



**GOOD
SHEPHERD**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS November 30, 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 Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10 | Romans 15:4-13 | Matthew 3:1-12

Advent Devotional Materials Available

Advent devotional materials – including booklets and a calendar of daily Advent activities especially for families – are available in the church entry area and on the Resource Table in the Fellowship Hall. Please help yourself to these items!

Angel Tree for Cornerstones Gift cards due today!

Good Shepherd is once again supporting Cornerstones' Gift Cards for Kids Drive with our Angel Tree program. Good Shepherd will be providing 150 (\$25) gift cards for 60 children. This year, all cards requested are Walmart gift cards which can be purchased at WalMart, CVS stores, or Walgreens. Please visit the Angel Tree in the church entry area and select a tag from the tree. Purchase the gift card and return it (along with the tag selected from the tree) to the box on the table next to the Angel Tree. Children under 10 years old receive a total of \$50 in gift cards and those 10 years and older \$75 in gift cards. (Gift cards must be physical cards - no e-cards, please.) **All gift cards must be returned to the church today. A special thank you to Children's Ministry for making the angels for the tree!**

Save the date! Angel Tree for LAKE ANNE HOUSE coming on December 7!

Advent Tea

Advent is a time to remember how the world waited for the Messiah, and how we wait for His Second Coming today. Join the women of Good Shepherd and their guests as we restore ourselves during the busy Advent season on **Saturday, December 6**, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Enjoy a potluck lunch, beautiful music, a devotion, and fellowship. Sign up today (<https://tinyurl.com/hyaetvyc>)

Upcoming Events

Worship Services

Sunday, December 7: 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Lessons & Carols services)

Wednesday, December 24: 4:00 p.m. (Family service) and 7:30 p.m. (Christmas Eve service with preservice music at 7:05 p.m.)

Sunday, December 28: 9:30 a.m. (only 1 Traditional service)

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

Choir Practice

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

Sunday School

Sunday, November 30: No Sunday School today (kids, youth, adults)

Life Groups

Thursday, December 4: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study:** GSLC (Room 203)*

Friday, December 5: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. **Men's Friday Bible Study,** Panera Bread (Elden Street)*

Saturday, December 13: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. **Men's Breakfast,** La Madeleine (Reston)*

Preschool Pizza and PJs Night

Friday, December 5: 6:00 p.m. (Room 107)*

Advent Tea

Saturday, December 6: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)*

Christkindlmarket

Sunday, December 7: 12:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)*

Baklava Demonstration

Wednesday, December 10: 5:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)*

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

Helping Hands

Saturday, December 13: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Room 125)*

Community Service

Monday, December 1: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

Wednesday, December 3: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

Thursday, December 4: 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry transport for distribution at SLHS (lower parking lot)

Saturday, December 6: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A Simple Gesture (Gathering Space, lower level)

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



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? We've got you covered! 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 the latest news, event details, and service changes.



Get ready for the *coziest* Christmas party of the season! Come, join us on **Friday, December 5**, at 6:00 p.m. in room 107. Wear your favorite pajamas and join us for a night packed with festive fun:

- Make Merry Christmas Crafts
- Play Silly, Super-Fun Games
- Snuggle Up for the Story of Jesus's Birth
- Pizza Party Time!
- Christmas Cookies for Dessert (obviously!)

This event is FREE and open to the public! Bring your Christmas cheer and your comfiest PJs — we'll handle the rest.

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/c3ptHNupUenhimB57>

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. In the FY2026 fall catalog you will find items for community service, discipleship, the columbarium, special music, the preschool, and much more!

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

Christkindlmarket

Join us for the annual GSLC Christmas Market & Lunch on **Sunday, December 7**, from 12:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This festive holiday event, hosted by our senior youth, is fun for the whole family! Parents, bring your little ones to the Christkindlmarket where there will be lots of items for your child to pick out and purchase. There will be gifts for every member of the family! A good-will offering will be collected during the meal and the proceeds from the event will benefit the Sr. High Youth Group and their fundraising efforts for the 2026 Summer Workcamp to Grosse Pointe Woods, North Carolina. Invite your friends and come out for some Christmastime fun!

Donations needed for Christkindlmarket! We are looking for new or “like new” gifts for moms, dads, grandparents, and siblings. If you have any of these items and are willing to contribute to our market, **please drop off your donations at the church office by Sunday, November 30.** Questions, please 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 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 is 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>.



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. Help us intake, sort and shelve donations on **Saturday, December 6**, from 8:50 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. This effort involves 50-70 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).

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 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!

The Food Pantry has distributed more than **TWO MILLION NINE 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, bar soap, diced tomatoes, pasta sauce, pasta, canned meat

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.