



GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 19, 2025

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 Service Readings:

Jeremiah 31:31-34 | Romans 3:19-28 | John 8:31-36

Fall Family Fun Festival-today!

Join us today, **Sunday, October 19**, for Good Shepherd's Annual Fall Family Fun Festival starting at **12:15 p.m. in the lower church parking lot**. Brats and hot dogs will be served, along with drinks for children and beer and cider for adults. Bring a side dish or desert to share. Decorate your trunk and don a costume for the kids to enjoy Trunk or Treat after this Oktoberfest-style lunch. Invite your friends and family to join the fun.

Board of Servant Leaders (BoSL) Listening Session-today!

Come join the BoSL at the Fall Family Fun Festival on **Sunday, October 19**, for a Listening/Dialog Session. We'll have a table where you can share your thoughts on what God is calling this congregation to be now, and into the future.

Ladies' Sunday Bible Study

The Ladies' Bible Study will meet today in **room 203**, following today's 8:00 a.m. worship service. Join us as we study Donna Snows' book, *Strong and Courageous: Studying God's Promises in Joshua*. Questions? Contact Heidi Cooper (heidi@gslcva.org).

Sunday Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible study will meet in **room 111**, following today's 8:00 a.m. worship service. The group will take an in-depth look at John's gospel, using William Barclay's *The Gospel of John, Volumes One and Two*. Questions? Contact Pastor Gary James (pastorgary@gslcva.org).

Sticky Faith Bible Study

The *Sticky Faith* Bible study will meet this **Sunday, October 19**, in **room 112** during the Sunday school hour. This five-session video series, inspired by Dr. Kara Powell's journey with her own children, offers practical strategies to help parents nurture lasting faith in their kids. All parents are invited to attend, with this week's session "Sticky Faith Essentials."

Interested? Contact Pastor Gary James (pastorgary@gslcva.org).

Connections Class-final 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 will meet for the final session today**, during the Sunday school hour, in **room 202**.

Session One: Learn more about how Good Shepherd operates, what ministries and opportunities we have for service and Christian education. (COMPLETED) | **Session Two:** Pastor Johann will give you a mini primer on what we teach and preach. (COMPLETED) | **Session Three:** Connect with a current 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. If you are transferring to Good Shepherd from another LCMS church, you don't need to attend session two, unless you would like to. After completing the classes, you are invited to become a member of our congregation, should you choose to do so. No pressure! If you decide to become a member of Good Shepherd, we warmly invite you to begin your journey of faith and fellowship by receiving our official welcome during our **New Member Sunday, scheduled for Sunday, November 16**.

Contact the church office or Heidi Cooper (heidi@gslcva.org).

Life Groups

Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study: Thursday, October 23: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. GSLC (Room 203)

Men's Friday Bible Study: Friday, October 24: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at Panera Bread (Elden Street)

Interested in our Life Groups? Check out our [webpage](#) for details or stay tuned for further updates in future emails.



Women's Retreat-registration closes tomorrow (October 20)

Ladies, get ready for the Women's Retreat in Winchester on **November 7-9**. Enjoy a weekend filled with faith, fun, and fellowship. Sign up by tomorrow by clicking the link on the top of our website to go to the registration page (<https://gslcva.org/womens-retreat/>). Questions? Contact Heidi Cooper (heidi@gslcva.org).

Storytime Saturdays

Spark your child's imagination at Storytime Saturdays, hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran School! Enjoy a 90-minute joyful morning filled with stories, songs, and hands-on crafts. Join us **Saturday, October 25**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Space—fun for your children awaits!

Questions? Contact preschool director Sarah Brazell (preschool@gslcva.org).

All Saints Day Observance

As part of Good Shepherd's All Saints Day observance on **Sunday, November 2**, we will use the rite known as "Commemoration of the Faithful Departed," an opportunity to name before God and one another those friends and family members whom God has called to himself in the last year. We invite you to provide names of those whom you would like to include in this rite. Please submit names by using our online form on our Worship Services page (gslcva.org/worship/services), under the section "All Saints Day names."

Submission deadline: Tuesday, October 28. Questions? Contact the church office (gslc@gslcva.org) or call 703-437-5020.

Adopt-a-Highway

Family Opportunity 10 & up! Adopt a Highway. Join us on **Saturday, October 25**, at 8:30 a.m. for a light breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Pickup begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. It takes approximately 1.5 to 2 hours of your time, and service hours can be earned. It's a nice stroll along Reston Parkway because of helpers like you! Help us keep God's creation beautiful! (Rain date November 22). **For safety reasons, volunteers must be at least 10 years old and accompanied by an adult if they are under 16. Please bring your own gloves.**

Events This Week

Worship Service: Sunday, October 26 (Reformation Sunday): 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (Traditional services with Brass) |

Questions? Check out our website (<https://gslcva.org/worship/services/>)

Sunday School: Sunday, October 26: 9:30 a.m. (kids, youth, adults) | Questions? Check out our website under "Education": [kids](#), [youth](#), and [adult](#)

Prayer Gathering: Wednesday, October 22: 7:00 p.m. (video teleconference)

Community Service: Monday, October 20: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry (pantry rooms) | **Wednesday, October 22:** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms) | **Thursday, October 23:** 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) *SEE OTHER SIDE for more opportunities.*

"2025 Annual Review and a look ahead to FY2026" - final version

The final revision of the “2025 Annual Review and a look ahead to FY2026” has been released. Check out the [Forms and Documents webpage](#) for electronic copies, limited print copies are available at the Welcome Center in the church entry area. This version of the contains minor edits to ministry team narratives and financial and statistical attachments.

Calling all Hikers and Walkers!

Come join our next GSLC Hiking Group outing. on **Sunday, October 26**, we will walk the paved paths that circle Lake Anne. If people wish to take a mini walk or the entire loop around Lake Anne all are invited. This walk is very kid friendly as there are multiple play structures for kids along the way. A walk leader will stay with each group to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable walk. We will gather in the church entry area following the 11:00 a.m. worship service to drive and/or carpool over to Lake Anne Plaza. If anyone wants to meet directly at the walk start, we'll meet at the Robert E. Simon bench about 12:30 p.m. We'll walk along the storefronts toward the Monet Bridge paying close attention to the beautiful gardens along the way. After we cross the bridge, we'll walk through the neighborhood to the left. A resident there has created incredibly intricate and amusing rock gardens which are sure to make you smile. Things to bring include comfortable shoes, a bottle of water, a light snack, and your happiest self. Restrooms are available at nearby locations before the trail. Please let us know if you intend to join us so we don't leave anyone behind at church. Questions? Contact Jeannie, John, and Drew through the church office (gslc@gslcva.org).

Young Adults Gathering

Attention young adults and families with young children. Join the young adults of Good Shepherd for our first gathering of the 2025-26 season. We will meet at the church on **Saturday, November 15**, at 12:00 p.m. for lunch (provided) and a devotion. We will also discuss plans for future meetings and activities. Childcare will be provided. The session will run about 90 minutes. We look forward to having you join us. Interested? Go to <https://tinyurl.com/5n7uj3ff> to register.

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 October 23, November 14 and December 9. 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>.



Thanksgiving Meals. Help us support Cornerstones clients with a nice Thanksgiving meal this year. We have shoppers lined up and ready to go! You can provide a full meal with a \$60 donation which includes non-perishable food and a \$25 grocery gift card. Meals will be assembled on November 16 and delivered to Cornerstones on November 19. **Online donations can be made at:** <https://tinyurl.com/4dznm2> or **via scanning the QR Code to the right.**



Hypothermia Shelter Meals – SIGNUP OPEN! An opportunity to serve through supporting the hypothermia shelter meals program is fast approaching! Every Wednesday from the beginning of December 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 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.



Angel Trees. It's that time of year again and we will once again be supporting Cornerstones' families during the holidays as well as Lake Anne House residents. Look for more information about this year's Angel Trees soon!

South Lakes Food Pantry – Continues to Serve the Community!

The Food Pantry has distributed more than **TWO MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS** of food and 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) to get up-to-date volunteer needs.* Needs are on the rise. We are averaging well over **7,000 pounds (3½ tons) of food to families and students in need each week.** Please consider shopping from our urgent needs (see list below) 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 Thursday afternoons, 2:50 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Bags will be loaded at GSLC and then unloaded at the school for you. Interested? Please contact Holly (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: jelly, peanut butter, diced tomatoes, bar soap, boxed mac and 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.

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). 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!