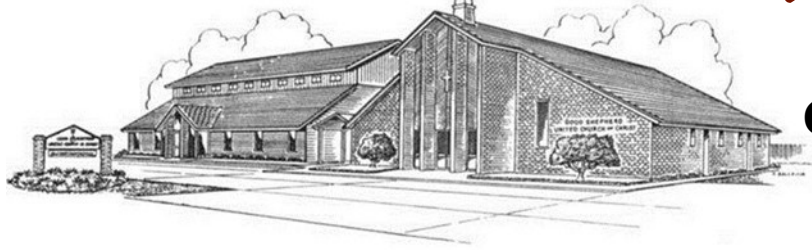


NOVEMBER 2021

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-
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 RECTOR'S STUDY

In the 28th chapter of Saint Matthew's gospel account, Jesus gives the Great Commission. He instructs us to go into the world making disciples for the Faith.

The reality is, Christianity in the West, particularly in North America, has done a less than stellar job of evangelizing over the past 50 or so years. This is not a uniquely Christian problem. In fact, Gallup data show that in 2020, for the first time ever in the United States, only 47% of the adult population claims membership in a church, synagogue, or mosque. This is down over 40 points since the start of the 21st century.

If we are honest with ourselves, this does not mean that over half of Americans do not have a belief system. It means they have a belief system that does not include God.

I would strongly argue that for the sake of our nation's future, this is a trend that we not only should be concerned about, but one that every local church should be actively addressing.

I want to tell you about two young people who attend Good Shepherd Church. Their names are Noah Huntley and Kristen Haynes. Both recently moved to our area after completing college studies elsewhere. Noah came to New Orleans for his first job. Kristen came here to pursue a master's degree. Both began attending Good Shepherd Church because they desired a church rooted firmly in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in the Anglican tradition.

Noah and Kristen understand the importance of faith in their lives and in the lives of others, especially in the lives of young adults. As such, they have stepped up to help bring the Good News of the God's saving grace through Christ to local college students by helping start a campus outreach ministry at the University of New Orleans.

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On November 29, just at the start of final exams, Noah and Kristen plan to be on the campus of UNO handing out "end of semester survival and management gift bags" to students. The end of the fall semester, with exam and holidays looming, is always a stressful time for students. Noah and Kristen have a vision for reaching students with the love of God by simply giving them an end of semester help bag. In it will be snacks and other small items to help manage stress including a card with Bible verses that address peace and strength through God.

This is only a first step in trying to reach unchurched members of our local community, but it's a big one and one that we need your help with. If you have anything that you could donate to be included in the survival bags, such as snacks, gum, or other end of semester essentials, please bring them to church. If you would like to offer a monetary donation to help offset the cost of purchasing gift bags and other items, that too would be greatly appreciated.

In the Spring semester, Noah and Kristen have a goal of recruiting students to begin coming to a weekly meeting of something called the Alpha course. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith with weekly talks that examine different topics designed to create conversation and explore BIG questions. Alpha is now offered around the globe by various denominations in Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, but was started by and remains rooted in the evangelical Anglican tradition.

As Noah and Kristen get the Alpha course underway at UNO in the Spring, another way members of Good Shepherd Church can help this college outreach is by volunteering to cook or provide a meal for their weekly meetings.

Please keep your eyes and ears open as Noah and Kristen keep us updated on their efforts to tackle the huge issue of unchurched Americans by starting right here in our own backyard. Please keep them and the fledgling UNO campus ministry in your prayers. And if you have any questions or feel moved to assist in any way, do not hesitate to let me know.

Until next month, let your light shine!

Fr. Randall+



SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2021

Tuesday, November 2 @ 6:30 PM—All Souls Day Evening Prayer and Candle Lighting

Sunday, November 7 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, November 10 @ 12:15 PM—Midweek Midday Prayer (online only)

Sunday, November 14 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, November 17 @ 12:15 PM—Midweek Midday Prayer (online only)

Sunday, November 21 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist

Totenfest will be celebrated at the 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist on November 21

Wednesday, November 24 @ 12:15 PM—Midweek Midday Prayer (online only)

Sunday, November 28 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist (Advent 1)

PLEASE NOTE: As we continue through this time of pandemic, we remind our parishioners that the 8:30 AM Sunday Holy Eucharist is set aside as a "mask only" service. If you are attending this service, please remember to wear a mask. All other services and events are mask optional.



November 1 - All Saints Day

November 2 - All Souls Day Evening Prayer @ 6:30 PM

November 9 - Hymn Sing @ 2:00 PM

November 11 - Veterans Day

November 21 - Totenfest (last Sunday of church year)

November 25 - Thanksgiving Day

November 28 - Hanging of the Greens (10AM)

TOTENFEST—NOVEMBER 21 @ 10:00 AM

Each year, in keeping with our heritage from the German Evangelical and Reformed Tradition, Good Shepherd Church celebrates Totenfest. The celebration of Totenfest is always held on the last Sunday of the Church Year, also known as Christ the King Sunday. The annual tradition includes the reading of the names of those members of our church family and the names of others who we loved who entered into the heavenly rest during the preceding church year. If you would like the name of a loved one who passed in the previous church year to be included in Totenfest, please use the sign up sheet in the narthex.

Worshippers are also invited to light a candle for all loved ones that are missed due to earthly death at our All Souls Day Evening Prayer Service on Tuesday, November 2 at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Unlike Totenfest which remembers those who passed in the previous church year, All Souls Day gives us a chance to remember all of our loved ones who are resting in the arms of the Savior, regardless of when they passed.

A reminder that the New Church Year begins on the first Sunday of Advent which is Sunday November 28 this year.



GSC WOMEN'S GUILD

The ladies of the Women's Guild will meet on Tuesday, November 9th at 10:00 a m in the Sanctuary. We will be electing officers for 2022 as well as planning our program for the new year. Hopefully we will resume meeting once a month beginning in January, 2022!!

Please make every effort to be in attendance. Thank you!

Barbara Mehrkens,
Women's Guild President

GSC MEN'S CLUB

As this newsletter goes to press, our Saints just beat Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and we did so using our third string quarterback! Is this our year? Time will tell. But it sure would be sweet to have another Saints Super Bowl victory!

Speaking of the Super Bowl... in November, the GSC Men's Club will begin selling squares for our annual Super Bowl pool. Keep an eye out for this fun fundraiser!

We look to get our regular Men's Club meeting happening again soon. With the holidays upon us, it likely that we'll wait to have our next regular meeting after the first of the year.

Stay tuned!



NEXT HYMN SING, NOVEMBER 9 @ 2:00 PM

On Tuesday, November 9, Good Shepherd Church will host another Hymn Sing put together by our own Ms. Patsy Engles. We'll meet in the sanctuary and the program will begin at 2:00 PM. After, we'll enjoy some light refreshments in the conference room.

Mark your calendar and join us!

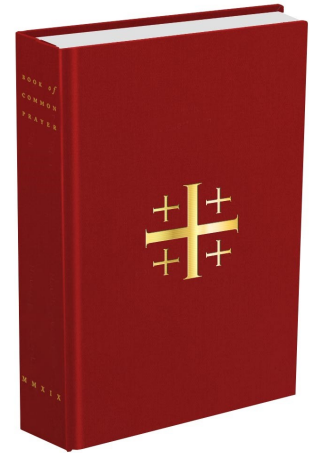


NOTES FROM RINDA

As I write this, there's a coolness in the air that reminds us of the changing of the seasons. Before we know it Advent will be here, and we begin a new liturgical year. I was looking through the Thanksgiving section of the new hymnal and came to the realization that we should not limit the singing of these beautiful hymns to the week before Thanksgiving. I know that we are not only thankful for a week or two in November! "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing" every Sunday, so why shouldn't we sing this beautiful hymn more often? I plan to make a concerted effort to include hymns of thanksgiving throughout the year. We have so much to be thankful for, and we can express this thanks through our offering of song.

The deadline for purchasing the prayer book/hymnal set to be placed in our pews is Sunday, November 7. The order will be placed on the 8th. Remember that you can purchase the set in honor or memory of special people in your life, or to the glory of God. I personally have learned to appreciate the Anglican tradition by using the prayer book for my daily devotional time. I keep a copy by my bed and start and end my days with Morning Prayer and Compline. Each time I read these words, I find new meaning in the beautiful prayers, scriptures, and collects. Thanks be to God.

Rinda Coleman
Musician Director



BLACK AND GOLD SUNDAY

The Good Shepherd Church annual BLACK & GOLD SUNDAY will be held on Sunday, November 14, 2021.

This event is a potluck, so please put on your black and gold colors, come to church, and bring a dish to share.

The party will be held in the fellowship hall. We'll have multiple TVs set up to watch our Saints whip up on the Tennessee Titans.

Kick off is noon but we'll head over to the fellowship hall after the 10:00 AM service to begin setting up food. What a GREAT day to bring a friend to church!



TRUNK OR TREAT 2021



Trunk or Treat 2021 was held at Good Shepherd Church on Saturday evening, October 30 from 5 to 8 PM and was a great success! Many thanks to all of our parishioners who participated. We were also blessed to have representation from the Farhad Grotto Dune Buggies and KlowN Units present with us.

KEEP UP WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENING!

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!

And don't forget our YouTube channel:

www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet



HANGING OF THE GREENS

ADVENT AND THE NEW CHURCH YEAR

For 2,000 years, the Church has been an institution that, when it has been at its best, it has remembered that it is “in the world, not of the world” and this means that it often is not in lockstep with the ways of the world.

The Church calendar is one example of how the church is different. In the world, the new year begins on January 1. In the Church Universal, the new year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, which this year is Sunday, November 28.

Just as the material world has seasons, so too does the Church have her seasons. Advent is the first of the seasons of the Church year and is time that we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord and the Feast of the Nativity, also known as Christmas.

A longstanding tradition at Good Shepherd Church is something known as the Hanging of the Greens. Held annually on the Saturday before the first Sunday of Advent, this even is a time for parishioners of all ages to come together in a festive way to decorate the sanctuary of the church for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.



PRAYING AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began last year, Good Shepherd Church has been streaming our 10:00 AM Sunday morning Service of Holy Eucharist each week. During the distribution of Holy Communion, the lector reads a prayer entitled **An Act of Spiritual Communion** for those who are watching at home and are unable to partake in the reception of Holy Communion sacramentally. That beautiful prayer comes from the Book of Common Prayer (pg. 677, ACNA 2019) and can be prayed by a Christian any time they are longing for the grace of Holy Communion but are unable to receive the tangible elements of the sacrament. These are the words to that prayer:

***Dear Jesus, I believe that you
are truly present in the Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to possess you within my soul.
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people
gathered around every altar of your Church,
and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.***



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

5122 West Esplanade Ave

Metairie, LA 70006

504.454.0764

www.GSCMet.com

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 Wednesday (online only)

Service of Compline

9:00 PM Friday (online only)