



GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 18, 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 9:1-4 | 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 | Matthew 4:12-23

Special Bible Study about Pets-today!

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 today, **Sunday, January 18**, right after the 11:00 a.m. service in the Fellowship Hall.

If you did not register for the light lunch do not worry, please feel free to attend and bring your own lunch.
A freewill offering will be taken to help support the food expenses.

Connections Class—second session 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 Connections Class continues this **Sunday, January 18**, at 9:30 a.m. (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 25: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional service) and 11:00 a.m. (Contemporary/Praise service)*

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

Choir Practice

Sunday, January 25: 9:30 a.m. (choir room)

Sunday School

Sunday, January 25: 9:30 a.m. (kids, youth, adults)

Prayer Gathering

Wednesday, January 21: 7:00 p.m. (video teleconference)*

Life Groups

Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study: **Thursday, January 22:** 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. GSLC (Room 203)

Men's Friday Bible Study: **Friday, January 23:** 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 19: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

Wednesday, January 21: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

Thursday, January 22: 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: \$31,575
- Choir Section Leaders: \$19,650
- Special Worship Music: \$2,760

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.

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)

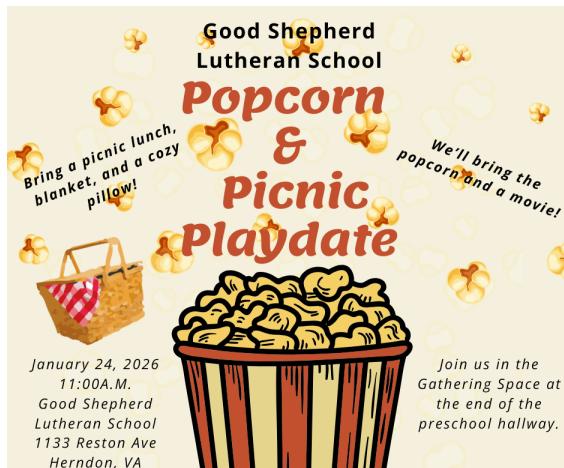
Middle Schoolers (grades 6-8), room 119. Contact Holly Vanderhoof (Holly@gslcva.org)

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

Preschool needs your help!

Good Shepherd family, our preschool ministry is in immediate need of extra hands in the afternoons. We are looking for adults who can serve any day(s) Monday-Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The days are flexible, but we do need a consistent presence during the aforementioned time period.

This role is simple but meaningful—helping supervise children, supporting our teachers, offering a calm and caring presence, and ending each day with the love of Jesus reflected in our words and actions. Even one afternoon a week would make a difference. If you feel called to help, please reach out to Sarah in the school office. Your support strengthens this ministry and blesses our families in a very real way. Interested? Contact Sarah Brazell (preschool@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.

Middle School Youth Gathering

Join us for the Spring Middle School Youth Gathering in Williamsburg, Virginia from April 24 to 26. This year's theme, **ONE**, will guide us through Paul's words in Ephesians. We are pleased to welcome **AJ Vega** as our keynote speaker. For more information contact Holly Vanderhoof (holly@gslcva.org).

Registration coming soon!

Book of Concord

Are you interested in exploring the Book of Concord? Please check out this [free online version](https://tinyurl.com/ycxcrd5w), which includes the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

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 - 4 open dates left! 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. **Days available: February 25, March 4, March 11, and March 18.** 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, canned meat, boxed mac & cheese

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.

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.

GSLC Tax-Free Donations

Are you 70 1/2 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 70 1/2 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). 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!