

THE Shepherd's Fold

November 12, 2023

24th Sunday after Pentecost

THE GREAT AMEN

Throughout our worship services we say the single word, Amen, many times. The word comes from the Hebrew for “verily,” “it is so,” or “I agree.” When this response is said it shows that we agree with what has preceded. The Hebrew pronunciation is ah-main (not A-men). The first recorded report of the use of the word Amen in Christian worship is by Justin Martyr in the year 150!

The purpose of this little article today is to draw your attention to what is known as “The Great Amen.” If you have your Book of Common Prayer handy, turn to page 363. The last paragraph which is known as the doxology, “All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. AMEN.” The Great Amen is printed in all capital letters to emphasize the importance of this moment in the liturgy. You may have noticed that the priests at the altar will raise their voices several decibels louder with a resounding, AMEN!

We are not meant to be passive or solitary in worship. The 19th century theologian, Soren Kierkegaard wrote, “Worship is a drama: the congregants are the players, the clergy and musicians are the prompters and God is the audience.” The drama is about how God has revealed himself to us and our response. One of the attractions of the Episcopal church for me was that the liturgy was interactive. We are all active participants in praising God.

Our worship service is actually a praise service, with the culmination of the doxology a special occasion to simply express that praise. The Great Amen is our way to say with confidence and gusto, Praise be to God!

Peace,



BISHOP'S VISIT

The Right Reverend Frank Logue will be with us Sunday preaching at all morning services, 8 am, 9 am and 11:15 am. Bishop Logue will be celebrating confirmation and baptism at the 9 am service. After the 9 am service, Bishop Logue will hold a forum for all parishioners during the Sunday School hour in the parish hall. Please come to listen and to ask questions if you have them.

SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE SURVEY

Our year with the Saint John's Bible will end on the first Sunday in Advent, December 3rd. Interest in events associated with the Saint John's Bible has increased substantially in the second half of our "year," and there is the possibility of having the Bible with us for another year. Because of the significant efforts and resources involved in hosting the Saint John's Bible, scan the QR code, we want to hear from you.



Scan me

GOSPEL READING WITH THE SJB

On Tuesday, **November 14th**, all interested parishioners are invited at 3:00 PM to participate in the reading aloud of the Gospel according to John. We will gather in the chapel and take turns reading from the Saint John's Bible. Everyone is welcome to stop by for a short period of time or stay through the whole

reading - depending on your own schedule. Every Sunday we read a short section of one of the Gospels, but on Thursday we will read John from beginning to end; a wonderful opportunity to hear the whole story in one sitting.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thank you to all who helped with our 154th Annual Parish Meeting, especially Lynn Williams! Elected to the Vestry were Matt Tracy, Renee Austin, Greg Haltiner, and Gilchrist Phillips. Mark Pritchett was elected as our Senior Warden. Thank you to all who stood for election! We are grateful for the work and dedication of our retiring Vestry, John Cates, Mary Margaret Adams, Ralph Kitchens, and Amy Sutherland Nesbit, and our retiring Senior Warden, John McCollum.

VISIO DIVINA

Visio Divina will resume Wednesday nights, **November 1-29, at 6 pm**. This is an opportunity to experience more from the Scriptures and Illuminations in The Saint John's Bible. Each week we will look at a different Illumination and Scripture reading. Please join us for a meaningful way to move into the Advent Season. Visio Divina will not meet Thanksgiving week, **November 22nd**.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Join us Thanksgiving day, November 23, for our service at 10 am, then stay for supper in the Parish Hall. Sign up to bring a side dish in the Parish

Hall. Wine, turkey and dressing are provided.

YOUTH POINSETTIA DRIVE

We are now taking orders for poinsettias! You can pick up a form in the lobby or register online at **bit.ly/youthpoinsettias**. All payments and order forms are due Sunday, **November 26**. Please plan on picking up poinsettias on Sunday, **December 3rd**. All proceeds support the Good Shepherd Youth Ministry.

BROWN BAG LUNCH

Bring your own "brown bag lunch" to enjoy as we reflect on a different illumination and scripture from The Saint John's Bible each week. **Tuesdays at 12 noon, September 19 - November 28**. Meets in the Conference Room.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

In the midst of the holiday season, there are those whose joy is diminished because of loss of a loved one and/or grief. Join us in the church on **December 4 at 6 pm** as we seek Light in the Darkness. This is a service of remembrance and joy. We express to God our sorrow, but we also lay claim to the hope given to us by our faith in Jesus. We encourage you to bring a small picture of a loved one to place on the altar prior to the service.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Join us at 10:00 am, **Sunday, December 3rd**, in the Parish Hall to construct your Advent wreath.

Families and individuals of all ages are welcome. Please bring clippings from your own or friends' evergreen bushes or trees and your own clippers. All other materials, foam wreath base, candle holders, and four Advent candles will be available for \$20. To purchase only the set of candles, the cost is \$5.

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK SALE

Our book, *On This Hill, Upon This Rock*, makes a great Christmas present! Pick up your copy in the church office or in the Parish Hall on Sundays. The book is on sale for \$30! You can pay with check, cash or venmo @cogsaugusta

ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree will be in the Parish Hall next weekend. Please help a child in need this Christmas season. Please take a tag and return gifts to the church by **December 3rd**.



Bring a friend and join us on the church lawn for hot chocolate and carols as we light our Christmas Tree to begin the Advent Season on November 26 at 6:00 pm.

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, November 12, 2023

8:00 AM

Celebrant & Preacher..... Bishop Frank S. Logue
Organist Wayne Lord
Lay Readers Camilla Davis, Bobbie Ingenito

9:00 am

Celebrant & Preacher..... Bishop Frank S. Logue
Organist & Choirmaster Jim Nord
Ushers Ed Enoch, Matt Tracy
Verger..... Kathleen Bailie
Lay Readers Cissy Bowden, Katie Tracy
Acolytes..... Rob Tracy, Wynn Prosser,
Eliza McCutcheon, Caroline McCutcheon,
Rob Wynn, George Wynn

11:15 AM

Celebrant & Preacher..... Bishop Frank S. Logue
Organist & Choirmaster Jim Nord
Ushers Matt Matson, Ashley Wilds
Verger..... Mark Burgreen
Lay Readers Yvonne Harrison, Heather Wheeler
Acolytes..... Patrick Broome, Jack Manton, Milly
Manton, Merriit Jones, South Bryan

6:00 pm

Celebrant & Preacher..... Sonia Sullivan Clifton
Organist Nick Lowery
Lay Readers Carleton Vaughn, Faith Moore

All Services

Altar Guild Team VI
Breakfast Ministry Team II
Vestry Person of the Day Alyson Getchell

YOUTH NEWS

Head to the Shell Newsletter for details & to sign-up for up coming events. For any questions, email Mary Grace Wynn at mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org.

CHURCH LEAGUE

BASKETBALL

Register by next Thursday, November 9th! Church League Basketball will be starting on December 2nd! Registration and payment for Church League Basketball are due by November 9th.

YOUTH GROUP

We look forward to another fun evening of fellowship this coming Sunday, November 12th. Pick-up/dismissal for J2A will be at 8:30pm due to a Movie Night. Dinner will be provided by Heather Wheeler. To sign up for meals, please head to the Shell Newsletter.

5:00 - 6:00 pm: Rite-13:

Meet in Youth Lounge (Come dressed for Gym Games)

6:00 - 6:30 pm: Rite-13 & J2A:

Gather for Dinner in Small Parish Hall

6:30 - 8:30 pm: J2A:

Meet in Youth Lounge (8:30pm dismissal due to Movie Night)

Happening #108

Please keep the Good Shepherd Youth attending Happening #108 from November 17th-19th in your prayers: Adam Austin, Addison Andrew, Emeline Andrew, Lindsey Brittingham, Rob Tracy, Roland Brune, Rosalie Brune, and Spencer Weston.