



GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 11, 2026

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



Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 49:1-7 | 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 | John 1:29-42

Hot Cocoa Bar—today!

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.

Connections Class—starts today!

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).

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.

Upcoming Events

Worship Services

Sunday, January 18: 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (Traditional services)*

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

Choir Practice

Sunday, January 18: 9:30 a.m. (choir room)

Sunday School

Sunday, January 18: 9:30 a.m. (kids, youth, adults)

Prayer Gathering

Wednesday, January 14: 7:00 p.m. (video teleconference)*

Life Groups

Manic Mondays: **Monday, January 12:** 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Cors's House)

Word Workers: **Wednesday, January 14:** 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Virtual (Zoom)

Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study: **Thursday, January 15:** 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. offsite event (this week only)

Men's Friday Bible Study: **Friday, January 16:** 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at Panera Bread (Elden Street)

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

Community Service

Monday, January 12: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

Wednesday, January 14: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

Thursday, January 15: 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

Chili Bingo—Registration open!

Good Shepherd's Annual Chili Bingo is coming up! Join us on **Sunday, February 1**, at 12:30 p.m., following the 11:00 a.m. service for food, fun, and fellowship! Bring chili, cornbread, salad, or dessert and/or help with set up or clean up. You don't have to enter your chili in the contest, but why wouldn't you? It's your shot at being crowned the Chili King or Chili Queen—or at least a runner up! If you want to enter the contest, bring a large batch of chili (to serve 12 or more) for judging and eating. After lunch, we move on to BINGO with lots of prizes to win!

Questions? Contact Heidi Cooper (heidi@gslcva.org).

Scan the QR code to the right to register or visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc47w46p>



Above & Beyond fall catalog

Good Shepherd's latest edition of the Above & Beyond (A&B) catalog is available, 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.

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).

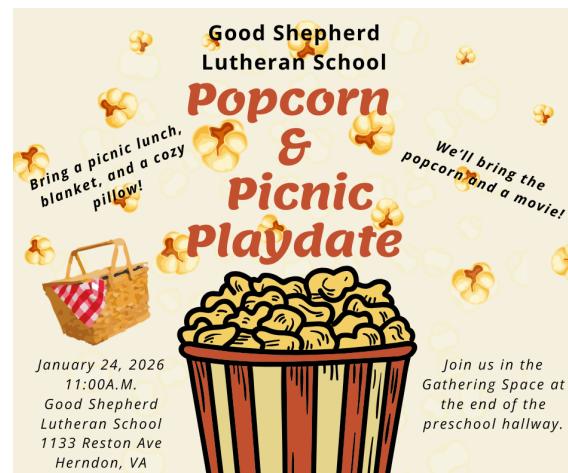
Adult Bible study: room 111. An in-depth look at John's gospel, using William Barclay's *The Gospel of John, Volumes One and Two*. Contact Pastor Gary James (pastorgary@gslcva.org).

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).

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

Middle Schoolers (grades 6-8), room 119. Contact Holly Vanderhoof (Holly@gslcva.org)

High School Ministry (grades 9-12), room 121. Contact Holly Vanderhoof (Holly@gslcva.org)



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.

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. Interested? Contact Sarah Brazell (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>).

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.

A Simple Gesture Food Collection. Every other month, A Simple Gesture delivers collected food to the South Lakes High School Food Pantry along with other local food pantries. Join us at Good Shepherd as we intake, sort and shelve donations on **Saturday, February 7**, from 8:50 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. This effort involves 50 to 70 volunteers from the area and is a great way to help serve the food pantry and love your neighbor in the process. If interested in volunteering, please contact Holly Vanderhoof (holly@gslcva.org).



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.



South Lakes Food Pantry – continues to serve the community! Since the beginning they have distributed more than **TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS** of food & toiletries to our neighbors in need. What a significant difference you've made in the community with your support of this incredible ministry. *Interested? Email Holly Vanderhoof (holly@gslcva.org).* Needs are on the rise. We are averaging well over **7,000 pounds (3 1/2 tons) of food to families and students in need each week**. Please consider shopping from our urgent needs or donating money to the pantry so that they can purchase food for the pantry.

NO-CONTACT Donation curbside drop offs: Mondays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Donations may also be shipped to the church: SLHS Food Pantry, c/o GSLC, 1133 Reston Ave., Herndon, VA 20170.

DRIVERS NEEDED. Looking for additional drivers on Thursdays. Bags will be loaded and unloaded at the school for you. Thursday afternoons, 2:50 – 3:30 p.m. Interested? Please contact Holly (holly@gslcva.org).

URGENT NEEDS: diced tomatoes, pasta sauce, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, bar soap, oatmeal

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.

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.

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.

Be a Flower Sponsor in 2026

Are you looking for a way to commemorate a birthday or anniversary? give thanks for answered prayers? offer a memorial for a loved one? glorify God for His many blessings? You can do so – by "sponsoring" floral decorations used during worship services. **The 2026 flower sponsorship sign-up charts are now on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall.** Pick the Sunday or Sundays on which you'd like to be a flower sponsor. Put your name on the chart for those Sundays, and make a note about what you'll be honoring or celebrating. (This information will be included in the bulletin for that Sunday.) You can also sign up for a sponsorship online at gslcva.org/giving. The "Flower sponsorship" form is at the bottom of that page. You may take your flowers home after church services have concluded on your Sunday. Sponsorships are **\$50 per arrangement**. Please submit your payments when you sign up to be a sponsor. You can submit a check (use one of the envelopes on the bulletin board) or pay through our online payment portal.

LCMS President Nominations

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) is in preparation for its 69th Regular Convention, putting out the call for nominations for President, First Vice President and Regional (East-Southeast) Vice-President. If you have questions about these positions or have an ordained minister you would like to nominate, please contact Pastor James, the Board of Servant Leaders, or Allan Ruppar (Good Shepherd's Lay Voting Delegate) through the church office (gslc@gslcva.org). Nominations must be received by Pastor James by **Sunday, February 1**.

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.

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). 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!