



GOOD NEWS

from Good Shepherd Church in Owatonna

Follow Jesus. Share Hope. Live Love.

Looking Ahead

With warmer weather arriving, people's thoughts naturally turn to, "Do you have plans for the summer?" Whatever yours are, they probably include going outside in some way. Why is this such a blessing? Warm breezes, flowers, sun, shady trees, beaches, trails in the woods, or even just the back yard—all of them reflect God's good creation, His blessings, and His original plan for us in the garden. In some way I think we all harbor a distant memory of God's plan, something inside of us that makes us say, "This is nice!" whenever nature reflects God's goodness.

And so it is altogether fitting that we should think about worship outdoors this summer. There is a change this year. We are going to hold services outdoors—weather permitting—on the third Sunday of each month for the 10:00AM service, rather than the old pattern. The main reason is that the third Sunday is not a communion Sunday, and so we won't have worry about windy days causing a problem. So bring your chairs or blankets, or use a folding chair from the church to enjoy worship together on the lawn!

The 8:30AM service will still be inside, no matter what the weather—another great option!



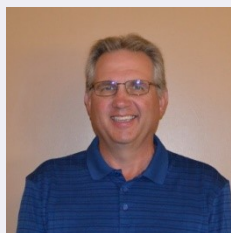
This summer will also feature a sermon series connected to the outdoors. The theme will be "On the Road," and will connect sections of God's Word with common summer vacation experiences today. It's an excuse to be creative, while at the same time looking at Bible passages in a fresh way. —Pastor Greg

Hello Fellow Good Shepherd Members,

Because this will be my last newsletter as the Executive Director, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of you as well as my Executive Team members for all the support over the last 3 years. Good Shepherd has had lots of changes and many things to be thankful for, from Pastor Greg being elevated to Senior Pastor and having Pastor Dan accept the call as Discipleship Pastor, to being fully staffed with the addition of Kelly and Eden. We have recovered from Covid with several new programs and lots of excitement within these programs. A few great examples are the number of youth involved in our youth program, the growth of our preschool, and now the new playground that all of you helped make happen! God is Good!

The last thing I will ask of all of you is that you take time to attend the Voter's Meeting on Sunday, May 19 to elect the new members of the Executive Team and show them the support you have shown me.

—Mike Westphal, Executive Director



VOTERS MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 19
11:00AM

Voters Meeting

May 19 at 11:00AM

We will serve lunch in the Social Hall, and then hold a brief meeting to elect two new Executive Team members. Team members serve for three years.

This year's nominees are

Amy Rieck
Candi Schafer
Dean Wittmer
Ellis "Skip" Hein

All Good Shepherd members ages 16 and older are eligible and encouraged to vote.

Questions? Please contact Tom:
tkuntz11@gmail.com

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

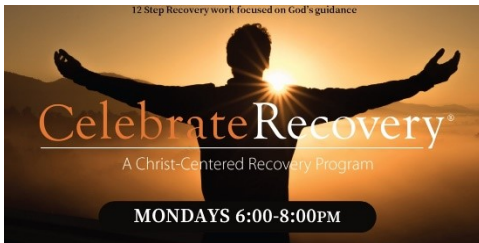
10:00AM

JUNE 16

JULY 21

AUGUST 18

Bring your lawn chair and worship in the open air! The 8:30am Hymn Service will always be held indoors.



Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurts, hang-ups, and habits of any kind.

It's a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling your life.

MONDAYS from 6:00-8:00PM

Questions? Want to Volunteer?

Contact Pastor Dan:

Dan@GSOWatonna.com

Sunday Volunteer Spotlight

There has been great momentum these last few months in the Worship area at Good Shepherd. Upgrades, training, and support for Sunday mornings are taking big steps in exciting directions. There couldn't be so much traction without the help of great people.



Matt Reuss, Rylee Muhr, Kjell Borkenhagen, Todd Isackson and Andren Rud are remarkable people who have spent countless hours supporting

services and events, growing their knowledge base, and doing whatever is necessary to keep things running smoothly.

These volunteers facilitate the set-up and tear-down of a rehearsal space every Sunday that allows our musicians to assemble. They take care of the various technical needs of the many guests who use our beautiful worship space. Plus, they manage the weekly streaming of the Sunday message to Vimeo and YouTube, and coming soon, Facebook. These are just a few of the unseen tasks that support worship week after week. Please take a second to say, "Thank you" to them, they are an impressive bunch and we are so glad to have them.



Discipleship

We've done a lot of things twice now.

When people ask how our family has settled in, that's one of the answers that I often give. We've gone through two school years. We're graduating our oldest child. Jess and I have both gotten deeper into our jobs and we're getting to know this community, both Good Shepherd and Owatonna, so much better. What a joy both have been! How exciting to do so many things multiple times now and to start to imagine what the longer-term future looks like.

When I narrow in on the discipleship efforts here at Good Shepherd it's exciting to see what God's been doing. We've started to define discipleship with our goal as, "Loved by Jesus, we learn more about Jesus, so that we can live more like Jesus." I've engaged with a number of people to do deep dive one-on-one discipleship. We've started discipleship groups that are now in their fourth quarter and they're going strong. We've seen some changes and adaptations. I'm excited to report that new leaders have stepped up, new members have joined, others have taken breaks, and others have taken breaks and come back for more. That's all a healthy part of what we wanted to accomplish, to give people an opportunity to work on their discipleship with others, but to do so based on the seasons in their lives. And we've started Celebrate Recovery which has now been fully launched for a month. Each week some new faces have joined us and we've had new volunteers come on board. It's been so much fun.

I'm starting to think about what comes next. Certainly, continued growth and adaptation of these present efforts. But I'm also having conversations with people about where else God might lead. If he's speaking to your heart, let me know. You never know what may spark the next thing that we'll try out and see what God has us do twice or more! —Pastor Dan

Meetings and the Calendar

It's been exciting to see so much activity at church every night of the week. To make sure we have space for everyone, please let the office know **when your group is meeting** at church and **what rooms you would like to use**. For quick reference, room reservations are posted outside the Social Hall, Conference Room, and Library.

The Youth Room is available on a limited basis for larger groups that don't need tables. We have two meeting rooms on the lower level with adult-sized chairs and smart TVs. We've also had small groups meet in the Prayer Room, and they love the cozy feel. Let us know where you'd like to meet!

Thanks to those who attended the 2024 Men's Retreat. We had a great weekend! We hope to see even more of you next year for another awesome retreat at Camp Omega!





Youth Update

The youth want to give a special thank you to the Legacy Ministry Fund for purchasing the 9 Square game!

In March, 5th & 6th graders had a Sunday Fun Day event led by high school students.

Youth served two Easter breakfasts and we want to thank everyone that donated supplies or volunteered their time.

In April, high school seniors started going through a book called, "Before You Go," which helps be intentional about faith development as you transition from high school to college and life beyond youth group.



This summer, we'll be sending a group of 8th graders to Camp LuWiSoMo in WI to buddy up with campers that have developmental disabilities, and the High schoolers will head to Wind River Reservation in Wyoming at the end of July!

—Kelly Gentz, Youth Director

Last Wednesday for Youth Groups is May 29

Confirmation Class 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

Noisy Offerings for 2024

We're collecting coins for TWO ministries: *Christ's Care for Children: Kenya* where we sponsor a child and *Heifer International* which provides livestock and training to small-scale farmers around the world, as a long-term solution to hunger and poverty.

Drop your noisy coins in the container at the front of the worship center or at the offering table in the Gathering Area. Then pick up a donation jar in the Gathering Area to fill at home!

Another Great Year of Preschool!



Having the opportunity to share Jesus with kids and their families year after year is such a blessing! As the school year wraps up, we are thankful for the 50 students and their families who have come through our doors this year. We are actively enrolling for next year and ask for your prayers that families in our community would be led to enroll their children at Good Shepherd Preschool, where they can grow physically, academically, and spiritually.

Also exciting is the progress on the new preschool and community playground! Through community grants and generous donations by our members, we have been able to nearly reach our fundraising goal. We are still accepting donations to cover additional costs and replace riding equipment. We are hopeful that the

project will be wrapped up by the end of the month.

Children's Ministry

We rejoice in the many kids who were part of our Sunday School classes each week! We are grateful for the teachers who stepped up to lead classes, which included many high school students. Each week they dove deep into the stories of the Old Testament, nourishing the faith of each child. We can't wait for next year!



The end of the school year also brings VBS, and this year our theme is camping! Join us at **Camp Firelight**, a summer camp adventure with God. If you haven't already, sign up your child at GoodShepherdOwatonna.com or recommend VBS to a child you know. We are also looking for volunteers. There are many different roles to fill, so you are sure to find something that fits for you.

In addition to VBS, I like to have a summer activity that keeps families growing in the Word together. This year we'll be providing a "Flat Jesus" to take with you this summer, along with a scripture reading board. Watch for more info and materials in the coming weeks! —Heather Gleason, Preschool and Children's Ministry Director



Camp Firelight VBS July 8-11 6:00pm-8:00pm

While adventuring through the forest, we'll trek deep into learning more about trusting God in all things by exploring Campfire Bible Stories, learning together at Evening Assembly, honing our craftsman skills in the Workshop, and moving our bodies at the Rec Station.

Over four evenings, we'll focus on remembering and living out Psalm 56:3: "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in You." We are excited to engage with each child, experiencing Jesus' love together throughout the week!

Register your child at **GoodShepherdOwatonna.com**. Camp Firefly VBS is for kids ages 3 (by 1/1/24) through 5th grade. Children must be potty trained and able to use the bathroom independently to attend VBS.

Ready to be a "Camp Counselor"? It takes a team of volunteers to make VBS run smoothly. Sign up to volunteer at **GoodShepherdOwatonna.com**.

Stay Connected to Our Church Community

Visit **GoodShepherdOwatonna.com** to see all the latest events and information. The latest sermon message is right on the front page. All past messages are 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.

Questions? Need Help?

Contact Us: **info@GSOwatonna.com**

May Office Hours: 9:00AM-2:00PM Monday-Thursday, or by appointment.

The Church Office will be closed Monday, May 27.

Reduced Summer Hours: 9:00AM-2:00PM Tuesday-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

Kelly@GSOwatonna.com

Office Coordinator: Kristi Westergaard

Kristi@GSOwatonna.com

EVENT CALENDAR

May 4: 8:00AM Men's Breakfast

May 11: 9:00AM-2:00PM

New Member Seminar

May 13: 6:30PM LWML Bible Study

May 14: 7:00PM Exec Team

May 21: 9:00AM World Ministry Team

May 23: 6:30PM Preschool
Graduation

June 9: 10:00AM Senior Blessings

SAVE THE DATE: Camp Firefly VBS

July 8-11 6:00-8:00PM

Register or volunteer at
GoodShepherdOwatonna.com

Ways to Give

Your support makes ministry possible. Thank you.



Online at
goodshepherdowatonna.com



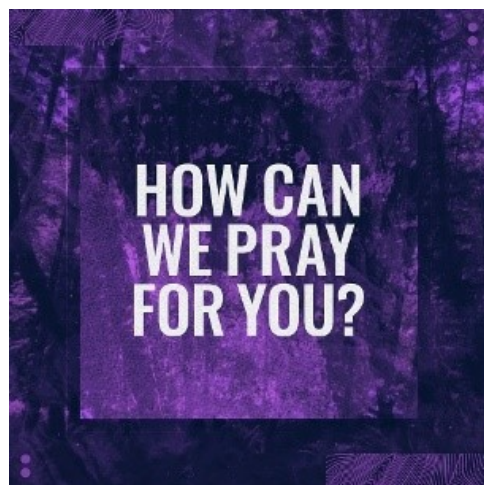
Download the Church Center app
to your mobile phone



Text-to-Give: Text any dollar
amount to 84321.



Good Shepherd Owatonna
2500 7th Ave NE
Owatonna MN 55060



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**.

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

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