

FEBRUARY 2022

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

Every now and then I find a communication that I believe I need to share as a part of my monthly column. This month, I yield my space to GSC Council Member Carla Scallan who has submitted the following to be read at our Annual Meeting on February 6, 2022.

Fr. Randall Graf+

From Carla Scallan, Council Member

I wanted to share with you some important commitments in the life of every church. Every church has a council, made up of members that take the time to meet, make decisions and handle the finances of the church body. Not glamorous work, but a necessity. Part of that work is the financial business, budget and managing the expenses. Projecting a reasonable budget and setting goals for giving to charities/organizations and improvements for the upcoming year. But projections are hard to make when the response to the pledge cards were lower than the previous years. Not the monetary value necessarily, but the number of people who turned in pledge cards. It might seem like a small thing, but when trying to project a budget it is essential. When pledge cards are lower than previous years the council has to have a lot of FAITH that God will provide somehow. Surely the congregation will remember to tithe regularly, even though they have not officially committed to do so.

We here at Good Shepherd are extremely fortunate to have such a wonderful facility that is in high rental demand, a blessing from God. The income from the rentals is about 30% of the budget – What would we do if the rental income was lower? Fund raisers have been helpful to supplement our budget, but the last 2 years it was difficult to hold fund raisers. We adapted, the dinners were To-Go only, we held raffles and football pools which allowed us to do some fund raising in a safe manner. We worked together to find solutions and work-a-rounds when life gave us challenges. We as a congregation need to challenge ourselves – in our giving, faithful commitment and service.

Continued on page 2

The council will be calling on you to participate more actively in different events, fund raising, charity work, Vacation Bible School and community outreach. We need to play a bigger role in our community. Too often many of the same people are participating in running the events – **everyone** has Time and Talent and we need to start using it more efficiently. The council will be reviewing the by-laws and possibly down-sizing the council members. The Council will be delegating to Committees to handle events and social activities.

We would all like to come to church each Sunday, to worship, sing, pray and go home. But it's time for us all to become committed to the LIFE of the Church – it's not just a place we meet once a week, it is so much more.

Pray about it, think of things that you might be able to help with. Seek out any of the council members to share your thoughts and ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Scallan, Council Member

I thank Carla for sharing these words with us and I pray that you will prayerfully consider her thoughts and prayerfully consider how best you can support the mission and ministry of this precious gift we know as Good Shepherd Church.

Until next month, let your light shine!

Fr. Randall Graf+



SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2022

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

Wednesday, February 2 @ 6:30 PM—Evening Prayer for Candlemas/Feast of Presentation

Sunday, February 6 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist (no 8:30 AM due to Annual Meeting)

Tuesday, February 8 @ 7:00 PM—Mothers Prayer Group

Sunday, February 13 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

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

Sunday, February 20 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

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

Sunday, February 27 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

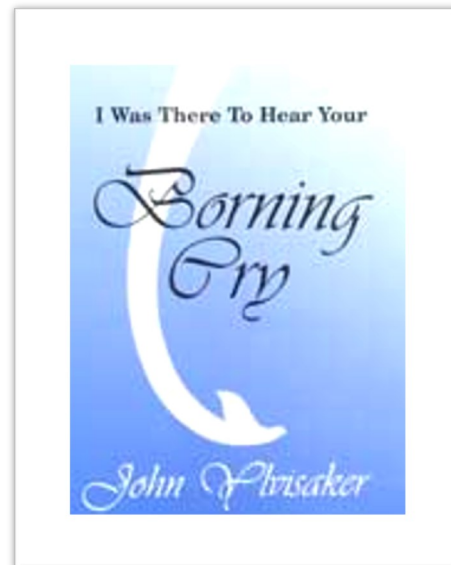
PLEASE NOTE: As we continue through this time of pandemic, we remind our parishioners that the 8:30 AM Sunday Holy Eucharist is set aside as a “mask required” service. If you are attending this service, please remember to wear a mask. All other services and events are mask optional. All services are held in-person unless otherwise noted as “online only”. 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.

NOTES FROM RINDA

We have the honor and privilege to witness the baptism of Jacob Miller this month, welcoming him into the family of God. It is traditional at Good Shepherd to sing the hymn “Borning Cry” on the occasion of baptism. This is a beautiful hymn that often brings tears to the eyes of those who sing it. The first line states “I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old.” The “I” in the hymn is never identified, but as you read the text it becomes obvious that the person represented by the pronoun “I” must be God. He is obviously the only one who is there both at our birth and death, as well as every event in between—baptism, childhood, adolescence, marriage, midlife, and old age.

Both the text and music were written by John Ylvisaker in 1985. It is ballad-like and may be sung with guitar accompaniment as well as keyboard. The chronological nature of the text makes it impossible to omit any stanza. As we sing this beautiful hymn, let us remember (or look forward to) the stages of our life here on earth and look forward to “just one more surprise” when our earthly life is ended.

Rinda Coleman
GSC Music Director



CHURCH GARAGE SALE MARCH 5

Mardi Gras Week (February 28 thru March 4) will give us a great opportunity to receive last minute items and to organize and prep for our Early Spring Garage Sale.

This summer and fall, Mel has been like a squirrel hiding pecans in every nook and cranny for the long winter. Now all of our squirrels need to come help to dig out our stash in time for a Spring Sale! There will be lifting and toting, tables to stack and clothes to fold, boxes and books galore. There will be a lot of glassware and housewares to dust and display. Artists are needed to make posters as well. Table folders, cashiers, and strong men are needed for the day of the sale! Come out and help us turn the stash into cash!

Volunteers for set-up will be needed:

All day - Thursday, March 3

All day - Friday, March 4. Till it's ready.

Saturday Sale from 8:00-2:00.

For more information, please see Margaret Aucion.

PRAYING AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began, 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

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Father Randall M. Graf, Priest & Rector

REGULAR 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)

