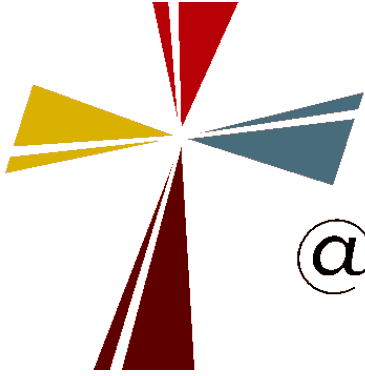
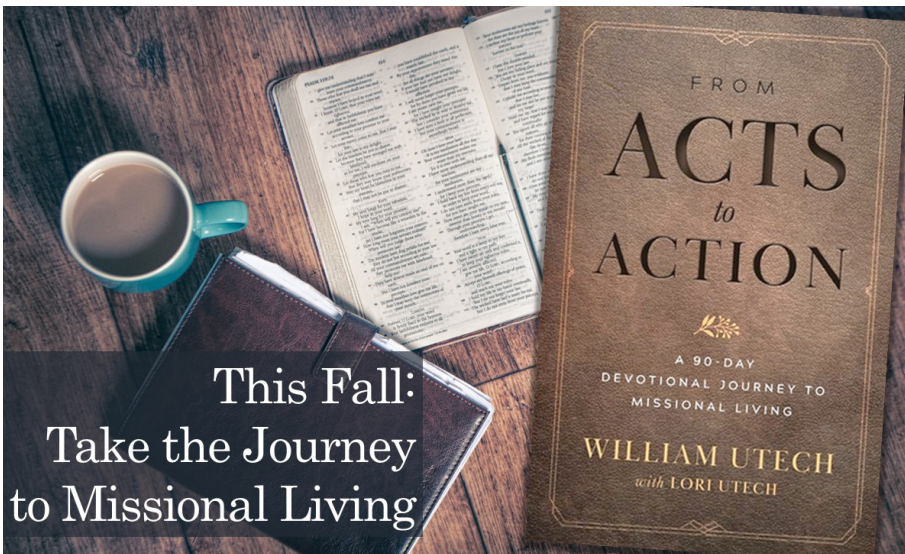


SEPTEMBER 2026



GOOD NEWS @ Good Shepherd

Lutheran Church in Owatonna



This Fall:
Take the Journey
to Missional Living

Fall Message Series: ACTivated! From Acts to Action
Begins Sunday, September 6

We're joining with Trinity in Medford for our fall Message series: a guided tour of the book of Acts. To help us on our Acts journey, we'll be highlighting Dr. William Utech's devotion book, **From Acts to Action**. Dr. Utech will even share a few Sunday messages here at Good Shepherd!

On the journey to Missional Living, we will learn to:

- Appreciate how God uses His people to save people
- Love people from all backgrounds, races, nations, and ethnicities
- Follow the example of the early church and be intentionally engaged in the mission of God
- Bring the love and hope of Jesus Christ to your family, friends, neighborhoods, and communities



Get a book for \$10 in the Gathering Area. We encourage you to use the 90 days of devotions in this book to build your faith this fall. If you would benefit from a large-print copy, please contact the church office.

We will dive deeper into Acts at the NEW Sunday Morning Bible Study, starting **September 13 at 9:30AM**. No registration necessary; just join in!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
(the Sunday after Labor Day):

8:15AM Hymn Service

10:15AM Worship Service



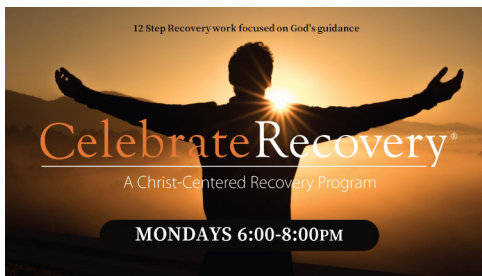
Sunday School starts September 13
at 8:15 and 10:15AM

Children begin worship with their family at each service, and are dismissed to Sunday School on the lower level after the Children's Message. Register today!

Questions?
Contact Heather Gleason, Director of Preschool and Children's Ministries:

Heather @GSOwatonna.com





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

We're Ready for A Fun Year at Preschool!

We're excited to start the new school year with expanded programs and a new teacher! Lindsay Johnson will team-teach our morning 3-year-old class with Dawn Betti. Welcome to Good Shepherd Preschool, Lindsay!



MMM...Barbecue
Sunday, Sept. 27 at 6:30PM



NEW! The Upper Room Work is good.

I mean that. As kids return to school, so many of our institutions including workplaces gear up for the fall. So, I think it's important that we recognize that work is a good thing. After all, it's the first thing that God tells man to do.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (Gen. 2:15)

We often resent work or see it merely as a means to an end, but God is excited about work. Think about it. He spends the first six days of creation working-

he brings all that we see into existence. He forms man on the 6th day, crafting him out of other created materials. And right after he forms man, he puts him into the Garden and tells him to start working it. He also tells man to rule over the animals and to name them- more work! And what does he say when this busy day is done- it is "very good".

So, work is good!

That doesn't mean we can't break it, just like everything else in creation. We can work too hard and look past God's commands to rest and trust him. We can also become slothful and justify more time on screens and less time in productive tasks or relationships. This isn't unique to work. We also twist the other good gifts in the garden. We break our relationships with our spouses and sexuality just like Adam and Eve did. We break our relationships with food just like Adam and Eve did. But just because these things can be broken doesn't mean they aren't still good gifts from God that can be redeemed.

So much of the life of men revolves around work and so we want to take this up as the first topic for our new men's ministry which will be called **Upper Room Men's Ministry**, or "Upper Room" for short. Our plan is to gather men for monthly events focused on digging into God's Word while also digging into good food (God did tell Adam to eat right away, right?).

We invite all the men of the church to join us for these events. There's no required reading in advance. No level you need to be at to check it out. If you're a guy who wants to spend time with God, good food, and the Scriptures, you belong. Put **September 27 at 6:30PM** on your calendar. We're going to be talking about work, eating an awesome homemade BBQ chicken meal, and talking about where God can lead us together as men. --Pastor Dan

Fall Groups Starting the Week of September 6

Youth Groups and Confirmation



Wednesday, September 9

Learn more and Register with Church Center, at **GoodShepherdOwatonna.com**, or SCAN HERE:

Questions about Youth Ministry or Confirmation? Contact Kelly Gentz, Youth Director: **Kelly@GSOwatonna.com**

2026 - 2027
GOOD SHEPHERD YOUTH MINISTRY
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
STARTING SEPTEMBER 9

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

Choir

Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00PM
in the Worship Center

The Choir sings twice a month at the 8:15 Hymn Service and on many special occasions. No registration needed, just bring your singing voice and join us!

Questions about the Choir?

Contact Gloria Kenow: **507-451-6941**



Faithful Conversations

Thursday, September 10 at 6:30PM

The world is constantly trying to invoke fear. A better approach, according to Scripture, is to seek transformation: to find places where we can be completely open about the hard decisions we're trying to make, to hear a traditional Scriptural approach applied to it; to talk back and forth to test our thoughts, and then to commend it to God in prayer. God has a good plan, even amid a broken world. We will have hard conversations in a respectful manner, and be encouraged and challenged to grow. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 6:30-8:00PM in the Social Hall. No registration.

FAITHFUL CONVERSATIONS
Thursday, September 10 at 6:30PM

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, September 12 at 8:00AM

Men's Breakfast will resume on Saturday, September 12 because of the holiday weekend, but regularly meets on the 1st Saturday of the month. This year's theme: Things I Never Learned in Sunday School.

No registration necessary; all study materials are provided. Bring a friend for bagels and Bible Study with the guys!

BREAKFAST
MEN'S BREAKFAST
COME FOR THE BAGELS, STAY FOR THE FRIENDS
FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH - 8:00AM

Women's Groups Starting the Week of September 13

Register at GoodShepherdOwatonna.com, with the Church Center app, or in the Gathering Area



Spiritual Stretch

Sundays

September 13–October 18

6:00-7:00PM

Spiritual Stretch

Sunday, September 13 at 6:00PM

Take a deep breath...and join women of faith who are ready to grow and stretch both physically and spiritually!

Spiritual Stretch is a blend of devotion, meditation, stretching, and prayer. You will be prompted each week with a point of reflection and then move through a series of stretches before ending with meditation and prayer.

Please register as space is limited.



LWML: Women in Mission

Monday, September 14 at 10:00AM or 6:30PM

Both groups enjoy the same Bible study, service projects, and fellowship. No registration necessary, all study materials are provided.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of the Month through May.

Choose the time that works best for your schedule.

Bring a friend, or make some new ones!



Monday Walks in Fall

Mondays starting Sept. 14 at 6:30PM

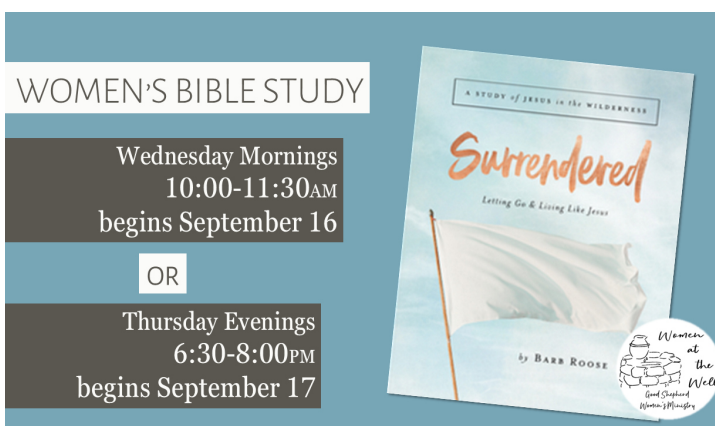
We'll meet in Good Shepherd's Parking Lot

Monday Walks in Fall

Mondays beginning September 14 at 6:30PM

Let's move together! Join us for a short devotion followed by a walk with friends. The group will decide how far/long to walk. Plan on no more than 60-90 minutes for devotion, prayer, and walking.

All women are welcome. To receive updates in case of inclement weather or schedule changes, please register.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Mornings
10:00-11:30AM
begins September 16

OR

Thursday Evenings
6:30-8:00PM
begins September 17

Women at the Well Bible Study: Surrendered

Wednesday, September 16 at 10:00AM

or Thursday, September 17 at 6:30PM

In this six-week Bible study of Jesus in the wilderness, we'll explore Jesus' time of testing and contrast it with the Israelites' failures in the wilderness.

If you're tired of following your feelings or being disappointed by unchanging circumstances, learn how to surrender like Jesus and experience God's power and peace in your life as never before. Materials are \$15, payable online or at the first class. Register today!



Exploring Forgiveness

Begins Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30PM in the Social Hall

Exploring Forgiveness is a six-week, faith-based forgiveness group. It offers a safe space to look at the places where hurt, anger, and resentment keep us stuck, and to explore how understanding our pain, practicing grace, and inviting God into the process can lead to real healing.

Whether you're seeking help for yourself or hoping to walk alongside others, this group is designed to encourage, guide, and offer hope as we learn what it means to let go of the past and begin moving toward the freedom God desires for us.

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



Like Coffee?

Like hanging around church and chatting with people? The Coffee Ministry needs four individuals or teams to serve coffee and hospitality this season. The commitment is simple: serve at either the 8:15 or 10:15 service once a month. Training is quick and easy, and you'll play an important role in helping everyone feel welcome. Contact Scott Haglund by call or text at 207-317-1578. (And yes, the 207 area code is on purpose!)

How Do I Apply for Funding From LMF?

Did you know that the Legacy Ministry Fund (LMF) distributes funds annually to help support seminary students, missions, individuals with special projects, as well as local charities and beyond? We focus on three areas of need:

- Mercy: helping those in need
- Ministry: seminary students, ministry and missions
- Music: improve or assist with the music at Good Shepherd



Learn more and see if you qualify: pick up an application form at the Welcome Center, with a list of past distributions and an LMF brochure. Completed applications can be given to any LMF Committee member (names listed in the brochure) or taken to the church office. Requests are approved by the LMF Committee and Good Shepherd Executive Team. Thank you for considering giving to our lasting legacy fund.

For information on how you can support Good Shepherd's ministry with your legacy, please pick up a Legacy Ministry Fund Brochure at the Welcome Desk. Thank you for your generous support!

During **SEPTEMBER**

We're giving to

PREGNANCY OPTIONS

Let's bring in

DIAPERS IN SIZES 4, 5, OR 6

BABY WIPES & THERMOMETERS

BABY CLOTHES SIZE 18-24 MONTHS



Go. Gather. Give.

During September we are collecting supplies for Pregnancy Options. They are in need of

- **Diapers** in sizes 4, 5, or 6
- **Baby Wipes**
- **Baby Thermometers**
- **New and Used Clothing**, especially sizes 18 & 24 months for boys or girls

Drop off items at the Go Gather Give display table in the Gathering Area.

EVENT CALENDAR

Sept 8: 6:30p Exec Team
7:00p Women's Book Club
Sept 9: **First Youth Group Wednesday**
Sept 10: 6:30p Faithful Conversations
Sept 12: 8:00a Men's Breakfast
Sept 13: **First Day of Sunday School**
& **NEW Service Times**
9:30a **Sunday Bible Class**
6:00p Spiritual Stretch
Sept 14: 10:00a LWML Morning Group
6:30p LWML Evening Group
6:30p Monday Walks in Fall
Sept 15: 9:00a World Ministry
Sept 16-17: Surrendered Bible Study
Sept 19: 9a-2p **New Member Seminar**
Sept 22: 6:30p Exploring Forgiveness
6:30p Lay Ministry
Sept 24: 6:30p Faithful Conversations
Sept 27: 6:30p The Upper Room: Men's
Ministry Launch
6:00p Moms' Night Out: Fireside

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



Moms' Night Out: Fireside Sunday, September 27 at 6:00PM

Please join our Moms for connection around the fire at Good Shepherd, near the playground. We will enjoy warm apple cider and make a pumpkin-themed craft. Bring a lawn chair and/or blankets and dress accordingly! Childcare will be available at the outdoor playground. Registration is \$5 for materials, payable online during registration or at the event. Register at **GoodShepherdOwatonna.com**, with the Church Center app, or in the Gathering Area. Bring a friend!



500 Card Club
is becoming Game Day! We're starting up again on **October 8**, and plan to meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 1:30-4:00PM. We are adding cribbage and other card games to the day.
Mark your calendars and invite a friend for Fall fun!

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: Dan Borkenhagen
Dan@GSOwatonna.com

Associate Pastor: Greg Schlicker
Greg@GSOwatonna.com

Associate Pastor for Spiritual Care: Harold Storm
Harold.Storm@GSOwatonna.com Phone: 507-779-8844

Preschool & Children's Ministry Director: Heather Gleason
Heather@GSOwatonna.com

Youth Director: Kelly Gentz
Kelly@GSOwatonna.com