



GOOD NEWS

from Good Shepherd Church in Owatonna

Follow Jesus. Share Hope. Live Love.

It's Not a Competition

Scripture commands us to love our neighbor, and to help our neighbor in their time of need. For the past year or two Good Shepherd has applied this command to our neighboring churches when they were without a pastor by helping with funerals and some Sunday preaching. We limited the preaching to only one of us being gone once per month, so as not to tax our own ministry too much. Pastor Dan and I like it much better when both of us work together on a Sunday.

The good news is that Trinity, Medford is getting a pastor! Pastor Ian Thormodson (and wife Brittany and little son Eliot) will be arriving in the middle of April. So, with the merger of Redeemer and the vacancy ending for Trinity, Dan and I are looking forward to only being absent from Good Shepherd for a vacation, for the time being. Our last Sunday at Trinity will be on March 16.

However, helping fellow churches is not just for vacancies. Trinity and Good Shepherd will be looking to partner in ways that benefit us both in the future, once Pastor Ian gets more settled. After all, we remain partners in the Gospel! -- *Pastor Greg*



Good Shepherd Women's Ministry

Women at the Well

Exciting things are happening with Women's Ministry at Good Shepherd! A small group of women have been meeting over the winter with the goal of reaching more women at Good Shepherd. As a result of those meetings "Women at the Well" was formed.

We hosted an input meeting on February 4, open to all women at Good Shepherd. 35 women attended, and most of the attendees indicated a willingness to help or serve in some way. We could not be more excited about what God is doing!

From the input meeting we identified 5 common themes. Women need **encouragement, community, care/support, rest, and spiritual growth.** To meet those needs, Women at the Well is developing four main "buckets" for women to get involved:

1. Bible study
2. Mentoring/small groups
3. Events
4. Caregiving

It is our prayer that God will use these avenues to reach women in our church and community.

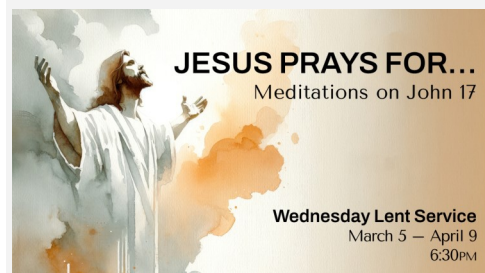
Planning will continue in March, with the hope of launching new opportunities in the spring. If you have questions or would like to get involved in the planning, please contact Pam Haglund at pjhaglund@gmail.com.



Ash Wednesday

March 5

5:30PM Meal served by the Youth
6:30PM Hymn Service
with the Imposition of Ashes
and the Lord's Supper



Lent Wednesdays

March 5—April 9

5:30PM Meal
6:30PM Service

Maundy Thursday: April 17

6:30PM Hymn Service with the Lord's Supper and First Communion

Good Friday: April 18

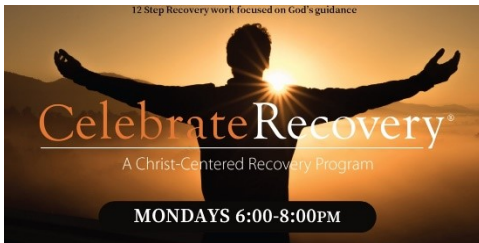
6:30PM Contemplative Service

FAMILY LENT DEVOTION RESOURCES

Choose the resource that best fits your family!



Grab your Devotional & mini Jesus at the Family Resource wall



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

Welcome New Members

Robert "Bob" Buan

Brett and Lisa Hayes

Henry, Ted, and Edith

Dave and Kelli Hoffman

Layla and Silas

Lynn and Mary Ketelsen

Allen and Kayla Krenz

Mason, Miley, and Makenna

Brian and Amanda Lannoye

Olivia, Madalyn, and Ella

Wyler and Christi Lubeck

Tom Rypka

David and Susan Wavrin

Nick and Anni Yule

Charli, Luci, and Silas

In **MARCH**
we're collecting supplies for
**COMMUNITY
PATHWAYS OF
STEELE COUNTY**
Let's bring in
**NON-PERISHABLE
FOOD & MONEY
TO BUY FOOD**

Executive Team Update

Thank you to everyone who attended the voter's meeting on February 16 regarding the sale of the Redeemer property. The congregation voted to sell to the Seventh Day Adventist church for \$275,000. Steps are being taken right now to secure earnest money, perform a building inspection, and sign a purchase agreement. A closing date will be determined in the near future, possibly the end of March.

It is time to prepare this year's ballot of candidates for our May Voter's Meeting. We will elect two people to serve 3-year terms on the Executive Team beginning July 1.

Tom Kuntz and Ashlan Zurbriggen have completed their terms and will not be seeking re-election. Members continuing to serve are Kevin Gentz, John Harvieux, Amy Rieck, and Dean Wittmer. Karen Wottreng is also graciously willing to continue to serve as our Finance Director.

Our Nominating Committee welcomes your prayers during the weeks ahead. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the creation of our ballot and the voting process. Nominating forms can be found online or at the Welcome Center.

2025 Executive Team Nominations are Open

Nomination Forms are available at the Welcome Center.

Nomination Deadline: Monday, April 21

Discipleship

In between times.

I've always disliked the "in between". As I write this article it is around 0 degrees and as I look at the forecast it's going to jump up into the 40s in a couple of days. Which is it? Winter or Spring?

In life, we have one child in college, one in high school, and another in middle school. Our kids are becoming more and more independent and yet they certainly need our support, and of course rides. Our family is not the "young family" anymore, but we're definitely not empty nesters either. What are we?

Spirituality can have "in between" seasons too. It's probably easy to identify times when you're on a spiritual high, when you're really into a Bible study or small group or your prayer and worship feel deep and fulfilling. And then there are those "desert" times when you feel spiritually dry, when you know you've drifted away and when you're frustrated with God or your faith. You know what you need in those times, even if you don't feel like it. But what about the "in between" seasons of spirituality: when you go to church...some. When you read your Bible...some. Pray...some. And it feels...ok. What do you need in those times?

The encouragement of Christian brothers and sisters, and putting yourself out there to be a little more vulnerable, that's how I would answer. Maybe you've thought about joining a discipleship group, but you've come up with a bunch of reasons not to. Groups are meeting right now and we'll be starting new ones again in April. Start praying on it now. We'll have mixed groups and men's and women's groups. Something for everyone!

The **Women at the Well** are gearing up to increase opportunities for women to connect. We're going to add some new things for families with kids. **Celebrate Recovery** meets every Monday. **Faithful Conversations** is still digging into hard social topics from a Christian perspective twice a month. What's missing? Your openness and willingness to put yourself out there and move off the middle, out of the "in between". If there's something I mentioned that got you wondering...reach out!

People always say, "oh, I don't want to take up a pastor's time...", but we love it when you call and schedule a visit! Those visits are the best parts of our days. Time with our people, encouraging you in your walk. Believe me, it encourages me too! —Pastor Dan

World Ministry Update: Elisante Sandy

Elisante and his family recently dedicated their new home to God. Thank you, Lord, for your gifts and to the members of Good Shepherd for sharing them. They invited four young people without a home to live with them because they felt their home was so spacious they could share. One of the young men is John. Please pray for his recovery from a recent farm accident.

Pray for success for Elisante as lead translator for YWAM Mother Tongue Translations, and pray for YWAM Bible School of the Nations in April 2025.



AYDEN UPDATE & LETTER



Christ's Care
FOR CHILDREN:
KENYA

We continue to support Ayden with prayers and letters.

The next letter is due March 12!

Pick up an update on Project 24 & letter writing guidelines.

Letter templates are available on the children's ministry wall.

Legacy Ministry Fund

The merger of Redeemer's endowment money to Good Shepherd's fund is complete. The total in the fund is \$405,222 with \$46,947 designated to music ministry. The remainder is undesignated; generated income can be used to support various ministries at home or abroad.

Dallas Ketchum, Steve Schmidt and Roger Johnson from Redeemer have been added to the committee. They bring awesome skills to help with the LMF management. This year we will use Good Shepherd money for our distributions and Redeemer money for some of Redeemer's ongoing ministry disbursements. The longer term focus is to totally integrate the funds for disbursements of grants.

Accordingly, from Good Shepherd's funds we granted the following awards:

- \$1,000 to Scott Scholljegerdes, a student at Concordia College in St. Paul who is working toward the seminary.
- \$1,800 to upgrade hardware for our sanctuary projection system
- \$700 to McKayla Graves who is building outside playground equipment that will enhance our children's ministry program. McKayla is active in our youth program.

Stay tuned for news on other disbursements in the near future.

We are excited about the growth of the fund! It will provide many opportunities over many years to do great things for our church and extended ministry. Thanks to everyone who has or may be considering leaving an investment legacy to the Fund. For more information, visit the Welcome Center, pick up a Legacy Fund brochure or talk with Bill Steinbronn or Warren Simons.

Culver's Good Shepherd YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Monday, March 3 @ 5-8PM

10% profit on ALL orders
NO code needed

Please stop out to dine or get drive-thru.

Culvers - 1140 W. Frontage Rd

Wednesday Youth Groups and Confirmation Classes

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

Confirmation: 6:30-7:15PM

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

Register with the Church Center app
or at **GoodShepherdOwatonna.com**

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

Camp Omega

Good Shepherd would love to support children desiring to attend summer camp at Camp Omega. If you would like to register your child for a summer camp experience, Good Shepherd will place \$100 towards the registration fee. We can support the first 20 campers that register.

To receive the coupon code, or if you have questions about Camp Omega and the summer camp experience, **please contact Kevin Gentz: 612-702-1510 or kevingentz@hotmail.com.** Blessings as you consider this opportunity!

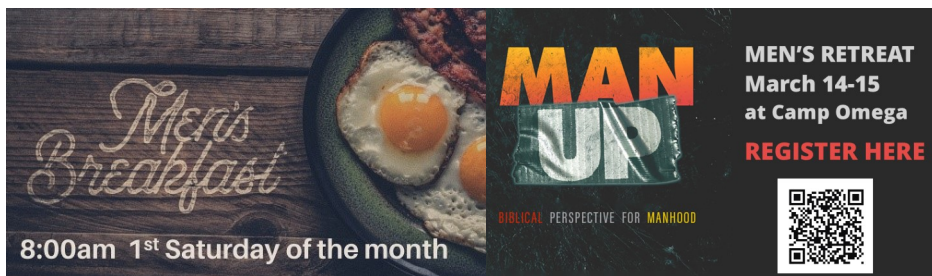


Good Shepherd Preschool
Knowing and Following Jesus



GOODSHEPHERDOWATONNA.COM/PRESCHOOL-HOME • 507-451-4125

Questions about the Preschool? Contact Heather, Preschool Director:
Heather@GSOwatonna.com



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. Use Church Center to request a room reservation and Kristi will give you a fabulous prize.

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. Small groups meet in the Prayer Room, and they love the cozy feel. Let us know where you'd like to meet!

Stay Connected to Our Church Community

Visit **GoodShepherdOwatonna.com** to see the latest events and information. The latest hymn service is right on the front page. Past services are on our Vimeo channel. If you'd 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.

EVENT CALENDAR

March 1: 8:00AM Men's Breakfast
 March 3: Culver's Fundraiser
 March 4: 6:30PM Men's Bible Study
 March 5: **Ash Wednesday**

5:30PM Meal: Pasta Bake served by the Youth

6:30PM Hymn Service with the Imposition of Ashes and the Lord's Supper

March 6: 6:30PM Women's Bible Study

March 9: New Member Sunday

March 12: 8:30AM LWML Women's Bible Study

March 14-15: Man Up! Men's Retreat at Camp Omega
 Register with Church Center or at campomega.org/event/manup

NOISY OFFERINGS 2025

This year offerings will go to:

Christ's Care For Children: Kenya

Continue sponsoring Ayden through this LCMS program

Feed My Starving Children

Helping to end hunger *Includes a service opportunity

Noisy Offerings for 2025

We're collecting coins for TWO ministries: *Christ's Care for Children: Kenya* where we sponsor a child and *Feed My Starving Children* which provides nutrient-rich meals to children around the world.

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!

LWML Women in Mission

NEW Meeting Time!

Wednesday, March 12 at 8:30AM

No Registration necessary; all study materials are provided. Drop in, bring a friend, and make some few friends!

Questions? Need Help?

Contact Us: **507-451-4125** or info@GSOwatonna.com

Church 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

Associate Pastor for Spiritual Care: Harold Storm

mstl48@yahoo.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

Bookkeeper: Jane Dauffenbach

Bookkeeper@GSOwatonna.com

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**.