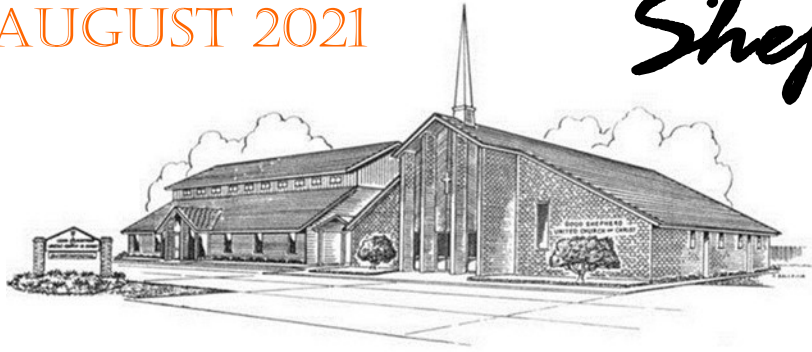


AUGUST 2021

# 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

### COVID-19

A lot can change in just a month! As I write this column for the August newsletter, we approach the end of July—a month that seems to have turned our COVID recovery world upside down as the delta variant has dominated the headlines.

On Wednesday, July 28, I participated in a Zoom meeting with our bishop and the lead priests of all the parishes in our diocese. This was a chance for the entire group to review new data and guidance from the Centers For Disease Control (CDC) and to discuss ways to continue to best serve our congregations, particularly as it relates to worship services.

The bishop's recommendations included making sure that each parish allows for space during worship for those who must mask. At Good Shepherd Church, we continue to implement that by dedicating our 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist as a mask-mandated service. At this time, our 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist remains a mask optional service and we continue to encourage folks to be seated as household family units and socially distance when possible. While we removed the partitions that separated worshipers by every other pew in May, this is an issue that Council will again address at their August meeting.

### OTHER STUFF

While the pandemic may force us to adjust how we do some things, we continue to strive to be the church that Christ is calling us to be. In that vein, we have several special events lined up for August that I'd like to call your attention to.

On **Sunday, August 1** we were scheduled to have Stan McDonald's singing group, The Mardi Gras Chorus, with us at our 10:00 AM service. Unfortunately, several members of that group have become ill, and they will have to take a raincheck on August 1. We look forward to rescheduling them just as soon as they are back up to speed. The ice cream social that was planned for that Sunday will still be held after the 10:00 AM service and look forward to holding another ice cream social on the Sunday that The Mardi Gras Chorus will be with us.

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On **Sunday, August 8** we will include our annual Blessing of the Book Bags as a part of our 10:00 AM service. We invite students of all ages and grades, as well as the teachers in our church family, to be with us at 10:00 AM on August 8 for a very special blessing to be prayed over them for the upcoming school year.

Our Christian Education Board has picked **Sunday, August 29** as Rally Day this year. At our 10:00 AM service, our children will be moved up to their next Sunday School grade and we'll install our Christian Education Board and teachers for the new education year. As is the tradition at Good Shepherd Church, our third graders will be given Bibles on Rally Day!

### STAYING COOL IN THE SUMMER HEAT

Finally, I want to make everyone aware that one of the air conditioning units that supplies the sanctuary failed in late July. Our Sunday morning services on July 25 were a bit warm as only one unit was working.

Fortunately, our building manager, Mel Aucoin, quickly jumped into action to solve this problem. As I put this article to bed on Friday evening, July 30, the workers are just leaving after working the past three days to get a new unit installed. The good news is that we will have a nicely cooled worship space on Sunday morning. The bad news is that the expense of the new unit is not something that was budgeted for in our 2021 budget. If there is anything you can do to help us recover this unexpected cost, I am asking that you do it. If all who are able give just a little bit more in the coming weeks, it can go a long way to help us defray this unexpected cost. We are very blessed to get this unit replaced this week. The owner of the company who performed this installation just informed me that the unit he installed was going up in price by an additional 8% on August 1, and because of this increase, the unit is now back ordered throughout the nation. The impact of the pandemic has been far reaching, but several industries, most notably furniture production and factories that produce HVAC units, have been very hard hit. The transportation industry has also been impacted which has further weakened the "pipeline" for new units. Again, in the midst of the unfortunate reality of a failing AC unit in the hottest part of summer, WE ARE VERY BLESSED to have been able to get a brand new, high efficiency unit installed in less than week. As you sit in church this month, keep that in mind and say some extra prayers of thanksgiving for how comfortable our worship space is!

Until next month, let your light shine!

**Fr. Randall Graf+**



### GSC MEN'S CLUB

A reminder that the next GSC Men's Club meeting will be held on August 9 at 6:00 PM and this meeting will include dinner po-boys from Come Back Inn.

Please make every effort to be with us as we have plenty of business to discuss including electing a new president as D.J. Estopinal has had to resign the presidency due to personal health reasons.

## NEW FOLKS AND BIBLE STUDY

**By Margaret Aucoin**

Greetings Good Shepherd. I wanted to share with you a little about the wonderful people from St. Stephen's who have come to join us and be part of us. Who are they? Fr. Jim, Sarah, Joe, David, and Daphne.

This group is continuing their tradition of weekly Bible study with food and fellowship, here in our conference room, on Thursday nights at 6:30. I am so glad that I have been attending to get to know the word better and the people too. Fr. Randall, Rinda, and Mel have been attending too.

First, the Bible Study is following a Pod Cast study found at <https://www.bemadiscipleship.com/>. It is an interesting study looking more deeply into the word pictures and the Jewish point of view. The Bible was written to better discern the full meaning. I am sure Fr. Jim could explain it much better.

In getting to know the people, I find they are fresh new blood. Interested in all aspects of our church; our missions, our outreach, our growth, and development. They definitely are "idea" people as well as "do" people. They have already said they want to help with the garage sales; Joe took the collected food to Second Harvesters. (Thanks!)

Sarah's mind is always thinking of mission ideas. One of her great ideas is a Good Shepherd blood drive. From her professional experience, she knows the importance of donating blood. This is a gift that costs nothing. Look forward to hearing more about the opportunity to give blood in the near future.

And the St. Stephen's group loves to eat dessert!



## NOTES FROM RINDA

Several months ago Dr. Harry Eskew was listed on our prayer list until his death. Dr. Eskew was my professor, mentor, and friend. He taught music history and hymnology at the Seminary. He actually co-wrote the textbook that we used. I've always loved hymns, but he sparked in me a deeper appreciation for the history and usage of our Christian hymn singing traditions. He encouraged me to dig deeper into the stories behind the hymns, in order to "Sing with Understanding" (the title of the textbook that he wrote).

One of the most popular hymns is "Amazing Grace." This hymn text was written by John Newton, who, before his conversion, was a slave trader. He encountered a serious storm on one of his Atlantic crossings and was convicted of the inherent wrongness of his activities. This text was a testimony to his conversion experience. It speaks to all of us on a deeply personal level, whether we have had a dramatic experience or have simply grown up in the knowledge of our Christian faith.

I am so pleased with the ACNA hymnal Book of Common Praise. It is a wonderful collection of hymns from many sources. There are chants from the earliest days of Christianity, choruses and responses from contemporary sources, and everything in between. Remember that for a \$50.00 donation, you can purchase both the Book of Common Prayer and a Book of Common Praise. I am hoping that we will be able to place these in our pews by the beginning of the Advent Season which starts on November 28. Remember that you may purchase these books in honor of or in memory of someone special. I have purchased one set in honor of the Good Shepherd Choir and will purchase another in memory of Dr. Eskew. Please give some prayerful thought to contributing to these worship aids for our sanctuary.

Have a blessed August!

**Rinda Coleman, GSC Music Director**

## SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2021

**Sunday, August 1 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM**—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist

**Tuesday, August 3 @ 12:15 PM**—Midday Prayer (online only)

**Wednesday, August 4 @ 12:15 PM**—Midday Prayer (online only)

**Sunday, August 8 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM**—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist ([Book Bag Blessing @ 10](#))

**Tuesday, August 10 @ 12:15 PM**—Midday Prayer (online only)

**Wednesday, August 11 @ 12:15 PM**—Midday Prayer (online only)

**Sunday, August 15 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM**—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

**Tuesday, August 17 @ 12:15 PM**—Midday Prayer (online only)

**Wednesday, August 18 @ 12:15 PM**—Midday Prayer (online only)

**Sunday, August 22 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM**—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

**Tuesday, August 24 @ 12:15 PM**—Midday Prayer (online only)

**Tuesday, August 24 @ 7:00 PM**—Mother's Prayer Group

**Wednesday, August 25 @ 12:15 PM**—Midday Prayer (online only)

**Sunday, August 29 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM**—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist ([Rally Day @ 10](#))

**Tuesday, August 31 @ 12:15 PM**—Midday Prayer (online only)

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** As a reminder, all services are held in-person unless otherwise noted as “online only”. Our Sunday service at 8:30 AM is a MASK REQUIRED service while our 10:00 AM is a MASK OPTIONAL service. In addition to being offered in-person, our Sunday morning Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM is also live-streamed. Our YouTube channel is located at [www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet](http://www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet).



### GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

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Father Randall M. Graf, Priest & Rector

### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

#### **Holy Eucharist**

*8:30 AM & 10:00 AM every Sunday*

#### **Service of Midday Prayer**

*12:15 PM Tuesday & Wednesday (online only)*

#### **Service of Compline**

*9:00 PM Friday (online only)*

