



# GOOD SHEPHERD

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

1133 Reston Ave., Herndon, VA 20170 | 703-437-5020

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 4, 2026

Updates and more information at: [gslcva.org/](http://gslcva.org/)  
 Livestream: [Facebook Live](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Vimeo](#)  
 Preschool: [Facebook](#)  
 Vanco online giving: [gslcva.org/giving](http://gslcva.org/giving)  
 Text to Give: 833-761-1059



**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 60:1-6 | Acts 10:34-43 | Matthew 3:13-17

### Winter Walk of Lights—today!

Join us on **Sunday, January 4, at 5:00 p.m.** at **Meadowlark Botanical Gardens**, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Ct, Vienna, for their **Winter Walk of Lights!** The lights are different every year! The walk is .6 miles long, and there is an incline, but the path is paved and is stroller- and walking-assistance-device-friendly; there are benches along the way. Linger at the fascinating light displays - fun for all ages. Buy a hot drink or s'mores. **GSLC members' & friends' cost is highly discounted at \$5 per person (aged 2 and over). Bring checks made out to GSLC or cash for your tickets on the night.** (Please write **Winter Walk** on a check memo line.) Questions? Ask Jeannie Johns, John Putilo, Drew Lipman or June McGurn (our contact info is in the online directory) or email ([gslc@gslcva.org](mailto:gslc@gslcva.org)) for more information.

If you haven't already signed up, sign up here (<https://tinyurl.com/5dsrmkh4>).

### Above & Beyond fall catalog

Good Shepherd's latest edition of the Above & Beyond (A&B) catalog has been released, with hard copies available in the church entry area.

[Check out our Giving webpage for an electronic copy.](#)

Are you interested in giving to these initiatives? Unsure of where to give? Please check out:

- Preschool Expansion Support: \$40,000
- Choir Section Leaders: \$23,250
- Special Worship Music: \$5,000

We invite you to prayerfully consider lending your hand to these initiatives, which inspire connection and growth within our church family and beyond. Every contribution, no matter the size, is a vital thread in the beautiful tapestry of our shared mission. Thank you to all who have already stepped forward in faith. Your kindness shines brightly!

### Upcoming Events

#### Worship Services

**Sunday, January 11:** 8:00 a.m. (Matins service) and 11:00 a.m. (Contemporary/Praise service)\*

\*Check out our [website](#) for more information

#### Choir Practice

**Sunday, January 11:** 9:30 a.m. (choir room)

#### Sunday School

**Sunday, January 11:** 9:30 a.m. (kids, youth, adults)

#### Life Groups

**2GETHER4LUNCH:** **Thursday, January 8:** 11:30 a.m. Euro Bistro (Herndon)\*

**Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study:** **Thursday, January 8:** 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. GSLC (Room 203)\*

**Men's Friday Bible Study:** **Friday, January 9:** 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at Panera Bread (Elden Street)\*

**Men's Brotherhood Breakfast:** **Saturday, January 10:** 8:30 a.m. at La Madeleine (Reston)\*

\*Check out our [Calendar on the website](#) for more information

#### Community Service

**Monday, January 5:** 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

**Wednesday, January 7:** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

**Thursday, January 8:** 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry transport for distribution at SLHS (lower parking lot)

\*Check out our [website](#) for more opportunities to serve

### Hot Cocoa Bar

You're Invited: Hot Cocoa Bar! Warm up with us in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, January 11**, right after the **8:00 a.m. service**! Create your perfect cup at our **customizable cocoa station**, featuring everything from classic marshmallows and whipped cream to gourmet toppings like caramel drizzle, crushed candy canes, and cookie crumbles. We'll also have fresh fruit, cookies, and other sweet treats to enjoy. **Calling all Bakers:** If you'd like to share your talents, we welcome any contributions of cookies, brownies, or sweet nibbles! We look forward to sharing a cozy morning with you! To register scan the QR code to the right or visit the registration desk in the church entry area. Questions? Contact Heidi Cooper ([heidi@gslcva.org](mailto:heidi@gslcva.org)).



### Special Bible Study about Pets

Where do pets go after their time on earth? Is there a pet heaven? Are serpents, named in Genesis, not included in this possible pet heaven? What does God's Word reveal about these issues? Recently, Pastor Johann has fielded many of these questions, in light of numerous GSLC members' pets' passing during the last two years as well as many other pets of members currently suffering from severe illness. Join Pastor Johann for an hour of exploring these issues on **Sunday, January 18**, right after the 11:00 a.m. service in Room 203. Since a light lunch will be provided, please sign-up either through the QR code to the right or on the sign-up list in the church entryway.



### Today's Bible Studies, Sunday School

All classes meet at 9:30 a.m.

**Ladies' Bible Study, room 203.** Contact Heidi Cooper ([heidi@gslcva.org](mailto:heidi@gslcva.org)).

**Adult Bible study, room 111.** An in-depth look at John's gospel, using William Barclay's *The Gospel of John, Volumes One and Two*. Contact Pastor Gary James ([pastorgary@gslcva.org](mailto:pastorgary@gslcva.org)).

**Sticky Faith, room 112.** Video series offers practical strategies to help parents nurture lasting faith in their kids. All parents are invited to attend. Contact Pastor Gary James ([pastorgary@gslcva.org](mailto:pastorgary@gslcva.org)).

**Sunday School, ages 2-5th grade, lower-level gathering space and room 108.** Contact Michelle Tenhaeff ([ChildMinistry@gslcva.org](mailto:ChildMinistry@gslcva.org))

**Middle Schoolers (grades 6-8), room 119.** Contact Holly Vanderhoof ([Holly@gslcva.org](mailto:Holly@gslcva.org))

**High School Ministry (grades 9-12), room 121.** Contact Holly Vanderhoof ([Holly@gslcva.org](mailto:Holly@gslcva.org))

### Chili Bingo—Save the Date

**Sunday, February 1:** 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall). Stay tuned for additional details.

### Connections Class

Are you interested in learning more about Good Shepherd? Would you like to make a deeper connection with us and our ministries? If so, we would love to engage with you. Our next Connections Class starts on **Sunday, January 11**, at 9:30 a.m., and runs for 3 consecutive weeks (in Room 202).

**Session One** - Learn about how Good Shepherd operates, what ministries and opportunities we have for service and Christian education.

**Session Two** - Pastor Johann will give you an overview of what we preach and teach.

**Session Three** - Connect with a member who will help you explore areas of our life and ministry where you might like to become involved. Can't make one of the sessions? No problem! We offer make up classes. After completing the classes, you are invited to become a member of our congregation, should you choose to do so. No pressure! Interested? Contact the church office or Heidi Cooper ([heidi@gslcva.org](mailto:heidi@gslcva.org)).

*Note: If you are transferring to Good Shepherd from another Missouri Synod Lutheran Church, you don't need to attend session two, unless you would like to.*

## Columbarium: Selection of Niches

The columbarium garden is now complete! We hope you've had a chance to visit and enjoy its beauty. We will be in contact with those members who have purchased a niche to complete paperwork and select their location. Thanks to all who have helped make the columbarium garden a reality.

### Community Service

**Do you know of someone who needs help finding resources in our area?** For a list of comprehensive services in our area please call or visit: 2-1-1 Virginia. 2-1-1 Virginia is a source of information about community and social services available in Fairfax County and statewide. When you dial 2-1-1, a trained professional will listen to your situation and suggest sources to help using one of the largest databases of health and human services in Virginia.

**Volunteers needed! The Closet of Greater Herndon. Congregation scheduled days have returned to The Closet! Good Shepherd's next volunteer days are January 27, February 18, March 12, April 3.** The Closet needs volunteers to maintain day to day operations. Please consider donating some time to this valuable resource in our community. Scan the QR code to the right to signup or visit <http://tinyurl.com/5n7kbmb2>.



**Hypothermia Shelter Meals – SIGNUP OPEN!** Every Wednesday through the end of March (17 weeks), we prepare, provide, and serve hot meals for 40 guests. **Would you like to know what it is like to prepare food for the Hypothermia Prevention Program?** The best way to think about preparing the food is to consider what you would bring if this were an outdoor gathering. You need to provide food in disposable containers and include any needed (sturdy) plates, bowls, cups, napkins, eating utensils. One consideration is that the clients often don't have a full set of teeth - shredded or ground meat is preferable to chunks of meat. The same is true about the fruit. This year the need is much greater as they are serving about 80 people. **We will be helping with that number by providing a minimum of 40 meals.** Serving in person is also back this year but you still have the option to drop off the meals! Volunteers must be at least 18 years old to serve in the shelter. For more information and to signup visit: <https://tinyurl.com/4n5m8b9u> or scan the QR code to the right.



**Women Giving Back.** Come and support women and children in crisis on a first step to stability by providing quality clothing at no cost, assisted by a caring and committed community. From grassroots humble beginnings, Women Giving Back has grown into an organization that serves more than 24,000 women and children in need every year.

Visit: <https://womengivingback.org> for details.

**URGENT NEEDS:** peanut butter, dried beans (1lb bags), rice (1lb bags), jelly, bar soap

**Cornerstones Volunteer Opportunities:** Cornerstones offers a multitude of volunteer opportunities to serve members of our community. Opportunities include Farmers Market Gleaning, Career Mentors, Financial Literacy Mentors, Interpreters, Front Desk Assistants, Pathways to Sustainable Employment Program Volunteers and so much more. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/mvzzu4ue> to sign up for a volunteer hub and to learn more about these opportunities as well as their virtual volunteer orientation sessions.

### Stay Connected—Here's How!

Curious about what's happening at Good Shepherd? Wondering when our next service is, or what exciting events are on the horizon? The Friday eBlast and the News & Announcements insert deliver a full rundown of service times, upcoming events, and important updates—all in one convenient place. No access to the eBlast? No problem! Stay in the loop by visiting our social media pages on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), or by checking out our [website](#). These platforms are regularly updated with our latest updates.

### GSLC Tax-Free Donations

Are you 70½ and taking an IRA distribution? Make your donation to GSLC tax free through Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) directly from your IRA. This is the only method under U.S. tax law to donate Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) amounts tax-free. It's available to IRA owners age 70½ or older. You can transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly from your IRA to one or more IRS-approved charities. The amount of the QCD is excluded from your taxable income and fulfills your RMD. For married couples, each spouse with their own IRA can give \$100,000, effectively \$200,000 combined. Check with your investment advisor for details and applicable regulations.

### Sign up for the online church directory

We encourage you to join Good Shepherd's online church directory. It's a great way to connect with other members and to help you match names with faces. We use the "Instant Church Directory" app – an OPT-IN only, so if you don't provide us with information on you and your family, you will NOT appear in the directory. To sign up, send the name and email address for ONE PERSON in your family to the church office ([gslc@gslcva.org](mailto:gslc@gslcva.org)). Members and non-members who regularly attend GSLC are invited to join our online directory. Please let us know if you'd like to join our directory community!

### Good Shepherd Lutheran School—hiring

Do you have afternoons free from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.? Are you looking to work up to 10 hours per week? Good Shepherd Lutheran School is in need of aftercare staff beginning in January. Interested? Contact Sarah Brazell ([preschool@gslcva.org](mailto:preschool@gslcva.org))

### Busy Bee Bags

God gave kids their wiggles and giggles, and we welcome them joyfully in His house. To keep little hands engaged, we offer "Busy Bee Bags" during worship—but supplies are running low. Interested in helping? Check out our [online registry](https://tinyurl.com/4s4sevzy) (<https://tinyurl.com/4s4sevzy>).

### Pastoral Sabbatical

Pastor Johann will be taking a much-overdue sabbatical in two intervals (late summer – early fall of 2026 and 2027), a combined 3 months. He is planning to rest, spend a bit of time in retreat, care for extended family and friends (especially those on the last legs of their earthly lives), conduct research to benefit GSLC's strategic direction for sustainability, and write some sermons. A sabbatical plan has been written and efforts by him, staff, core ministry leaders, and the board are being made to ensure that the ministry does not lose momentum while he's away.