

SEPTEMBER 2020

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

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020... ALSO KNOWN AS MARCH THE 177TH

When will things ever be the same?

It's a question I keep hearing asked and one I've pondered myself too many times since mid-March.

I had a mentor in my early days of practicing psychology that used to always say to his patients, to me, and to anyone else who would listen: "You are not the same person you were last week and neither is the world the same. Next week, all will be different too. Stop fighting it. It does no good."

In some ways, my mentor's advice could be viewed as fatalistic, even nihilistic, however, I know that is not at all how he intended it. He was simply stating the observable reality that life continues moving forward in time, whether we want it to or not.

Some things are different at GSC

There are some things at Good Shepherd Church that are VERY different in September than they were in January, that's for sure. For example, our Sunday attendance averages about one-third of what it did before the COVID-19 pandemic. While that is disappointing in some ways, it's also encouraging to know that many of our parishioners have taken an honest assessment of their risks and decided to curtail their public travels. I support that 150% for anyone who feels unsafe right now.

And some things are encouraging!

It's also encouraging to realize that before March, despite having a YouTube channel, GSC had essentially no online video presence and our channel had less than 10 subscribers. Now, with over 160 subscribers, we have live-streamed over 120 separate services since our first live-stream on March 22, the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

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You may ask “Over 120 services? There haven’t been that many Sundays since March.” Well, that’s correct, but we now regularly live-stream Midday Prayer every Tuesday and Wednesday at 12:15 PM, Compline (Night Prayer) every Friday evening at 9:00 PM, the ARISE: Sacred Hour every first Monday of the month, and prior to summer, we were streaming our Midweek Week Holy Eucharist (now on hiatus) every Thursday evening. We have had over 6,000 video views and have reached not just our own members who are unable to attend church in-person, but have reached souls across our nation with the Gospel of our Lord! If ever there was a blessed silver lining within the storm, that is certainly one!

Some things that continue to be different

The nature of social distancing and public health during this pandemic has changed some things about worship experiences that may not return to “the old ways” for some time—if ever. For example, the mandate to wear a mask at church is a government rule, as is the roping off of pews to create greater distance between worshipers.

Other differences, such as having the offering plate located in the center of the aisle is considered a “best practice” to minimize the amount of hands that touch the offering plates by the old way of passing them around. Likewise, great effort has been placed on making distribution of Holy Communion safe through as few hands as possible preparing and distributing the bread.

And you may have noticed that only bread is distributed during Communion (although wine continues to be a part of the liturgy of the Blessed Sacrament).

Note: The Church has taught for 2,000 years that reception of Holy Communion in “one kind,” also known as “one species” (i.e, only bread or only wine) is sufficient for the communicant to receive all the benefits of God’s grace afforded in the Sacrament. In fact, long before the pandemic, I have administered Holy Communion to the sick or dying in hospitals and nursing homes in only the species of the Body of Christ—often out of necessity of the individual communicant’s condition.

Some things that we hope will change sooner rather than later

You may have noticed that the amount of singing that occurs during worship is extremely minimized. Research has shown that minimizing singing during worship reduces the potential spread of virus among those who may be infected with COVID-19 but are not aware of their infection. Our music director, Rinda Coleman, is carefully and prayerfully studying how it may be possible to incorporate our choir back into Sunday services in a way that poses minimal threat to the health and safety of the singers and other worshippers.

Our Sunday School and Nursery are other areas that we continue to seek guidance on from health professionals who consult with churches. We are very fortunate to have in the Diocese of the West-er Gulf Coast (ACNA) individuals who are well versed in that area (physicians, nurses, educators, etc.) who are regularly studying the available research data and can assist churches to transition back to offering Sunday School for youngsters and Nursery for infants and toddlers in a way that is both safe for the children and the adult workers in the classroom.

But wait, there’s more!

But wait, there's more!

I've got lots of other things to share with you this month, including updates on our Confirmands, Hurricane Laura relief efforts, an upcoming outdoor, socially-distanced garage sale fundraiser, scheduled visits from Bishop Clark, receiving new members, updates on the Book of Common Prayer order, and more. So, I'll sign off from the column for now and refer you to other articles in this newsletter.

Until next month, let your light shine!



The Rev'd Randall M. Graf,
Pastor



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SEPTEMBER SERVICES @ GSC

Tuesday, September 1 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Wednesday, September 2 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, September 11 @ 9:00 PM—Service of Compline (online only)

Sunday, September 6 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM—Sunday Service of Holy Eucharist

Monday, September 7 @ 6:00 AM—ARISE: Sacred Hour of Prayer (online only)

Tuesday, September 8 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Wednesday, September 9 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, September 11 @ 9:00 PM—Service of Compline (online only)

Sunday, September 13 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM—Sunday Service of Ante-Communion

Tuesday, September 15 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Wednesday, September 16 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, September 18 @ 9:00 PM—Service of Compline (online only)

Sunday, September 20 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM—Sunday Service of Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, September 22 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Wednesday, September 23 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, September 25 @ 9:00 PM—Service of Compline (online only)

Sunday, September 27 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM—Sunday Service of Ante-Communion

Tuesday, September 29 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Wednesday, September 30 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

BISHOP CLARK TO VISIT GSC TWICE IN FALL

Good Shepherd Church is pleased to announce two visits by **Bishop Clark Lowenfield** to our church in the coming months. Bishop Clark serves as the Bishop of the **Anglican Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast**. (For a bit of perspective, in our previous denomination, we would have had a Conference Minister visiting us from the Southcentral Conference.)

Bishop Clark will be with us on the weekend of **October 10 and 11** to meet with church leadership and to lead our Sunday worship service where our two confirmands, Travis Corley and Gabe LaGarde will receive their Confirmation. We also hope to receive new members on October 11.

Bishop Clark will return to Good Shepherd Church on **Saturday, December 12** to ordain our pastor, Reverend Randall Graf, to the Anglican priesthood.

It continues to be an exciting time in the history of Good Shepherd Church as together we move forward in our call to proclaim the Gospel to all the world as a devoted and orthodox family of faith in the Body of Christ! Please remember to share in the excitement of our confirmands and our pastor as they prepare to take large steps forward in their Christian lives.

GSC MEN'S CLUB NEWS

The below information is for **ALL** current Men's Club members and all men that would like to become members.

I need to call a meeting of the Men's Club because some important timely business that must be attended to and voted on.

The meeting will be held in the **Good Shepherd Church's Sanctuary** on **Tuesday, September 14, 2020 starting at 6:00 P.M.** **No** supper will be served that night.

Face mask and social distancing will be a requirement to attend. I hope to see everyone there.

D.J. Estopinal

GSC MC President

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH FUNDRAISER

By D.J. Estopinal

God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

**There is nothing better for a man under the sun
than to eat and drink and be merry.**

Ecclesiastes 8:15

Good Shepherd Church announces our next fundraiser. One Hundred percent of the monies raised will be used for the church's general fund. This fundraiser will be like no other produced by Good Shepherd Church. It will be totally **FREE**.

This church fundraiser will consist of a **FREE** supper for all attendees. Food served will be all-you-can-eat Spaghetti and Meat Balls, Fried Chicken, French Fries, and Pizza. Soft Drinks, Bottle Water and Draft Beer will also be available for **FREE**.

A six-piece band will be playing requested music to dance by.

All you need to do is show up and enjoy the evening, all for **FREE** and you may bring as many friends as you wish!

So, how do we raise money for the church's general fund if everything is for **FREE**?

ALL members of Good Shepherd Church that **DO NOT** attend this evenings fund raiser **MUST** pay the church \$25.00 each! You can place your cash or personal check in the offering plate on the next Sunday you attend church.

This fund raiser will be held from 6:00 P. M. to 10:00 P. M. on Tuesday, November 31, 2020.



NOTES FROM RINDA

When I was a child, my favorite part of worship was hymn singing. One of my favorites was "He Leadeth Me." Perhaps it was because as a child I felt the need to be guided. I still feel that need for God's guidance in my life, particularly in this difficult time.

The text was written by a minister, Joseph Gilmore, after he preached a sermon based on the 23rd psalm. The tune was composed by William Bradbury, a prolific composer of the 19th century.

For the last few days I have fallen asleep and awakened with this hymn going through my mind. It brings comfort and assurance that I am never alone. God surrounds me with his love and protection.

Thanks be to God!

Rinda Coleman
GSC Music Director



MASKS REQUIRED AT ALL SERVICES

Jefferson Parish President Cynthia Lee-Sheng has mandated, as of July 1, 2020, that MASKS MUST BE WORN in all public places until further notice. Good Shepherd Church continues to remain in full compliance with this mandate.



Until further notice, masks remain REQUIRED AT ALL in-person worship services at GSC and at any other events held at church.

There has been much speculation regarding when the State of Louisiana will transition from Phase 2 to Phase 3 of reopening. Many have theorized that were it not for the necessity of evacuations for Hurricane Laura from the Southwest part of our state, that Governor Edwards would have moved the state to Phase 3 as of September 1. As it stands, we remain in Phase 2 and GSC continues to have our pews strategically roped off to accommodate Phase 2 gathering restrictions. The transition to Phase 3 will have very little impact on the manner in which Good Shepherd Church operates, as we will continue to maintain our sanctuary seating at no more than fifty-percent capacity. Additionally, at a minimum, masks will continue to be required as long as they are mandated by authorities.

We appreciate your cooperation.

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

The response for ordering individual copies of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) was phenomenal and the order was placed on August 31, 2020. If you ordered and paid for your personal copy of the BCP, we hope to have it in your hands in just a couple of weeks.

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), published by the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) is a treasure trove of corporate and personal Christian worship. The original edition of the BCP dates back to 1549 when Church Reformer and then-Archbishop of Canterbury England, Thomas Cranmer, in defiance of the Roman Catholic Church, brought together the collection of Church liturgies and dared to published them in the English language (rather than in Latin).

As with so many of our Reformation ancestors, Archbishop Cranmer remained true to his commitment to the Word of God and the Faith once delivered to the saints. And it cost him his life when Queen Mary of England, operating as an ally of Rome, had him burned at the stake in 1556.

Those GSC members who go far enough back in time (pre-Mid 20th century) may even recall the German Evangelical Synod's Book of Worship being used in their congregation's services and might find the structure of the Book of Common Prayer and it's prayers and liturgies, to be uncannily similar to that which was practiced by North American German Evangelicals. Enjoy your prayer book when it arrives!



PERSONAL PRAYER TIME IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM REV'D GRAF

One of the most disappointing aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting social and public health restrictions is that it has had a profound impact on the normative worship of so many of the faithful. Now, truth be told, it is actually a blessing that we know enough to minimize the spread of COVID in our worship space. And a great deal of thanks goes out to all who have worked so hard each week to prepare and sanitize our worship space, before and after each service. These workers include Margaret Aucoin, Mel Aucoin, Joe Deibel, and Kelly Frilot.

Even with extensive precautions, such as social distancing, mask wearing, space sterilizing, etc., some folks have opted to remain away from Sunday in-person worship. That is fully understandable as each person has to decide, based on their own current situation and health history, or the health of those around them, exactly how much risk they would like to face in public at this time. As your pastor, I not only get it, I stand firmly behind each person's individual decision 150%!

Having said that, I want to make known to those who are not able to be with us on Sundays for corporate worship that I have been praying for you and about what, if anything I can do to further minister to you (beyond YouTube). As such, I will be offering one hour slots for personal prayer in the sanctuary of Good Shepherd Church in the coming weeks. Each slot will be for up to one hour of private time for you to sit alone (or with your family) in the sanctuary for personal prayer and meditation. I will also offer to bring you Holy Communion during that time from our pre-consecrated hosts reserved in the tabernacle behind our Lord's Altar. Of course, if you do choose to receive Holy Communion, I will take all precautions, including handwashing and mask wearing, to offer you the Blessed Elements during your sanctuary visit. If you would like to set up a time during the week for this opportunity, please call or email and we can schedule a time.

Rev'd Graf

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE IN OCTOBER

Good Shepherd Church will host our annual garage sale on **Saturday, October 10**. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the sale will take place in the parking lot of the church. In advance of Saturday, pricing and placement of items on tables will take place in the fellowship hall throughout the later part of the week.

Two ways you can assist:

1. If you have items to donate to the yard sale, please bring them to church **on Sunday mornings** and place them in the conference room or see our building manager Mel Aucoin who can direct you toward storage space to place them. PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF ITEMS AT CHURCH during the week leaving them outside. If for some reason you cannot bring them on a Sunday morning, see a member of Church Council in order to make other arrangements.
2. We need assistance setting up, manning tables, and tearing down the rummage sale. Set up will begin earlier in the week. The garage sale will be open from 8:00 AM until 1:30 PM on Saturday. Tear down will commence at 1:30 PM. Assistance in all aspects is greatly needed. A volunteer sign-up sheet is hanging on the bulletin board in the narthex.



HURRICANE LAURA RELIEF

As this edition of our newsletter goes to press, Good Shepherd Church is coming off a very successful bottled water drive to assist rescue, recovery, and relief workers in Southwest Louisiana. As residents begin to return to their homes, the needs on the ground will begin to shift. Please pay close attention to our weekly e-news and announcements in church as to how GSC will be proceeding with missions to aid the recovery area. And please remember, it was only 15 years ago that we too were in the same predicament as Lake Charles. What a blessing it was to have been aided by other Christians as we rebuilt our local church and our local community.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

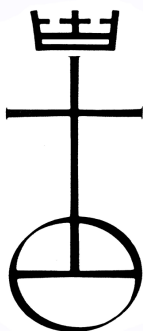
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www.GSCMet.com

The Rev. Dr. Randall M. Graf, Pastor



Sunday Services

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

Midweek Services

6:35 PM Thursdays

On COVID-19 hiatus

Midday Prayer

Tuesday and Wednesday 12:15 PM

(online only)

Service of Compline

Friday 9:00 PM

(online only)