



# GOOD SHEPHERD

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 22, 2024

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



### Christmas Eve Readings

Isaiah 9:2-7

| Titus 2:11-14

| Luke 2:1-20

### Christkindlmarket-Thank you!

Thank you to all who volunteered and attended our annual CHRISTKINDLMARKET. Your donations will help offset the costs for the senior youth to attend Group Missions Workcamp in Winchester, Kentucky next summer.

### Christmas Eve Worship Services

- **Tuesday, December 24:** 4:00 p.m. (Family Friendly Worship Service - with book readings)
- **Tuesday, December 24:** 7:30 p.m. (Christmas Eve Traditional candlelight service)
  - Preservice music starts at 7:10 p.m.
- **Tuesday, December 24:** 10:00 p.m. (Christmas Eve Traditional candlelight service)
  - Preservice music starts at 9:45 p.m.

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



### Adjustment to December 29 service time

During the holiday season Good Shepherd will adjust the service time for the Sunday, December 29, worship service. On this date we will only one service at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Questions? Contact the church office ([gslc@gslcva.org](mailto:gslc@gslcva.org)).

### Above & Beyond—fall catalog

Good Shepherd is pleased to release the fall edition of the Above & Beyond (A&B) catalog. The fall catalog has 31 items, including funding for the [Columbarium garden](#) ([deadline to give of December 31](#)), HVAC system - Phase 2, and much more. Please prayerfully consider supporting these items and thank you to all of those who have previously supported these items. Electronic copies of the catalog can be found on our [Giving webpage](#) and hard copies are available in the church entry area and office. Questions? Contact Georgia Thorstenson ([georgia@gslcva.org](mailto:georgia@gslcva.org)).



### Mustard Seed House—giving opportunity

Good Shepherd has established a \$5,000 Above and Beyond line item for the expansion of the Mustard Seed House. We have learned that there is a \$100,000 Matching Gift program running through the end of the year. In order to meet this timeframe all offerings must be received by Good Shepherd by Tuesday, December 24, at the close of the Christmas Eve services. Every dollar that GSLC contributes toward Mustard Seed House expansion has the potential to be matched and would help them break ground in early 2025. Interested in giving? Check out our [giving webpage](#) or the [Above & Beyond \(A&B\) Catalog](#). Questions? Contact Georgia Thorstenson ([georgia@gslcva.org](mailto:georgia@gslcva.org)).

### Good Shepherd Outing at Gray Ghost Winery

Join us for a special Christmas outing on **Friday, December 27**, to Gray Ghost Winery in Amissville, Virginia. Owner Al Kellert has crafted 27 amazing cork sculptures celebrating the Christmas season and they are a must see for young and old. We will have a private wine tasting and charcuterie at 1:00 p.m. (\$15.00/person) then tour the tank room with the beautiful Christmas decorations. Children and pets are welcome. Bring a friend too.

Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/3274529f> to let us know you are coming.

Questions? Contact Heidi Cooper ([heidi@gslcva.org](mailto:heidi@gslcva.org)).



### Winter Walk of Lights

Extend your Christmas cheer all the way to Epiphany by joining the GSLC Hiking Group on our venture to Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. We will take in the garden's extraordinary "Winter Walk of Lights" on **Sunday, January 5**. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. near the front doors of the Meadowlark Botanical Garden Visitor Center (9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, in Vienna, Virginia 22182). The ticket price is **\$5 per person**, for those over two years old. We do need an approximate headcount to purchase tickets ahead of time, so **please signup by Monday, December 23** by scanning the QR code, or using the paper sign-ups in the church entryway.



Interested? Please visit the Winter Walk of Lights website

(<https://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights>).

Questions? Please contact the GSLC Hiking Group leads (Jeannie Johns, John Purtilo, and Drew Lipman) through the church office ([gslc@gslcva.org](mailto:gslc@gslcva.org)), referencing "Walk of Lights" in the subject line, for more information.

### Confirmation Guardian Angel

Pastor James is seeking Guardian Angel volunteers to send notes of encouragement, cards and on occasion small items recognizing special occasions in the confirmand's personal and faith journey. Interested? Please contact Pastor Gary ([PastorGary@gslcva.org](mailto:PastorGary@gslcva.org)).

### Events This Week

**Worship Services:** **Tuesday, December 24:** 4:00 p.m. Family Friendly service | 7:30 p.m. (Christmas Eve traditional candlelight service with Holy Communion (preservice music at 7:10 p.m.) | 10:00 p.m. (Christmas Eve traditional candlelight service with Holy Communion (preservice music at 9:45 p.m.) | **Sunday, December 29:** 9:30 a.m. (Traditional service)

Check out our website (<https://gslcva.org/worship/services/>) for more information.

**Sunday School:** Sunday, December 29: No Sunday School

**Choir Practice:** Sunday, December 29: 10:45 a.m. (Choir loft)

**Prayer Gathering:** Wednesday, December 25: No Prayer Gathering

**Community Service:** **Monday, December 23:** 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms) | **Wednesday, December 25:** No food packing | **Thursday, December 26:** 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry transport for distribution at SLHS (lower parking lot) | Questions? Contact Holly Vanderhoof ([holly@gslcva.org](mailto:holly@gslcva.org)).

## Community Service

**Do you know of someone that 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 day are January 2, January 24, February 18, March 18, and April 2.** 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 signup or visit <http://tinyurl.com/5n7kbmb2>.



**Lake Anne House Angel Tree—gifts due today!** Greeting cards and presents will be delivered to Lake Anne House Christmas week.

**Hypothermia Shelter Meals – Signup today, openings on January 15.** An opportunity to serve through supporting the hypothermia shelter meals program is fast approaching! 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 a picnic. 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 70 people. **We will be helping with that number by providing a minimum of 40 meals.** Serving in person is also back this year! Volunteers must be at least 18 years old to serve in the shelter. For more information and to signup scan the QR code or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/4n5m8b9u>.



**South Lakes Food Pantry – continues to serve the community!** Since the beginning they have distributed more than **TWO MILLION 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. *If you are interested in helping, email Holly Vanderhoof, [holly@gslcva.org](mailto:holly@gslcva.org), to get up-to-date volunteer needs.* Needs are on the rise. We are averaging well over **7,000 pounds (3 ½ 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 (2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.)

Wednesdays (10:00 a.m. until 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 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Interested? Please contact Holly ([holly@gslcva.org](mailto:holly@gslcva.org)). **LOADING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** We are averaging 200 bags each week, not including the additional donations of fresh produce and meat from Trader Joe's. Volunteers would meet at the church lower parking lot at 2:30 p.m., please allow 45-60 minutes for this volunteer need.

### URGENT NEEDS: diced tomatoes, snacks (granola bars and popcorn), jelly, pasta sauce

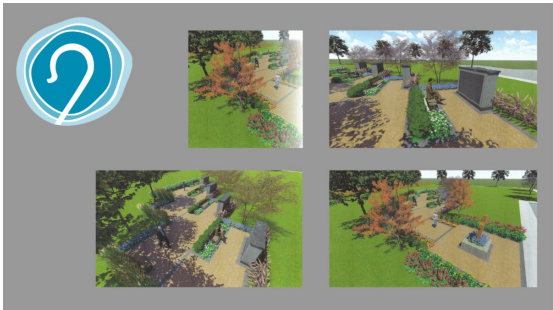
**Women Giving Back.** Women Giving Back supports women and children in crisis on a first step to stability by providing quality clothing at no cost, assisted by a caring and committed community. From grassroots humble beginnings, Women Giving Back has grown into an organization that serves more than 24,000 women and children in need every year. To learn more about Women Giving Back and how to volunteer visit: <https://womengivingback.org>.

**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 learn more about these opportunities as well as their virtual volunteer orientation sessions.

Interested? Please contact Holly Vanderhoof ([holly@gslcva.org](mailto:holly@gslcva.org)).

## Columbarium garden– deadline to give December 31!

The deadline to give for the columbarium garden is fast approaching. We have a commitment to fund \$60,000 of the project's cost, but only if an additional \$40,000 is committed before Tuesday, December 31. This \$40,000 can come from presales of niches and/or donations to the Above & Beyond (A&B) fund. The columbarium garden, once constructed, would be located to the right of the entry drive as one enters the campus. It will contain between 48 and 72 individual niches in two or three 5-foot by 9-foot granite units. Each of the niches can hold two (2) urns, so one niche could accommodate both a husband and wife, grandparents, etc. Funds from pre-sales of niches as well as donations will be placed in a restricted account. If sufficient funding for the project has not been achieved by December 31, 2025, funds can be refunded or applied to other uses at Good Shepherd. If the \$100,000 goal is met, solicitation of bids for construction will begin immediately with project completion anticipated before the close of 2025. Questions and comments can be directed to Georgia Thorstenson ([georgia@gslcva.org](mailto:georgia@gslcva.org)).



## Life Groups

### Men's Friday Bible Study

**Friday, December 27:** 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at Panera Bread (Elden Street)

Contact Jeff Kroese, Jeff Peterson, and Jim Smith through the church office ([gslc@gslcva.org](mailto:gslc@gslcva.org)) for more information\*

\*When contacting the church office ([gslc@gslcva.org](mailto:gslc@gslcva.org)) please type the Life Group name in the email Subject line when requesting more information via email.

## Online Church Directory

GSLC's online church directory is a great way to connect with other members, and to help you connect names with faces. Our directory – using an application called “Instant Church Directory” – is OPT-IN only. To sign up, send the name and email address for ONE PERSON in your family to the church office. Members and non-members who regularly attend GSLC are invited to join our online directory.