



GOOD NEWS

from Good Shepherd Church in Owatonna

Follow Jesus. Share Hope. Live Love.

O Sing to the Lord a New Song!

I've found six places in the Bible where God tells us to sing a new song to Him. This got me wondering why a new song should be better than an old song. After all, I like singing familiar songs. At Good Shepherd, we try to make sure that most of the songs we choose are rather familiar and well-liked. I think if we ever chose all new songs for one of our services, we'd hear about it!

So why does God say to sing a new song? Most of passages involved are in the Psalms, praising God for His great salvation, as if God's marvelous deeds of salvation were always wonderful enough to sing new songs about them. Also, one passage mentioned that God is always doing new things, and another that we want to proclaim his salvation day after day, as if new days may require new songs. But most of them seem to imply that the joy of singing to God may bring a new song to our hearts. That certainly leaves room for the old songs, too!

God is doing some new things at Good Shepherd, worthy of praising Him, and you'll read about some of them in this newsletter. One way He is helping us to sing new songs is through our new music director, Eden Palmer. Be sure to greet him when you are able, as we sing praise to our God in songs old and new! —Pastor Greg



Special Service of Praise Sunday, December 17 at the 8:30AM and 10:00AM services

Join us for a special Advent worship Sunday, with music, family participation, and more! There will be a children's message and other meaningful ways to actively participate. There will be no Sunday School on December 17 or 24.

Kids and parents can also choose from a variety of ways to help present this special service. You can join the kids choir, read scripture as a family, or be a silent actor. A short dress rehearsal will be held on December 16 from 9-10AM. It will be a quick run-through to help everyone involved feel comfortable with their role.

Register through Church Center or the church website to volunteer, or scan here:



Advent Wednesdays

Theme: The Clothing of the King

December 6 - Foretaste of Fashion

5:30PM Meal provided by the Youth
6:30PM Hymn Service

December 13 - An Envious Style

5:30PM Meal provided by LWML
6:30PM Hymn Service

December 20—Not Our Favorite Christmas Outfit

5:30PM Meal provided by...your group? Contact the church office
6:30PM Hymn Service



Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

10:00AM Hymns & Carols Service

**Please note there will only be one morning service*

4:00PM Candlelight Worship Service

5:30PM Candlelight Hymn Service

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25

10:00AM Hymns & Carols Service



Gift of Love

We're getting ready for our 3rd annual "Gift of Love" Christmas store event at Good Shepherd! We will once again be collecting new, unwrapped gifts for children ages 0-18. Gift donations can be dropped off by the tree in the Go Gather Give area.

Invited families in need will shop for their children here at church on **Saturday, December 9**. There are several ways you can help!

Donate! Drop off new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children age 0-18 through **Sunday, December 3**. We are hoping for a variety of price ranges, \$50 and below. The families will choose one large gift and 2 small gifts per child.

Serve! We have a wide variety of serving opportunities:

Before the Big Day:

- Toy Coordinator
- Decorations
- Set up

Event Day:

- Gift Wrapping
- Personal Shopper
- Childcare
- Registration table
- Restocking crew
- Refreshments
- Clean Up

Pray! Pray for God's perfect provision with volunteers, toys, and guidance to the families God wants us to reach this year.

If you are interested in helping or have questions, please contact Jen Werk: jenwerk@msn.com



Discipleship: Fools for Christ

Who would want to be called a fool? Not many I'm sure. In 1 Corinthians 1 Paul writes that the life of the Christian may look foolish, but it is the very wisdom of God that guides us. The world will wonder why and we'll tell them you can only understand it when God starts to change your life from the inside out.

In our discipleship groups this past fall, I challenged the groups to not only study prayer, but to also set aside time to pray together out loud. That's something that makes many of us feel uncomfortable. I'm so thankful that our groups took up this challenge, I've heard some awesome stories of people connecting to prayer in new ways and growing in their comfort praying out loud with others. What a blessing!

In January, we'll begin a new quarter of discipleship groups. We're going to dive deeply into Scripture and consider God's wisdom. Some of the words will make sense and some of them will really challenge us. We're going to keep praying together. We're going to keep doing uncomfortable things and let God grow us. Who would want to sign up for that? Sounds foolish. I hope you sign up!



Who wants to celebrate addiction—maybe not addiction but recovery from it? Good Shepherd is launching a Celebrate Recovery ministry, focused on Christian-based 12-Step recovery. We've got a great team and they're already meeting together to study and

pray and plan, sacrificing their Monday nights months before we'll launch. Sounds kind of foolish, doesn't it? Not for these people who've tasted what God can do to help heal addiction as well as other major obstacles in life. You've never heard a more excited group!

Maybe your life or a loved one's life has been touched by addiction. If so, you might be interested in helping with our group. We're going to need greeters, AV, music, hospitality and snack helpers, childcare, and more. Who's silly enough to sign up to watch kids on a free night? I hope some of you are! If you're reading this and God's getting you thinking about it, please reach out to me. We're hoping many will come and start the journey towards healing.

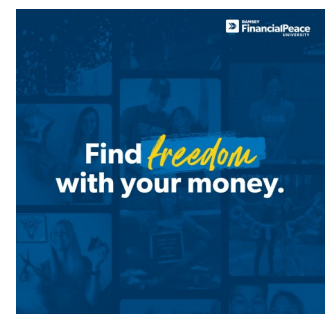
Oh, by the way, guess what we've decided our launch date will be. Drum roll please...April 1st, yes, April Fools Day. We think that's rather appropriate for us as we celebrate being fools for Christ. —Pastor Dan

Financial Peace University Coming in January

Tuesdays: January 16—March 12 at 6:30PM
Preview Class: January 7 at 2:00PM
in the Conference Room

If you've ever felt like you just can't get in control of your money, you're not alone. You'd be surprised how many people you know are struggling just like you. But it's time for your struggle to end. Join our Financial Peace University class here at Good Shepherd starting on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024**, and learn how you can pay off debt, save more money, and build wealth.

Talk to one of our FPU coordinators to get enrolled: Matt Brandel, Denny Marquardt, Bryan Otte, and Chris Kilanowski. They'll be in the Gathering Area on Sundays to answer questions and help you get enrolled.





Meet the Worship Leader: Eden Palmer

Alongside life with God, my wife Lori, and two children, 'Sunday Morning Worship' is at the top. I love the people, the community, the bass loud and shouting from the congregation. Something resembling the Vikings beating the 49ers. The first memory I have of feeling God's presence in music was hearing Gloria Gather's "Something About That Name".

Lori and I met at Church of The Open Door in 1993 and married almost two years later. A few years later, Zack and Jazz followed. Zack works as an engineer in the aerospace industry doing weird things. Jazz loves musical Jesus people & Jesus, music, and people.

We have collectively lived in Owatonna for over 15 years. There isn't a Winter we're not extremely grateful for the warmth of friendships and the local church.

My favorite songs include Hans Zimmer's "We Are Free" and "Juba's Mix" from the movie Gladiator and my favorite movie soundtrack is Thomas Newman's masterpiece, *The Shawshank Redemption*. -Eden



Exec Team Notes

Hello fellow Good Shepherd members, I can't believe it is almost time to celebrate the birth of our Savior again. This also means it is time for our annual Voter's Meeting to approve next year's budget, **Sunday, December 3** after the 10:00AM service. We will be serving a lunch before the meeting. In looking back over the last year, Good Shepherd has been so blessed: a full year of Pastor Dan and family here to help Pastor Greg as well as start a number of new ministries, Kelly on staff to lead the Youth Program, and recently, Edén coming on board as our new Worship Leader.

We have had to handle a few big projects this year. With the church being the age it is, we have had to handle the repair of all of the roofs strategically. The preschool needs a new playground. Thank you to Heather for leading the fundraiser, which has raised over \$100,000 so far. We also need to address the deterioration of the chairs in the Worship Center. Praise God that he has put us in a good place to deal with this and yet grow in the way only He knows. The Exec Team is excited to be able to show you the plan (budget) we have put together, and are looking forward to having you all at the Voters Meeting.

-Mike Westphal, Exec. Director



Nursery

If you're interested in being a nursery volunteer, or if your teenage child would be interested in serving God in this way, please fill out the Volunteer Interest Form online or at the Children's Ministry table. On occasion, paid childcare provider

opportunities are also available.

Want to make a difference in a young child's life? We're looking for small group leaders for Sunday School. Learn more about our Sunday School program and volunteer at GoodShepherdOwatonna.com. Please note that a background check is required of all volunteers that work with children and youth.

Questions about volunteering? Contact Heather, the Preschool and Children's Ministry Director: Heather@GSOwatonna.com

Youth Groups

Grades 5-6: 6:15-7:15PM

Confirmation: 6:30-7:15PM

Grades 7-12: 7:15-8:30PM

Confirmation Class Confirmation is typically for 7th and 8th graders. Questions about Confirmation? Contact Kelly:

Kelly@GSOwatonna.com

Stay in touch: Sign up for Youth text notifications:

Grades 5-6: text @7eg7d7 to 81010

Grades 7-8: text @gsjrhigh to 81010

Grades 9-12: text@gssrhigh to 81010

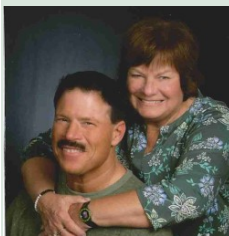
Kitchen Floor Update

Take a peek at the new, non-slip surface in the Kitchen and Social Hall.



Five Years of Service

Bryan and Deb Schirmacher



Thank you to Bryan and Deb Schirmacher for serving so faithfully as custodians of Good Shepherd's building for the past five years.

They maintain a safe and healthy Preschool space, a clean, comfortable worship space, and keep all those windows spotless! We appreciate you!

Winter is a Great Time to Make A Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl Ministry at Good Shepherd makes and donates prayer shawls to people going through a crisis, loss, or even a special celebration as a tangible sign of God's peace, comfort, and presence. If you know someone who would like a shawl, you may take one from the basket in the Prayer Room. Patterns and yarn are also available if you would like to make a shawl. Questions? Contact Barb Spindler: spinub4852@gmail.com

Quilts, Quilts, Quilts!

The Quilters Group loves to receive quilt fabric donations. They are especially in need of cotton or flannel fabrics with children's or baby patterns. You may drop off donations on the round table in the corner of the Social Hall.

The Quilters are taking December off, and will meet again in January: every Wednesday from 12:30-3:00pm in the Social Hall. If you love to quilt or want to learn, please stop in! Questions? Contact Janice: **390-5249**

Serve On Sunday

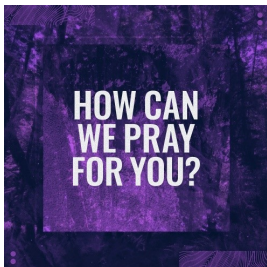
We have many interesting ways for you to Share Hope and Live Love on Sunday mornings: Ushers, Audio/Video Volunteers, Coffee Hosts, Prayer Partners, Scripture Readers, and Welcome Center Hosts are always thankful for new volunteers. Contact us to get involved.

Legacy Fund

You can remember Good Shepherd Church in your gift planning. For more information, pick up a Legacy Fund brochure at the Welcome Center, or contact Warren Simons: whsimons2010@hotmail.com

Stay Connected to our Community

Visit our website: GoodShepherdOwatonna.com to see all the latest events and information. The latest sermon message is right on the front page. All past messages are also on our YouTube channel. If you would like to receive sermons in the mail or devotions from Our Daily Bread, we'd love to send them to you! Send a note to the office with your updated address.



We love to pray for you!

Send prayers to our prayer team:

GoodShepherdPrayer@msn.com

You may also put prayer requests in the Prayer box in the Prayer Room, send us a note in the mail, or submit prayer requests online at

GoodShepherdOwatonna.com.

Questions? Need Help? Contact Us: info@GSOwatonna.com

The Church Office will be closed November 23-24 and December 25

Winter office hours: 9:00am-2:00pm Monday-Thursday, or by appointment.

Senior Pastor: Greg Schlicker

Greg@GSOwatonna.com

Discipleship Pastor: Dan Borkenhagen

Dan@GSOwatonna.com

Preschool & Children's Ministry Director: Heather Gleason

Heather@GSOwatonna.com

Youth Director: Kelly Gentz

Youth@GSOwatonna.com

Office Coordinator: Kristi Westergaard

Kristi@GSOwatonna.com

STAY CONNECTED!

Visit our website:

GoodShepherdOwatonna.com

EVENT CALENDAR

Nov 24: 10a-4p Blood Drive. Sign up to give blood at redcrossblood.org.

Nov 26: NO Sunday School

Nov 27: 7p Local Service/Outreach

Nov 28: 9a World Ministry
7p Lay Ministry

Dec 3: 11a **Voters Meeting**

Parenting Through the Phases One Monday/month, 6:00-7:30pm

Once a month sessions for parents of children ages 0-18. Walk through this season of life together with a community of parents here at Good Shepherd.

December 4: Session 2 Rediscover Your Kid

Register through Church Center or our website. Questions? Contact: Heather or Kelly, see emails below.

Dec 9: 8a-12p **Gift of Love Christmas Store Event**

Advent Wednesdays December 6, 13, 20

5:30p Meal

6:30p Hymn Service

A Special Service of Praise Sunday December 17

8:30a and 10:00a

NO Sunday School

Christmas Eve Sunday December 24

10:00a Hymns & Carols Service

NO Sunday School

4:00p Christmas Worship Service

5:30p Christmas Hymn Service

Christmas Day Monday December 25

10:00a Hymns & Carols

2500 7th Ave. NE Owatonna, MN 55060 info@GSOwatonna.com 507-451-4125

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