



GOOD NEWS

from Good Shepherd Church in Owatonna

Follow Jesus. Share Hope. Live Love.



Every Heart Prepare
We decorate to prepare for Christmas. People spend hours putting up lights and ornaments. Poinsettias are placed on the mantel and presents under the tree, and we "deck the halls with boughs of holly." These Christmas decorations bring enjoyment and anticipation to the holiday.

Advent is the church's season of preparation for the coming of the Lord. This Advent season we reflect

on three common Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ and prepare for His coming: evergreens, lights, and the creche. Then on Christmas we will focus on the decorated presents which point us to the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

December 3 EVERGREENS

5:30PM Meal: Tater Tot Hot Dish served by the LWML Women in Mission.

6:30PM Advent Hymn Service with Pastor Storm

December 10 LIGHTS

5:30PM Meal: Turkey Tetrizzini served by the Youth Team

6:30PM Advent Worship Service with Pastor Dan

December 17 CRÈCHE

5:30PM Meal: Pulled Pork served by the Quilters and the Mission Trip Team

6:30PM Advent Hymn Service with Pastor Ian from Trinity-Medford



Family Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21

8:30AM & 10:00AM

Families and kids are invited to be a part of a special Sunday family service where they get to participate in telling the Christmas story.

Register as an actor, family reader or a member of the children's choir.

*IMPORTANT DATES:

8:30 Service Rehearsal

Saturday, Dec. 20: 8:30-9:15AM

10:00 Service Rehearsal

Saturday, Dec. 20: 9:15-10:00AM

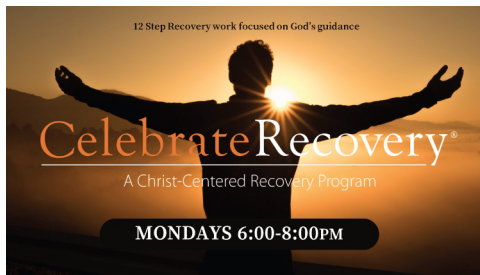
SCAN HERE TO REGISTER:



New Times! Please note the Christmas Eve Hymn Service has moved to 6:00PM to accommodate people and parking. We can't wait to celebrate with you!



Christmas Day Hymn and Carol Service will be led by Pr. Harold Storm, and include the Choir and the Lord's Supper.



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

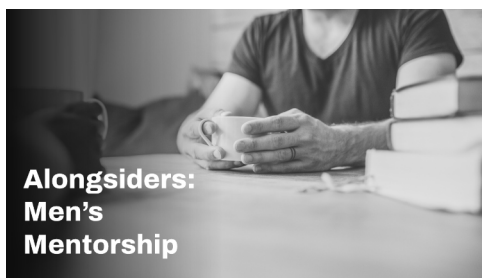


Moms Group

Weekly devotions via email and an in-person meeting once a month.

Register with the Church Center app, online at **GoodShepherdOwatonna.com** or contact Amy:

amycurtrieck@aol.com



Alongsiders: Men's Mentorship

Improve your relationship with God through discussions with a Christian mentor. Register with the Church Center app, online at

GoodShepherdOwatonna.com or contact Scott Haglund:

scotthaglund0463@gmail.com or

Pastor Dan: **Dan@GSOWatonna.com**

Joyful Generosity

I was listening to a podcast on Joshua 17:14-18 and it really hit me: the people come and say they want more, and Joshua doesn't say no. He says go and get it. If you want to bring God's kingdom about in some new place, go be part of it. Will it be challenging? Of course, but they can do it. Joshua believes. And he believes that the one who's really making it happen is God. It's his presence that makes the difference.

When the Executive Team first looked at this year's budget, we were a little frustrated. Costs have gone up on things out of our control. We also faced increased costs for staff and ministry. Why? Because our teams want to do more. We could have said, 'Hold it, just settle for what you had last year.' But the Exec Team had the Joshua vision: if you want to do more, if you want to bring more of this land into the Kingdom, then go for it. It will be hard work, but we believe God is underneath it all making it happen and giving this vision, and we believe the congregation will be excited to support it.

We want to do more. We confirmed over 20 students and had over 40 in Confirmation class last year. This year we've got even more kids, so we're dividing into two classes. We have more kids in youth group, and kids who want small groups, so we need more mentors and more time to train them up. We have two Sunday School times instead of one. Why? Because we have more kids, and it's exciting! We need more time and resources to train teachers and equip our next generation.

We want Worship to grow our ability to impact people. We have more Discipleship groups than ever before. We have the Women at the Well, who just held an event for more than 80 women, and regularly host small groups, Bible studies, and more. And Men's studies. And Celebrate Recovery. And young adults ready to start their own groups. And Faithful Families events. And the dream of Pregnancy Options to save unborn children and support struggling moms right here in Owatonna.

Our Local Service and Outreach and World Missions Teams are dedicated to using the dollars gathered here to impact our community and the world. We want to send a team to Bangladesh to help equip locals to share the Gospel in their own languages. And...I could keep going. The vision is big.

We're like the tribe of Joseph coming up to Joshua and saying: we want more. Will you help us do it? Yes, the budget is bigger this year, but it's because we're asking to do more Kingdom work. We did the math: if each family gave just \$250 more per year we could cover the expenses. \$21 a month. That's not hard for many, and some could give more. Others can give what they're able. As Paul says, we give from the heart from what we have, not from compulsion or what we don't have.

We give with our gifts, our time, and our talents. There's plenty of work to do. When we serve God with time, talent, and treasure, we know we're experiencing something deeper. What we do serving God will last forever and we'll see it all come together in heaven and the resurrection. --Pastor Dan



SERVE WITH US

SUMMER 2026

LIVE ON MISSION WITH JESUS

LOCATION: San Marcos, Texas

DATES: July 25 - August 2, 2026

LeaderTrekks

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Leadership Principles + Leadership Experiences = Life Transformation

REGISTER ONLINE (paper copies available)



Questions? Contact Kelly - kelly@gsowatonna.com

2025-2026 GOOD SHEPHERD YOUTH MINISTRY

GRADES 5 & 6	6:15 - 7:15 PM
CONFIRMATION CLASS	6:30 - 7:15 PM
GRADES 7-12	7:15-8:30 PM

LUWISOMO

8th grade Mission Trip to WI
Buddy with people with developmental disabilities

JUNE 21 - 26, 2026

\$275

Register by February 1st.
Details & registration on website.
Questions? Kelly at kelly@gsowatonna.com

NOISY OFFERINGS 2025

This year offerings will go to:

<p>Christ's Care For Children: Kenya</p> <p>Continue sponsoring Ayden through this LCMS program</p>	<p>&</p> <p>Feed My Starving Children</p> <p>Helping to end hunger *Includes a service opportunity</p>
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FAITHFUL FAMILIES

GROWING IN FAITH AND LOVE WITH ONE ANOTHER

December 7 @ 11

Nativity Stones Painting Event

- *Tell the Christmas Story with your own set of Nativity Stones
- *Lunch provided: sloppy joe sandwiches, chips, sides, drinks

LUNCH TIME

Sign up for lunch & activity supplies

Women at the Well hosted over 80 women at their November 15 event with special guest speaker Alicia Economos. Thank you to all who volunteered to make this event a meaningful day for all. More events are planned for 2026!



Noisy Offerings for 2025

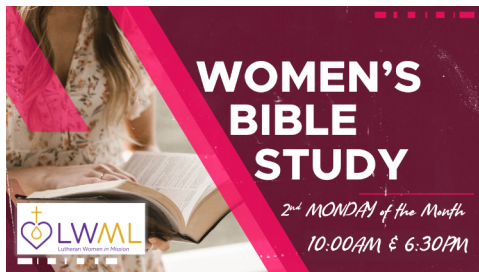
We're collecting coins for *Christ's Care for Children: Kenya* where we sponsor a child and *Feed My Starving Children* which provides nutrient-rich meals to children around the world.

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!

Good Shepherd Preschool

Knowing and Following Jesus

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



LWML Women in Mission
2nd Monday of the Month
10:00AM OR 6:30PM

No registration necessary, all study materials are provided. Questions? Contact Gloria Kenow: gkenow@yahoo.com



Men's Breakfast
First Saturday of the Month: 8:00AM

Rise with the guys and enjoy Bible Study and fellowship. Bring a friend!

Questions? Contact Gene Kispert: **507-475-3417**

EVENT CALENDAR

- Dec 1: 7:00p Women@Well Book Club
- Dec 2: 6:30p Men's Bible Study
- Dec 3: 5:30p Advent Meal
6:30p **Advent Service**
- Dec 6: 8:00a Mens Breakfast
- Dec 7: 11:00a **Nativity Stones**
- Dec 8: 10a LWML Morning Group
6:30p LWML Women in Mission
- Dec 9: 9:00a World Ministry
6:30p Men's Bible Study
6:30p Exec Team
- Dec 10: 5:30p Advent Meal
6:30p **Advent Service**
- Dec 11: 1:30-4pm 500 Card Club
- Dec 13: 8:00a Gift of Love
- Dec 14: 11:00a **Vision and Voters Meeting**
- Dec 16: 6:30p Men's Bible Study
- Dec 17: 5:30p Advent Meal
6:30p **Advent Service**
- Dec 21: **Family Christmas Services**
- Dec 23: 6:30p Men's Bible Study
- Dec 24: 4:00p **Christmas Eve Worship Service**
6:00p **Christmas Eve Hymn Service**
- Dec 25: 10:00a **Christmas Day Hymn & Carol Service**

Dec 30: 6:30p Lay Ministry Team

See the full calendar with Church Center or at
GoodShepherdOwatonna.com



Sharing the Gospel in Every Language

Project Video Gospel Audio Players are small, solar-powered devices loaded with the Bible, worship songs, and gospel teaching in local languages. These players allow people, even those who cannot read or who lack internet access, to hear God's Word in their heart language. With the help of local pastors, Project Video's Asia team places these players directly into the hands of those who need them most.

This year, we are also introducing the Distribution Evangelism Kit: a portable projector, power box, and USB filled with gospel media. Unlike noisy, unreliable generators, the power box makes film showings possible in rural villages and equips media teams to share the gospel in places without electricity.

Give through December 31 to help reach the goal of funding 300 Gospel Audio Players and 5 Evangelism Kits. Scan the QR Code above, or mail checks made out to Project Video with "Christmas Distribution Campaign 2025" in the memo line to:

Project Video USA
P.O. Box 241221
St. Paul, MN 55124



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**.