

DECEMBER 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

A season of waiting... expectancy... preparation.

On Sunday, December 1, the Universal Church en-
ters into the Season of Advent. It marks both the
start of a new Church Year and the preparation for
the coming of the Lord. As the lead up to the Christ-
mas Season, it is easy for many Christians to think of
Advent only in terms of the coming of Christ as God
in human form 2,000 years ago—as the wee little
babe, Jesus of Nazareth. No doubt, that is certainly
a part of the Advent Season. BUT... the reality is, *that*
is history and what we are truly preparing our hearts
for is the *next* coming of our Lord.

What will that look like? When will that be? What will
Jesus look like? Where will He come?

These are all great questions to ponder about the
second coming—a tba futuristic event. Yet, allow
me to offer you a *via media* approach this Advent.
A way of prayerfully meditating upon the NEXT com-
ing of Christ.

We know that God broke into this fallen world 2,000
years ago. As the Nicene Creed teaches us, "For us
and our salvation he came down from heaven, was
incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man." But the same creed reminds
us that he suffered death, was buried, rose again on
the third day and then ascended to heaven where
He is now seated at the right hand of the Father.

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As our Eucharist liturgy reminds us, this is the mystery of faith: Christ has died. He literally was born and walked this earth in human form before, as the Good Shepherd, He laid down his life for the flock. Christ is risen. Because death could not reign victorious over Him, he rose so that those who believe in Him may too have this joyful hope. Christ will come again. There it is... the quintessential meaning of Advent: Christ will come again. And this is why we lift up our hearts and give thanks to God Almighty. The greatest gift ever given to humanity was the gift of Salvation through the one born the Man of Nazareth. Yet, to the faithful, we can continue to experience the gift of God's presence in our life through our acts of worship, in Word and in Sacrament.

It is so easy for us this time of year to get caught up in the worldly prescriptions of the Season—buy, give, get, lather, rinse, repeat—and miss the real gift of God in the Seasons of Advent and Christmas.

I invite you to pray with me this Season of Advent that more people will open up space in their hearts so that “there IS room at the inn” of their being for the presence of Christ in their life. I invite you to pray with me this Season of Advent that those who have stepped away from worshipping with their Brothers and Sisters in Christ will be drawn to return to church where they can truly experience His presence in Word and Sacrament. I invite you to pray with me this Advent that more people will come to know Jesus as Lord of their life, Savior of their soul, and King of the world and step forward in Christ's Holy Church to be counted among the ranks of born anew believers.

And to you who are reading this.. yes YOU! Don't miss out on experiencing His presence this Christmas. Prepare ye the way!

Until next month, let your light shine!

The Rev'd Randall M. Graf, Pastor



SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2019

Sunday, December 1 @ 8:30 or 10:00 AM—First Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 5 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist

Saturday, December 7 @ 11:00 AM—Funeral Service for Mrs. Sharon Wetzel

Sunday, December 8 @ 10:00 AM—Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 14 @ 11:00 AM—Monthly Service of Intercessory Prayer

Sunday, December 15 @ 8:30AM—Third Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 15 @ 10:00 AM—Christmas Choir Cantata

Sunday, December 22 @ 10:00 AM—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 24 @ 6:00 PM—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 29 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday Morning Service featuring Favorite Christmas Hymns

Following the December 5th service, our Midweek Holy Eucharist will be on winter hiatus until mid-January. Stay tuned for the restart date.

DECEMBER



December 1 - Start of Advent

December 3 - Christmas Hymn Sing @ 2PM

December 10 - Women's Guild Christmas Service and Lunch

December 15 - Choir Christmas Cantata @ 10AM

December 15 - Brunch with Santa @ 11:15 AM

December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6PM

December 25 - Christmas Day

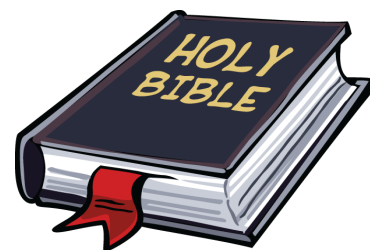
December 31 - New Years Eve



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.



NEXT HYMN SING, DECEMBER 3 @ 2:00 PM

FEATURING FAVORITE SONGS OF CHRISTMAS!

Join us at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary as Ms. Patsy Engles offers our December Hymn Sing. This month, the program will feature favorite Christmas hymns! You won't want to miss it!

After the music program, we'll enjoy light refreshments in the conference room. Bring a friend!

GSC WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will hold their Annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 10th at 11:00 a.m. We will begin with an Opening Program in the Sanctuary and from there we will go to the Fellowship Hall for our Christmas lunch. Our usual games will be played and we are asking each person to bring a covered dish to share and a \$10.00 gift to exchange (if you plan to participate) !!

There is a sign up sheet on the Bulletin Board to let us know if you plan to be there. That way we will know just how many will be joining with us.

We hope many will attend as we have lots of fun!

Barbara Mehrfens, GSC Women's Guild President



GSC MEN'S CLUB

On Friday evening, November 8, 2019, the Good Shepherd Church Men's Club held their first annual Dinner at Gendusa's Italian Market located at 405 Williams Blvd., Kenner.

The members of the G. S. C. Men's Club brought their wives and guests to the restaurant where everyone enjoyed a good Italian dinner and plenty of great fellowship.

Everyone that attended stated that they had a great time and enjoyed themselves.



We had excellent attendance. Many also stated that they are looking forward to next year's Men's Club Dinner.

NO Men's Club funds were used for any expense at this dinner.

One of the attending ladies even stated that she really enjoyed the evening even more because the ladies of the church did not have to do any of the cooking or clean up.

D.J. Estopinal, GSC MC President

WISDOM FOR THE NEW YEAR

Are You Ready for A New Year Challenge? As we count down the days on our calendars, our thoughts will turn to what resolutions we will make for the New Year. Some of us will want to lose weight, or stop smoking. Maybe we will choose to get organized or spend more time in the Word of God. This year I can help you with part of this. Each year I challenge myself to read the Book of Proverbs. With all that is going on in the world, we can all use some wisdom from God.

As I have done before, I have a booklet/journal to help you on this journey. It has spaces for you to read and record what you have discovered in His Word that day.

I will also be walking with you and will record my thoughts on my Facebook page. If you would like to join me and receive a copy of this booklet, email your request to the church office at GSCMetOffice @ gmail .com or sign-up on the list in the vestibule bulletin board. If you are reading this and live out of town, let me know and I will mail you a copy. The booklets will be ready for pickup the last Sunday in December. Mailed books will be before Christmas.

I pray that you will join me in this challenge that will get us ready for whatever comes our way. Have a happy and blessed New Year!

Melva Geiger, GSC Office Manager



NOTES FROM RINDA

As we approach the time of year when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, I hope that we remember the reason that we give gifts to our loved ones is in remembrance of the gifts that the Wise Men brought to the infant Jesus. I pray that we remember this when we get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season.

To help us focus on Christ our Savior during this busy time, please join the choir as we present "Were You There on that Christmas Night?" during worship on December 15th.

On a personal note, best wishes to all during this blessed season.

Rinda Coleman, GSC Music Director



SHEEP IN THE NEWS

Kate Boudreaux, Mr. Stan McDonald's granddaughter has been selected to perform in the Nutcracker at JPAS during Christmas week.

Kate and her brother, Jake, have also passed their auditions for the show, Oliver, at Kenner's Rivertown Theater in 2020. Congratulations to Kate and Jake!

Haley LaGarde, Gabe LaGarde, and Sydney Mondello made the honor roll for the 1st nine weeks! Way to go!

Congratulations to Madison Graf for being selected as Senior Class President at John Curtis!

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 me know about it so we can share their accomplishments with all!

Heidi LaGarde, GSC Christian Education



BRUNCH WITH SANTA—DECEMBER 15

GSC's annual Brunch with Santa Claus will be held after the 10:00 AM service on December 15. For those wishing to experience a traditional worship experience on the Third Sunday of Advent, we will hold a Service of Holy Eucharist at 8:30 AM. The 10:00 AM service that morning will feature the GSC Choir Christmas Cantata entitled "Were You There on that Christmas Night?". If you're really up for being on Santa's good list, attend BOTH services!

Following the 10:00 AM service, at approximately 11:15 AM, we will host our Brunch with Santa in the fellowship hall. This is a free event and as its name implies, Santa will be present to meet with all the children!



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

This is just a friendly holiday reminder! If you are planning to underwrite Christmas poinsettias, I must receive your payment by Sunday, December 8, 2019.

When I receive your payment I will initial next to your name on the sign up sheet which can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Please **DO NOT** put your payment in the offering tray, you will **NOT** get credit for your payment if you do. Please give me your payment so that I will have the money when I go to purchase them.

D.J. Estopinal, GSC Department of Holiday Floral Procurement



GSC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, November 24, 2019, Reverend Graf and the Good Shepherd Church congregation welcomed into the service of our Lord and as new members to Good Shepherd Church, Mr. Adam Bennett and his daughter, Miss Karleigh Bennett.

When you see them, please introduce yourself and welcome them into the Good Shepherd Church family.



*GSC new members Adam Bennett and his daughter
Karleigh Bennett with Rev'd Graf.*



GSC VETERANS ANGELS 2019

By Rebecca Estopinal

The “**Veterans Angels**” mission is made up of Good Shepherd Church parishioners. These parishioners volunteer their time to put together gifts bags and then go to the “Southeast Louisiana Veterans Home” in Reserve, Louisiana. Upon arriving, they visit with, give out the Christmas gift bags and sing Christmas carols to the residence of the veterans' home. These are mostly veterans of the Korea and Viet Nam wars.

Last year, everyone who participated in the “Veterans Angels” mission advised that they totally enjoyed everything about being part of the “Veterans Angels” mission.

This year, I was advised that there are currently 150 resident veterans at the “Southeast Louisiana Veterans Home”. Fifty of those residents are diabetic.

We currently have enough sugar candy for the Non-Diabetic resident veterans. However, we do need sugarless candy for the diabetic resident veterans. If you would rather donate cash in order for me to buy the diabetic candy, please see me on any Sunday.

Anyone who wants to volunteer to help in putting together the individual bags of assorted candy that we will be giving out to each of the veterans should meet in the Good Shepherd Church, Conference room on Saturday, December 14, 2019 for 10:00 A. M.

The following **Saturday, December 21, 2019**, we will be meeting in the Good Shepherd Church's Parking Lot for 9:00 A. M. We will be **departing the parking lot at 9:15 A. M. SHARP!**

You **DO NOT** need to be involved in the putting together of the candy gift bags in order to go with us to visit the Veterans on Saturday, December 21, 2019. Everyone is welcome!!!

If you are interested in donating diabetic candy, cash, help in putting together the candy gift bags and/or attend going to the Veterans home, please see me either before or after Sunday church service.

REMEMBERING SHARON WETZEL

Longtime Good Shepherd Church member Sharon Wetzel returned home to be with her Lord on Tuesday, November 19. Sharon was preceded in death by her husband Harry Wetzel who passed away in June of 2017. She is survived by her children, John Wetzel (Pam), Jerry Wetzel (Lisa), Marti Noles (Richard) and numerous grandchildren.

Sharon served Good Shepherd Church in numerous capacities including many years as President of the GSC Church Council. She was also a member of the GSC Women's Guild and spent recent years serving as a greeter/usher and at the helm of our Altar Guild.

Funeral services for Sharon will be held on Saturday, December 7 at Good Shepherd Church. Visitation will begin at 10:00 AM with the Service of Remembrance of the Faithful Departed to begin at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary, followed by interment at Garden of Memories in Metairie.

Sharon will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and of course, her Good Shepherd Church family, but she will not be forgotten.



Sharon Wetzel

(March 26, 1938—November 19, 2019)



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

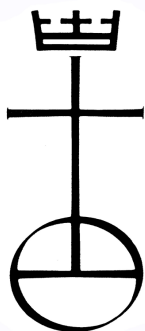
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The Rev. Dr. Randall M. Graf, Pastor



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