

OCTOBER 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-
shipped 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 SO-CALLED PAGAN INFLUENCE ON THE FAITH AND THE "SIN" OF HALLOWEEN

There is no doubt that the earliest Christian church, like the Jewish people in the Old Testament, faced the reality of pagan influence in their secular and religious lives (see Exodus 20 and 1 Corinthians 8:4 as just two examples). A question we modern-day disciples may ponder is whether paganism continues to confront or even influence our faith today.

Let me share an example. In a conversation with a well-meaning Christian, it was once suggested to me that the wearing of vestments by clergy has its roots in paganism. My answer to that is, so what if it does? There is no denying that ancient pagan priests and witch doctors (like their modern-day cohorts) certainly used specific garments while leading their ceremonies. But by contrast, doesn't the Christian clergyman wearing a blue suit and yellow tie also reflect the influence of the modern-day "gods" of fashion?

From my perspective, the clergyman who wears a robe or other liturgical vestments to lead Christian worship is actually LESS influenced by paganism because of his attempt to cover over his worldly clothes and instead wear garments of a style that have been worn by Christian clergy since the earliest days of the Church—garments that actually have their roots in Jewish tradition and would have been worn by Christ and others who taught in the Temple.

Furthermore, clerical vestments clearly send a message about who the clergyman represents (i.e., the person of Christ, not the person of self) and how serious the minister is about the decorum of Christ's church. I wonder if the preacher wearing the \$5,000 Armani suit has ever thought about who his clothes represent. Or if the ultra-modern pastor in purposely ripped skinny jeans ever considers the holy ground he is called to walk upon when leading worship in his \$300 Air Jordans.

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This is October and in the secular world, the last day of the month is a holiday called Halloween. Some Christian fundamentalists suggest that Halloween is “the devil’s day” and anyone who participates in Halloween activities are doing the bidding of the devil. I’ve got news for them... the devil has NO days. Period. God’s Word declares “This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24) Now, are we to assume—based on a fundamentalist’s belief that October 31 belongs to the devil—that either God didn’t create it or doesn’t have sovereign power on that date? To do so would not only be blasphemous, but would in a very perverted, if not unintentional way, put Satan in a place of undue honor.

The fact of the matter is, the so-called “pagan” holiday of Halloween actually has its roots in Christianity, as well as in a real pagan festival known Samhain (pronounced “sow” “em”).

I would love nothing more than to be able to tell you much more about Halloween and how Christians need not run from it like superstitious pagans. In fact, smart Christians, emboldened by the Word, can use Halloween (and any day, in fact) to shine the Light of God into the world.

On Sunday, October 27, at our 10:00 AM worship, I will present a message about the history of Halloween and about the power of Christ and His Church. Later that same day, Good Shepherd Church will host our annual Trunk or Treat event in our parking lot. At this event we will invite the community to come on over and meet us, get some candy from us, and hopefully learn a little bit about what is one of the most friendly families-of-faith in Metairie.

I hope you will plan to attend worship with us that morning and volunteer to welcome our neighbors to our parking lot for our Trunk or Treat festivities that evening.

Until next month, let your light shine!

The Rev’d Randall M. Graf, Pastor



HYMN SING OCTOBER 1 AT GSC

Good Shepherd Church is pleased to host our next "Songs of Celebration and Sanctuary" on **Tuesday, October 1 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.

This month, Ms. Patsy has chosen “Favorite Gospel Hymns” as the theme and we’ll join in song singing what are on the top of her list of all time favorite Gospel hymns. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Bring a friend and let’s pass a good time!



October 5 @ 10:30 AM - Blessing of the Animals

October 12 @ 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM - Church garage sale. Set up for the garage sale will be ongoing each day from October 9-11 in the fellowship hall.

October 13 @ 11:15 AM - Black & Gold party in the fellowship hall

October 27 @ 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM - Trunk or Treat

October 31 - Halloween



SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2109

Thursday, October 3 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist

Saturday, October 5 @ 10:30 AM—Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 6 @ 8:30 or 10:00 AM—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, October 8 @ 10:00 AM—Women's Guild Worship Service (all are invited!)

Thursday, October 10 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist

Saturday, October 12 @ 11:00 AM—Monthly Service of Intercessory Prayer

Sunday, October 13 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday Morning Worship (Black & Gold Sunday)

Thursday, October 17 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist

Sunday, October 20 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist

Thursday, October 24 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist

Sunday, October 27 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday Morning Worship

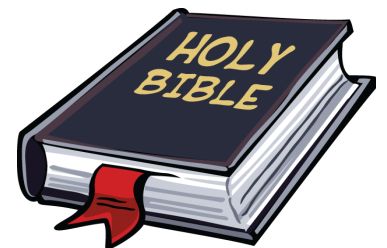
Thursday, October 31 @ 6:35 PM—We will not hold our Midweek Holy Eucharist this week.



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 Books of Galatians and Ephesians. Interested participants may enter into the class on any given Sunday. All are welcome!

For more information, please see Mrs. Margaret Aucoin.



GSC WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will hold their **October Meeting** on **Tuesday, October 8th** at **10:00 AM**. We will begin with a **Worship Service**, then go to our **business meeting**.

This month the ladies will be going to lunch at "New Orleans Food and Spirits". Please join us for Christian Fellowship at our meeting and at lunch if you are available; we'd love to have you!

Barbara Mehrrens, GSC Women's Guild President

GSC MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club members.

Do not forget about our **Men's Club meeting** on **Monday, October 14** at 6:00 PM. It is VERY important that ALL members attend. At 7:00 PM a representative of "Signworx" will give us a presentation and cost estimate on our new sign. I will also be giving you information about the church sign from another company.

We will be making some very important decisions at this meeting, so please make every effort to be with us. Dinner served at 6:00 PM.

D.J. Estopinal, GSC MC President

NOTES FROM RINDA

October has always been one of my favorite months. It's usually a little cooler. (We could certainly use some cooler weather!) But probably my favorite reason to like October as a church musician is that we begin working on Christmas music in earnest. I know-you're thinking "Don't rush the season!" I agree that we shouldn't rush the commercialism that takes over, but we are eagerly anticipating the celebration of the coming of Christ to earth. So let's get ready!

P.S. Our choir members would welcome singers! Maybe you can't commit to permanent membership, but you might manage a couple of months! Come try us out!

Rinda Coleman, Music Director



BLACK AND GOLD SUNDAY

By D.J. Estopinal

We will be holding our annual **“Black & Gold Sunday”** pot luck luncheon and watching the New Orleans Saints verses Houston football game in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, October 13, 2019** immediately following the 10:00 A. M. church service.

We are selling raffle tickets to benefit Good Shepherd Church. Prizes include a large screen T V and five (5) \$25.00 restaurant gift cards. That means you have six (6) chances to win for each ticket you purchase. The winners of this raffle will be picked during the football games half time. **One hundred percent of the money raised goes to the church’s general fund.**

Tickets are \$5.00 each. If you would like to purchase tickets, see Mr. Joe Diebold.

Please remember to wear your **“We Love Our Saints”**, black T-Shirts for this event. If you do not have a church T-Shirt, you can purchase one from Mrs. Rene’ Graf.

Please mark your calendar! All attending are asked to bring a covered dish.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Good Shepherd Church will hold its annual **Trunk or Treat** on **Sunday, October 27, 2019** from **6:00 P. M. to 8:00 P. M.** in the parking lot of the church. In case of rain, the event will be moved to inside of the Fellowship Hall building.

ALL children and their parents, no matter what their faith, are invited to attend.

In addition, this year Good Shepherd Church will be holding a Halloween costume contest for children 12 years old and under, from 6:30 P. M. to 7:15 P.M. The winner will be announced at 7:30 P.M. Entrance fee for the contest is one (1) can of food for the “Second Harvest Food Bank” or \$2.00. The winner will receive a \$25.00 gift card to Dominos Pizza.

Members of the **Farhad Grotto’s Bug Patrol** will be there with their Halloween decorated dune buggies. They will also be handing out candy.

At this time, we are needing members to volunteer to decorate their vehicles in order to hand out candy. For those church members who are not or cannot offer their vehicle, you can still be a BIG help to the project. Last year, we had so many kids that the cars ran out of candy. IF YOU ARE NOT VOLUNTEERING YOUR CAR, please assist us by bringing in candy to be handed out by those who are.

If you can help, please see D.J. Estopinal.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 @ 10:30 AM

Good Shepherd will hold our Annual Blessing of the Animals, marking the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, October 5 at 10:30 AM in the church parking lot.

Bring your cats, dogs, gold fish, hermit crabs, ferrets, gerbils and other pets to church as we celebrate and honor God's gift to humanity that are our pets!

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

&



GSC GARAGE SALE

Article by D.J. Estopinal

Good Shepherd Church will be holding their annual Garage Sale on **Saturday, October 12, 2019 from 8:00 A. M. to 2:00 P.M.** The Garage Sale will be held in the church's Fellowship Hall.

We need all the assistance we can get setting up the Garage Sale and taking everything down and setting up for "Black & Gold Sunday".

We will be setting up the Fellowship Hall for the Garage Sale on **Wednesday, October 9, Thursday, October 10, and Friday, October 11** from **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.**

Then we will need **ALL the HELP** that we can get on **Saturday, October 12 at 2:00 P. M.** to take the Garage Sale down and set up the Fellowship Hall for "**Black & Gold Sunday**" which is scheduled to be held on **Sunday, October 13** starting after that Sunday's Church service ends.

Any assistance that you can give us for the above days will be **GREATLY** appreciated.

Remember, the above listed functions benefit **YOUR** church. Please lend all the assistance you can to make these events a huge success.

TIM BETHEA CONCERT AT GSC



Good Shepherd Church was blessed to host Tim Bethea in concert in our sanctuary on Thursday, September 19.

Tim performed songs from his album entitled "Offertory" which consists of 11 original compositions—one written for each Sunday of the Lenten season.

All in attendance that evening were blessed with to hear the Word of God come alive through music!

Photos by D.J. Estopinal.

SOCKTOBER

Every night in the United States an estimated 600,000 people live on the streets. Donating a pair of socks, can make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors who are homeless.

Like last year, the Youth Group at Good Shepherd Church are challenging the adults to see who can bring in the most socks!

There will be two boxes, one for each group.

All socks will be donated to those in need (e.g., homeless, shelters, etc.). Let's have fun and see who can bring in the most socks! For more information, see our Youth Director, Mrs. Kelly Frlot.



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

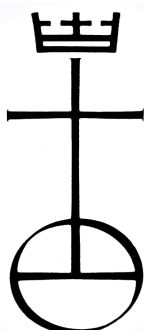
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www.GSCMet.com

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