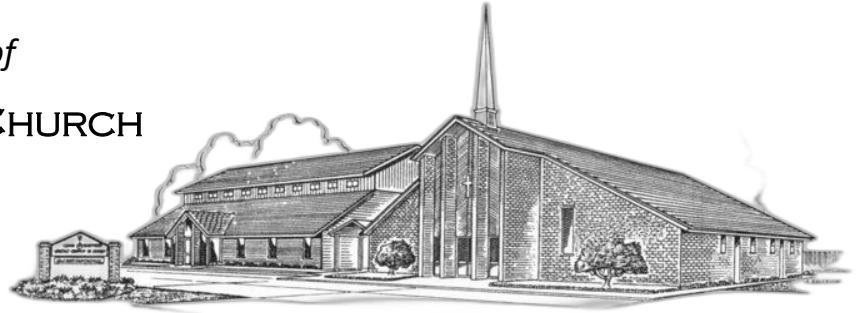


Shepherd's Voice

APRIL 2023

The monthly parish newsletter of

GOOD SHEPHERD ANGLICAN 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.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2023

Sunday, April 2 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 6 @ 6:35 PM

Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 7 @ 3:00 PM

Good Friday

Sunday, April 9 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 16 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—2nd Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 23 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—3rd Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 30 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—4th Sunday of Easter



FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

THE CHURCH AS HOSPITAL

Recently, I took a selfie in front of Good Shepherd Church and posted it on Facebook. In the picture, I made certain to capture the name of our church because I wanted to use it as an evangelization tool. I posted the picture with a caption that read

"I'd consider it a blessing if you joined us for worship on Sunday at 8:30 or 10:00 AM. We're not a hotel for saints; we're a hospital for sinners and we love visitors! 5122 W. Esplanade Avenue in Metairie."

Now, truth be told, I don't believe that post resulted in a single one of my Facebook "friends" who aren't already members of GSC, coming to church that Sunday. However, having said that, I was also amazed at the reactions that the post stirred. It got a bunch of "thumbs up LIKES" and that's great, but more specifically, what really caught my attention was the number of times the post was reposted, or "shared," to use a Facebook term, by folks who ARE NOT members of Good Shepherd Church. In fact, more than a couple of my Facebook friends who shared the post are actually stalwart members of their own particular congregations—yet, they felt moved to share my shameless attempt to market Good Shepherd Church. One friend who clicked "LIKE" even wrote a comment that REALLY caught my attention. He said "I know this man; He means it." Now, let me state for the record, I'm not tossing out that quote to make me look good. I'm tossing out that quote, because not only is the gentleman who made it NOT a member of our church, but he's not even a Christian—he's a Jew!

In the days after I made that post, I ended up talking to a few friends who reposted and commented, and I thanked them for their support of my ministry and the ministry of our church.

I even asked a few, "Since I was clearly attempting to promote the church I pastor, and you're a very active member/leader of the church you attend, what made you repost my attempt to advertise Good Shepherd Church?" Each person answered in essentially the same way. They said something to the effect of "The caption made me do it. When you declared that Good Shepherd Church was a hospital for sinners, I realized that that's what all churches need to be."

What purpose does a hospital serve? One definition of the word I found online simply says a hospital is an institution that provides medical and/or surgical care and treatment, as well as nursing care, for those who are sick or injured.

Isn't that what a church is called to be? An institution that provides care and treatment for those who are sick in our souls and injured in our being? And truth be told, aren't all of us suffering at least a little bit with sinful souls and injured lives?

My friend, Reverend Malcolm Richard, pastors a church in Baton Rouge and their motto is "No perfect people allowed." I love that quote because not only does it speak to the truth of the way a church should operate, but it takes an unnecessary and impossible burden off the church member or church visitor who goes to that church. They don't have to put up a front and pretend to be something they are not. They can go to church, in their sinfully sick, soulfully injured state and receive the life-changing healing treatment that God our Father provides through His Son, Jesus Christ!

It's so important for all who read this to know this fact: You don't need to get yourself perfect to come to church. In fact, you CAN'T get yourself perfect. Only God can perfect you and He actually desires to do that, through the ministry of Christ and His Church. You might already understand this reality, but there's a good chance that there are people that cross your path daily who don't understand this. How are they to know it unless somebody shares it with them? That somebody, may be you!

As we continue to celebrate this joyous Easter season, do yourself a favor if you haven't been to church in a while. Come. It's just that simple. If you're a regular attender, invite someone. There are people in our world, who need to know that there are churches who want to minister to their sick and injured souls with the Truth of God's Word and through His Resurrected Son.

I ask you to also pray for me. Pray that the Lord will continue to give me words that serve as a healing balm for those who are in spiritual pain, and that my ministry in the Name of Jesus Christ, will be for those in need, just what the doctor ordered.

Until next month, let your light shine!



Fr. Randall M. Graf, Rector



LASAGNA LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER

Good Shepherd Church will be hosting a Lasagna Lunch fundraiser on Sunday, April 16. Tickets are \$18 for each meal which includes a generous helping of the world-famous Ms. Maria's lasagna, vegetable, salad, and garlic bread. All orders are to go and may be picked up between noon and 1:30 on the 16th. Get your tickets today and take a few extra to sell to family, friends, and coworkers.



NOTES FROM RINDA

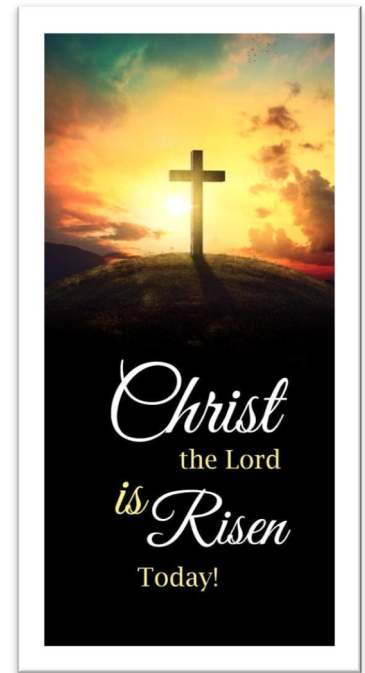
Charles Wesley is responsible for many hymns of the faith. One that is frequently sung during the Easter season is "Christ the Lord is Risen Today". He wrote this about a year after his experience at Aldersgate Hall.

A hymn of jubilant praise, it reminds us that "death in vain forbids Him rise"—what a glorious promise! After the experience of Lent, how marvelous to break into singing joyful Alleluias to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with the assurance that we, too, will be with Him in glory.

"Sing ye heavens and earth reply

Alleluia!"

Rinda Coleman
GSC Music Director



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Recently, leaders from Good Shepherd Anglican Church met to discuss Vacation Bible School for the summer. The initial planning is underway and continues. Dates have been picked.

VBS will run evenings at Good Shepherd this year from Monday, June 19 to Friday, June 23. Our start time will be 5:30 PM and VBS will dismiss each evening at 7:00 PM.

Please keep your eyes and ears open for more information as plans come together and be thinking about youngsters in your life that would benefit from attending VBS.

Of course, we can always use additional volunteers, so please step up if you are able to help. There is plenty of room for assisting, from working directly with students to helping prepare snacks.

For more information, see Rinda Coleman or Fr. Randall.



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 **2023** book still has some Sundays opened for sponsoring the **Eternal Flame Sanctuary Lamp**. 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.

The Jefferson Choral

(an affiliate of JPAS)

presents

"FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH"

directed by

Dr. Louise LaBruyère

Sunday, April 23, 3 PM

Our Lady of Prompt Succor

146 4th Street

Westwego

Thursday, April 27, 7:30 PM

Good Shepherd Anglican Church

5122 West Esplanade

Metairie

Concert is free and open to the public--donations gladly accepted

KEEP UP WITH GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH ONLINE



www.FaceBook.com/GSCMet



www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet



www.Twitter.com/GoodShepherdMet



www.GSCMet.com



*PLEASE go to our website and
subscribe to our e-newsletter!*



A COLLECT FOR EASTER

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to use the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may, by your life-giving Spirit, be delivered from sin and raised to from death; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

From the ACNA (2019) Book of Common Prayer, page 609.



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

5122 West Esplanade Ave

Metairie, LA 70006

504.454.0764

www.GSCMet.com

Father Randall M. Graf, Priest & Rector

REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES

Holy Eucharist

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM every Sunday

Red Letter Holy Days

12:15 PM or 6:30 PM

