'S PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting of the Mother's Prayer Group will be held on Tuesday, June 4 at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. All ladies are invited.

For more information, please see Gwen Martinez.



FROM THE MOTHERS PRAYER GROUP PRAYER BOOK:

Lord Jesus, help me remember that as long as I keep my eyes fixed steadfastly on you, all my anxieties will fade into dim unimportance with the knowledge that your love is bigger than any problem. Amen.

WHAT'S JAM JAM?

IT'S JAMBALAYA AND JAM AT GSC!

By D.J. Estopinal

The Good Shepherd Church Men's Club announces **Jambalaya and Jam** to be held on **Saturday, June 29, 2019 from 6:00**

P.M. to 9:00 P.M. This event is open to the public and will be held in the Good Shepherd Church Fellowship Hall.

Come eat dinner with us, (Jambalaya, salad, bread) and listen to and/or dance to, played and sung live, **Oldies but Goodies**. All for the very reasonable ticket price of \$15.00 per adult or \$10.00 per child, (anyone under 12 years of age).

In addition to the meal and music, **a silent auction** will also be held at Jam Jam!

The Good Shepherd Church Men's Club would greatly appreciate if you not only purchase tickets for the **Jam Jam** event but that you help us sell as many tickets as you can. If anyone wishes to purchase tickets online, go to www.goodshepherdmet.com/jam-jam.html. You can even use **Pay Pal** when you pre-purchase tickets online.

ALL, 100%, of the money raised at this event will be used for the purchase and construction of the Good Shepherd Church, new street sign. The Good Shepherd Church Men's Club **DOES NOT** benefit from this event in any way.

Come and join us for an evening of good food and good music!



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.

NOTES FROM RINDA

Summer is here in south Louisiana! Many families take vacations while students are out of school and schedules are more relaxed. Our Good Shepherd Church choir will be taking some time off, but during that time, musical offerings will continue in the form of solos, duets, and instrumental pieces. I am so grateful for the dedication of our choir members. If you look closely, you will see that rarely is any choir member absent from worship. I can't begin to explain how much that means to a director. I can honestly say that I have never worked with a more dedicated group of singers. They are truly a blessing to me and to the congregation.



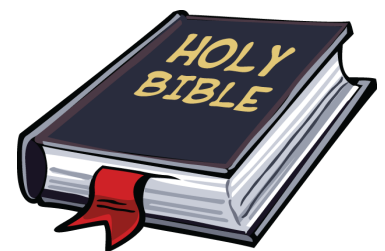
Our children will be taking a more active role in the music ministry. We will be rehearsing for approximately 15 to 20 minutes after worship on the first and third Sundays of the month in preparation for worship. They are such enthusiastic young people! As adults it is our responsibility to encourage and guide them both by our words and especially our actions.

June has five Sundays, so music will be an integral part of our service on June 30. We will be focusing on spirituals and gospel songs. If you have a favorite. Let me know. We'll do our best to include it.



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!



STAY UP TO DATE

To make sure you're keeping up-to-date with everything that is happening at church, sign-up for our Thursday morning e-newsletter by going to our website at www.GSCMet.com. While you're on the website, go to "Calendar" and take advantage of syncing your Google calendar app with ours! You can also follow Good Shepherd on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube!

GSC MEN'S CLUB NEWS

The next meeting of the GSC Men's Club will be on Monday, June 10 at 6 PM! Gentlemen, please make every effort to attend this meeting as we will be completing the final details for our big Jambalaya and Jam happening on Saturday, June 29.

Please help make our Jam-Jam a HUGE success by selling tickets to friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors!

Please see page 10 of this newsletter for more information on Jam-Jam including how to advance purchase tickets online!

D.J. Estopninal, President

GSC Men's Club



GSC WOMEN'S GUILD

The ladies of the Women's Guild had another successful Mother's Day Banquet with approximately 50 in attendance. We raised \$86.00 for the Church with our ticket sales! We will have another Bake Sale on Sunday, June 2nd in the church kitchen.

Our next meeting will begin with another Worship Service at 10:00 a m with Rev Graf on Tuesday, June 11th. We will be going out for fellowship and lunch after our Business Meeting! Please plan and join us then!!

Barbara Mehrrens, President

GSC Women's Guild



WHO ARE YOU?

Acts 8 gives the story of the Holy Spirit telling St. Philip to find a specific man—an important government official who was a eunuch. Obedient, Philip found the man who was reading from Scripture. Philip asked him “Do you understand what you are reading?” to which the man replies “**How can I unless somebody explains it to me?**”

Which character are you? Are you the important government official who desires to know more and understand the Faith more deeply? If so, are you taking advantage of all that GSC has to offer—Sunday worship, Sunday Bible study, Midweek Holy Eucharist, Monthly Intercessory Prayer, adult Christian Education programs, etc.?

Or... are you like St. Philip? Who might God be asking you to bring to Good Shepherd Church so that they can understand?

Let me know if I can help.

Rev. Graf+

SOME FIGURES AND FACTS FOR FATHER'S DAY

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that there are over 72 million fathers in the United States.

Many credit Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, with starting Father's Day. She had the idea for the holiday after hearing a sermon preached on Mother's Day while she was attending church with her father. Dodd was moved to try to get the holiday started in order to honor fathers like her own, William Jackson Smart, a Civil War veteran who raised six children as a single dad after his wife died during childbirth.



In the U.S., the first celebration of Father's Day took place in Spokane, Washington in 1910. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge expressed public support for the holiday but it was not officially declared a U.S. holiday until President Lyndon B. Johnson signed an official proclamation declaring that the third Sunday of June would be set aside and celebrated as Father's Day. In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed the holiday into law.

Hallmark cites Father's Day as the fourth largest card sending holiday with over 72 million cards sent for the occasion. (If you are curious, number 3 is Mother's Day, number 2 is Saint Valentine's Day, and number 1 is Christmas!)

This year, Father's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, June 16.



HYMN SING ON JUNE 4 AT GSC

Since January of this year, Good Shepherd Church has been holding a monthly Tuesday afternoon hymn sing in our sanctuary. What a blessing these events have been!

We would like to invite you to join us on **Tuesday, June 4 at 2:00 PM** for our next *Songs of Celebration and Sanctuary*!

As always, pianist Ms. Patsy Engles and vocalist Rev. Jerry Bass have picked some beloved hymns to lead us in singing and whether you think you sound like Luciano Pavaratti singing at Carnegie Hall or Provolone Cheese singing in the shower, these monthly music programs promise to be a fun time for all who attend!



After the program, we'll enjoy some light refreshments in the conference room. Bring a friend and come pass a good time!

BUILDING PROJECTS AROUND OUR PROPERTY

PRAYER GARDEN PROGRESS

Now that the area is filled and the old tree is down the prayer garden is slowly coming together. Much thanks to Irving and Marcel Lacrouts and Joe Deibel for their help in moving sand. We were also able to fill several subsidence area around the property. Margaret and I have been working on a final planting design. Our goal is to provide a quiet peaceful area for prayer and reflection with planting requiring low maintenance.

Our next steps are as follows:

- To remove existing old fence posts from chain link fence.
- To stain the existing swing set.
- Contract to have concrete walkway formed and poured.
- Purchase and install 3 small benches and sealed concrete praying Jesus as center piece.
- To install plants/ bushes/ small trees. Plantings from ground cover to no taller than 8ft.
- Install dedication plaques.



KITCHEN REMODEL

During the Summer I have plans to replace the counter top in the fellowship hall kitchen. The plywood that was built by the work campers years ago has become rotted. The plan is to install a new pre-made Formica counter top and rebuild the 72" of cabinet fronts below. My goal is to have this project complete by the end of July.



YARD SALE SCHEDULED

Several individuals have asked about a yard sale. We have scheduled Saturday, October 12th for a yard sale in the gym. Set up will be the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We limited room to store items prior to set up as we have collected a lot of stuff already. If possible if you have donations for the yard sale please hold them till it is time for setup. If that's not possible we can try to find space to store at church.



Mel Aucoin

Building Manager & Sexton

CARE TO READ AHEAD?

Do you remember in school that your teachers used to say something about coming to class prepared? Those comments probably wend something like this: “Don’t come to class unprepared! The material will be much more enjoyable and much more easily learned if you simply read in advance of the class.”

The lectionary readings for Pentecost Sunday includes Acts 2:1-11, Psalm 104, 1 Corinthians 12:4-14, and John 20:19-23 (with an option for the minister to instead use John 14:8-17).

If the only time you’re hearing Holy Scripture is during that five to tens minutes on Sunday when the Liturgy of the Word is presented in advance of the sermon, then you’re not getting your recommended daily allowance of God’s Word! Read your Bible!

If you don’t own a Bible but would like to, see Rev. Graf and let him know. He’ll make sure you get one—no questions asked (and no one else needs to know you asked).

“The Bible is one of the greatest blessings bestowed by God on the children of men. It has God for its author; salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture for its matter. It is all pure.”

John Locke



LOAN US YOUR VOICE!

Liturgy. If you look it up in the dictionary, you’ll probably see a definition such as “The term “liturgy” has often been said to mean “a form or formulary for public worship in Christianity”.

This English word “liturgy” comes to us from the Greek *leitourgia* which loosely translates to mean “work of the people” and “work for the people”. What an interesting use of the preposition “of” and “for”.

As much as the liturgy or “public worship” is the work of the people, that means, despite having an ordained minister leading worship, the people still have work to do (e.g., praying the prescribed prayers, responding to prayers, singing hymns, faithfully receiving the Sacraments, etc.). But if it’s also work for the people, then that assures that God is in the midst of our public worship! In the midst of our worship, He is with and for us!

Just as some are called to be clergy, and some are called to be choir members, some are also called to be lectors. What’s a lector? That the person who reads some of the Scriptures during the part of worship called the Liturgy of the Word—the part of worship where Scripture is read, heard, and a message proclaimed.

If you feel called to be a lector, please let Rev. Graf know so that you can use your gift to the glory of God! He would be happy to have you reading on a Sunday morning!

SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2019

Sunday, June 2 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist (*GSC WG Bake Sale*)

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

Saturday, June 8 @ 11:00 AM—Monthly Service of Intercessory Prayer

Sunday, June 9 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist (*Pentecost Sunday*)

Tuesday, June 11 @ 10:00 AM—Women's Guild Holy Eucharist

Thursday, June 13 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

Sunday, June 16 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Thursday, June 20 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

Sunday, June 23 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Worship Service

Thursday, June 27 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

Sunday, June 30 @ 10:00 AM—Fifth Sunday Celebration (*An All Music Service of Worship!*)



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

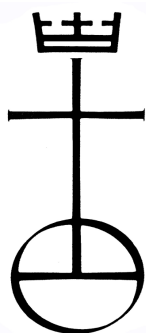
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The Rev. Dr. Randall M. Graf, Pastor



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