

SEPTEMBER 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.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday, September 4 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Sunday, September 11 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, September 14 @ 12:15 PM (Red Letter Lunchtime)

Feast Day of the Holy Cross

Sunday, September 18 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Thursday, September 22 @ 7:00 PM

Mothers' Prayer Group

Sunday, September 25 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Thursday, September 29 @ 12:15 PM (Red Letter Lunchtime)

Feast Day of Michael and All Angels

PLEASE NOTE: Our YouTube channel is located at
www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet. Each Sunday
morning, we livestream our 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist on our
channel.

FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

(There is) a time to keep silence, and a time to speak. (Ecclesiastes 3:7)

On occasion, I am approached by a parishioner who has a concern to share. One such concern that seems to come up with patterned regularity, and yet almost never from the same person, is the issue of silence—specifically, the lack thereof—in the sanctuary in advance of Sunday morning worship services. I'd like to take a moment in this month's column to bring this concern to the attention of the larger body.

The appropriate means of gathering for worship is to do so with reverence and in silence. In reality, this is not always the case in our church or most churches, for that matter.

If we think about it, our lives are probably quite busy and just as likely quite noisy. It seems as if our culture has adopted busy and noisy as default postures, which in many ways is quite sad.

The time before the start of corporate worship—the coming together of God's people—does at first seem to fit the stereotype of any other social gathering. Yet, it really shouldn't. Yes, it is the coming together of many people who may not have seen each other for a week or more, but at the same time, the Christian needs to be ever mindful that the reason for gathering on Sunday morning has absolutely nothing to do with us. At least, it shouldn't.

The coming together on Sunday morning should always be done with the hearts of the faithful open wide to the presence of God and to the hearing of His voice. For most people, this means arriving at church, or at least to the inside of the sanctuary, before the formal start of the Liturgy. This time before the start of the service provides an opportunity for the worshiper to settle down and prepare themselves for all that is about to happen—the worship of God in word and song, the presentation of our spoken and unspoken prayers, and the experience of the presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament.

I suspect that the vast majority of people reading this column already have the knowledge of the information I just shared in the previous paragraph. Where the concern comes in is in the fact that the knowledge of this information does not always translate into practice and thus, the minutes leading up to the start of a worship service in the sanctuary begin to sound more like a time of catching up with our neighbors rather than an intentional act of catching up with God.

I am not writing this column in order to be Dr. Killjoy, but rather to simply remind our parishioners that the time period in advance of the start of services should be a time of prayerful silence. Believe it or not, there are lots of folks sitting around you at 9:50 AM who are actually trying to engage in silent prayer. It may not seem that way to you if you, yourself are not engaging in silent prayer.

I would also like to remind parishioners that there is ALSO a chance for socializing and fellowship every Sunday morning at church. Each Sunday morning, between the end of our 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist and the start of our 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, we hold a time of coffee

and fellowship in the conference room. This is both the time and the place for socializing as it also serves to provide noise protection for those wishing to experience quiet time in advance of the service. In other words, if you want to talk before church, the conference room is the place to do it, not the sanctuary (or by extension, not the narthex as noise easily infiltrates into the sanctuary, piercing the peace and silence of those praying). And if you are in the conference room for fellowship, you will notice that at 4 minutes before 10:00 AM the church bells will play a brief song. This is done intentionally so that those in fellowship are given notice that the service will begin in just a matter of minutes, so now would be a good time to quietly leave the conference room and find a pew in the sanctuary—again, remembering as you enter this solemn place of worship that NOW is NOT the time to call out in a stage whisper to Mr. Alfred three rows in front of you to ask about his hemorrhoid surgery.

The Book of Proverbs is chock full of wisdom and as I am writing this column, I can't help but think of what chapter 10 verse 19 says: ***When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.*** That's how the English Standard Version of that text reads. The New Living Translation states it a little more forcefully when it says: ***Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut.***

Even as God implores us in the Psalms to “**Be still and know that I am God**” (Psalm 46:10), as your priest and rector, I lovingly implore you that on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary, before the start of worship that you heed the wisdom of Proverbs to *be sensible and keep your mouth shut*.

Until next month, let your light shine (just do it quietly in the sanctuary or if you must do it with spoken words, then do it in the conference room).

Fr. Randall M. Graf, Rector



WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

The next meeting of Women's Guild will be **September 13 at 10:00 AM.**

During the month of September, we will collect eye-glasses that are no longer being used. This includes prescription glasses and sunglasses as well as reading glasses. A **Loin's Club** collection box is located in the narthex.

Thanks all who donated to the summer mission project to benefit **Animal Rescue of New Orleans (ARNO).**

Dottie Frilot

Women's Guild President



NOTES FROM RINDA

September brings cooler temperatures, colored leaves, students and teachers back in school...Wait--only the last of that list is true in south Louisiana! No cooler temperatures or colored leaves here! But there are events and happenings at Good Shepherd Anglican Church that indicate a change in the seasons.

The choir is back! It seems like our summer hiatus lasted forever! We are happy to welcome two new members. If you've ever thought about using your voice to lead in worship in the choir, now would be a great time to do so. Most of our singers are not professionally trained, but we're working on reading skills. There is no audition required. I admit, it's sorta like learning a foreign language, but it definitely is possible.



It is a joy to use both our prayer books and our praise books -otherwise known as our hymnals. I know that there are numerous hymns in the Book of Common Praise that are unfamiliar to many of us. I'd like to ask you to take a few minutes to look through the hymnal (not during the sermon, of course!) and find a hymn or two that you are unfamiliar with that you would like to learn. Write the name and/or number on a sheet of paper and drop it in the offering plate or give it to me. You know I love hymns, and I would love to share some of the "new to you" hymns.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands!

Rinda Coleman
GSC Music Director

UNO OUTREACH

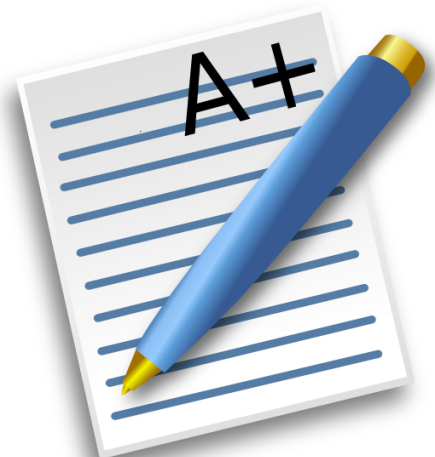
We will be doing another mid-term bag drop for UNO students on **Tuesday, September 27th**.

Donations for the bags include **pens, pencils, notecards, candy, gum, and any other school supplies** that a college student might need. **Bags** for the donations are also needed.

Construction of the bags will occur on **Sunday, September 25th**. Cash is also accepted so that I, Noah, can go to the store to buy supplies. Please let me know what you plan on donating!!

Additionally, if you would like to help with distribution or if you know of a student who is looking to get connected with believers on campus, please let me know!!

Noah Huntley



BLACK & GOLD FELLOWSHIP EVENT

We are have our annual **Black & Gold Sunday** on **September 11** to watch the opening regular season game. It's a little earlier than in previous years but there are limited Sundays when we have an away game with a noon kickoff again a division team.

We will have a **pot luck** tail gate foods and deserts immediately after the conclusion of our 10:00 AM service. All are welcome so please bring a friend along with your pot luck tail gate dish!

We will also be selling tickets for a 50-50 drawing at halftime. It's an opportunity for fellowship and to support your church and our football team.

As this edition of the Shepherd's Voice Newsletter goes to press, we still have a couple dozen square available on the Saints 100 square pool. Each square is \$30 for the entire regular season (17 games). Your square(s) will be yours for the entire season but the numbers will change for each game. Winners will receive \$25 per quarter (no overtime).

See Joe Deibel for more information.



HELP WANTED

Gardeners needed!

Our prayer garden is getting over grown with the long hot/wet summer. We need help in the prayer garden with weeding, trimming and maintenance. This needs to be done since many of the annual plants need to be trimmed back and the roses trimmed and fertilized.

The work can be done any time to get plants ready for fall.

For more information, please see Margaret Aucoin.



KEEP UP WITH GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH ONLINE



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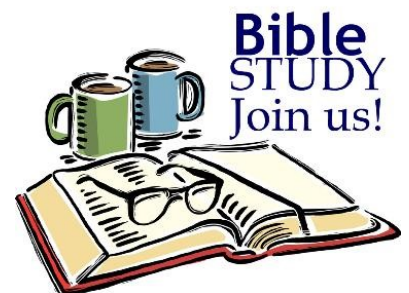
MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Every Monday evening beginning at 6:30 PM, we hold our weekly Bible study in the conference room.

This study is open to all who desire an opportunity to dig into God's Word with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Currently we are studying the Book of Acts.

If you would like more information about our weekly Bible Study, please see Noah Huntley.



PRAYER REQUESTS

A reminder that you may submit a name or cause to be entered on to the Good Shepherd Church prayer list by completing a prayer card found in the pews and placing the card in the offering plate. Please note that the computer program used to track our prayer listings places a time limit on entries. If a name or cause that was included on the list is no longer listed and you would like it to be, simply complete another prayer card. Likewise, if you would like to update a prayer request and have it removed from the list before it automatically cycles off by reaching its time limit, this too can be done using the pew prayer cards.



SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS & REMEMBRANCES AND ETERNAL FLAME SANCTUARY LAMP

A reminder that each Sunday affords an opportunity to honor, remember, and celebrate people and events. Want us to offer prayers of gratitude for a wedding anniversary or prayers of remembrance for a loved one who has returned home to the Lord or prayers of thanksgiving for a special person's birthday? Let us know by filing out the blue **"Sunday Celebrations, Honors, and Remembrances"** form.

The "Sunday Celebrations, Honors, and Remembrances" form is available in the narthex of the church. By completing the **brief form** with the necessary information (e.g., John and Jane are celebrating 20 years of marriage on June 15 or Mike and Sue wish to honor the memory of Sue's mother, Pauline on what would have been her 100th birthday) and turning it in along with **a small \$5 honorarium**, you can be assured that the Sunday of your choosing includes the publication of your honor in our Sunday bulletin and prayerful remembrance during our Sunday service.



Additionally, the **Eternal Flame Sanctuary Lamp book** still has a few openings for memorials for 2022. If you would like to dedicate the Eternal Flame in memory of a departed loved one, please see the open dates in the red folder in the narthex. The suggested minimum **honorarium for the Eternal Flame Sanctuary Lamp is \$15.**

For more information, please see Fr. Randall.

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

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

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www.GSCMet.com

Father Randall M. Graf, Priest & Rector

WORSHIP SERVICES

Holy Eucharist

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM every Sunday

Red Letter Holy Days

12:15 PM

