



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

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 14, 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 7:10-16 | Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-25

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!

Upcoming Events

Worship Services

Sunday, December 21: 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (Traditional 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, December 14: 9:30 a.m. (choir room)

Bell Choir Practice

Tuesday, December 16: 7:00 p.m. (choir room)

Sunday School

Sunday, December 7: 9:30 a.m. (kids, youth, adults)

Life Groups

Thursday, December 18 (Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study): 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. GSLC (Room 203)*
Friday, December 19 (Men's Friday Bible Study): 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, December 15: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)*
Wednesday, December 17: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)*
Thursday, December 18: 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

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.

[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. Your kindness shines brightly!

End-of-Year Giving

In order for your gifts to be credited to calendar year 2025, they must be hand delivered or postmarked to GSLC on or before **December 31, 2025**. If you would like to make a stock contribution before the end of the year, phone or email Christine Papadopoulos at Merrill Lynch, 703-464-8813, or CPapadopoulos@ml.com. **The transaction must be completed by December 31, 2025.** Please send a letter or email to the church office to let us know that you have made a stock contribution and where you would like the funds placed (General Fund, Above & Beyond, etc.).

Questions? Contact Business Manager Georgia Thorstenson (georgia@gslcva.org).

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).

Good Shepherd Lutheran School—hiring

Do you have afternoons free from 3:00 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 beginning in January. Interested? Contact Sarah Brazell (preschool@gslcva.org)



Birthday Party for Jesus—today!

The Children's Sunday School invites the congregation to join us for a piece of cake at a birthday party for Jesus. Interested? Join us today, **Sunday, December 14**, from 10:15 to 10:30 a.m. in the lower level Gathering Space. All are welcome as we celebrate Jesus at his birthday party. During the Sunday School hour the Children's Sunday School will celebrate the Christmas story, going to different stations, **CONCLUDING** with a Birthday Party for Jesus. This will be a low-key, stress-free way to keep Jesus as the reason for the season.

Angel Tree—Lake Anne House

For more than twenty Christmases, GSLC has supported Reston's Lake Anne House (formerly Lake Anne Fellowship House) to help our elderly neighbors in need. **Please visit the Lake Anne Angel Tree in the Narthex**, take a tag(s) and sign your name and email address adjacent to your tag number(s) on the sheet next to the tree. Please drop off your beautifully wrapped gift(s) next to the tree **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2025, WITH THE TAG SECURELY ATTACHED**. Greeting cards and gifts will be delivered to Lake Anne House before Christmas.

Questions? Contact Holly Vanderhoof (holly@gslcva.org).

LAKE ANNE HOUSE ANGEL TREE

Take a tag from the tree and sign the sheet on the nearby table.
Please bring back your beautifully wrapped gifts by December 22.

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.

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 4**. The gardens are a true hit with young and old! 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). Ample parking is available adjacent to the Visitor Center. The GSLC Congregational Care and Nurture Ministry will support our outing; the ticket price, bought at the garden, will be a very reasonable **\$5 per person** over two years old – again, a big discount from the regular Group Price of \$14! Guests welcome! Dress warmly and wear comfortable shoes to walk along the 0.6 mile, slightly rolling, paved pathways through the light displays. Food and drink are available for purchase along with light-up wearables and handheld toys. The paths are wheelchair accessible. We do need an approximate headcount to purchase tickets ahead of time, so please sign up in the church entryway. The event will be held, even if the weather is challenging! For more information, please visit the Winter Walk of Lights [website](#). Questions? Please contact the GSLC Hiking Group leads (Jeannie Johns, John Purtilo, and Drew Lipman) through the church office (gslc@gslcva.org) for more information.

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 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 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.

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 the latest news, event details, and service changes.

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!

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.