



GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 8, 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: Exodus 24:12-18 | 2 Peter 1:16-21 | Matthew 17:1-9

Chili Bingo—Registration ongoing

Good Shepherd's Annual Chili Bingo is fast approaching. Join us on **Sunday, March 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! All proceeds will help fund our upcoming High School Ministry (HSM) Workcamp trip to Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan. Join us for fun and help support our cause! Questions? Contact Heidi Cooper (heidi@gslcva.org). Scan the QR code to the right to register or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/38pmkyc3>.



Lent 2026: "The Salutary Gift"

Worship services during Lent this year will explore the theme "The Salutary Gift"—the Lord's Supper. The words of institution convey the primary blessing of the Lord's Supper: "Given and shed for you for the *forgiveness of sins*." Holy Scripture uses other images and metaphors as well to highlight the blessings of the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper holds nourishing power for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Christians suffering from bodily ailments take comfort in considering the Lord's Supper as a healing medicine, seeing that the complete healing of their bodies in the resurrection begins now with the healing of the soul in the Sacrament of the Altar. It also offers community, rest for our souls, and a foretaste of the eternal wedding feast to come. It is also a covenant meal and a feast of victory.

Join us on Ash Wednesday (**February 18**, noon and 7:30 p.m.), at midday services each subsequent Wednesday during Lent, and then during Holy Week, as we consider the many blessings of the Lord's Supper.

Worship Services during Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 18, noon and 7:30 p.m.

Imposition of ashes at both services

The 7:30 service will be livestreamed and recorded

Midweek (Wednesday) services, noon, February 25–March 25

These services will be recorded and posted on Wednesday evenings

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, March 29

8:00 a.m. Traditional service (sanctuary) with Holy Communion
 9:00–10:45 a.m. Pancake Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
 11:00 a.m. Traditional service (sanctuary) with Holy Communion
 This service will be livestreamed and recorded

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

Traditional service, with Holy Communion
 First Communion for students who have received instruction
 This service will be livestreamed and recorded

Good Friday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.

This service will be livestreamed and recorded

Easter Sunday, April 5

8:15 a.m. Traditional service with Holy Communion (sanctuary)
Preservice music begins at 8:00 a.m.
 10:00 a.m. Family-friendly service (Fellowship Hall)
 This service will be recorded and posted later
 11:15 a.m. Traditional service with Holy Communion (sanctuary)
Preservice music begins at 11:00 a.m.
 This service will be livestreamed and recorded

Lenten devotional materials available

Lenten devotional materials -- including booklets and a calendar of daily activities especially for families -- are available in the church entry area and on the Resource Table in the Fellowship Hall. **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18.** Please help yourself to these items!

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 supporting these meaningful initiatives that strengthen our church family and extend our impact beyond these walls—every contribution, regardless of size, weaves an essential thread into our shared mission. We're grateful to those who have already answered this call in faith. We're also thrilled to announce that the Columbarium Peace Garden is now complete; we encourage you to visit and experience its serene beauty. We're reaching out to members who've purchased niches to finalize paperwork and select their locations, and we thank everyone who made this project possible.



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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)

New Young Couples and Families Bible Study

Ready to connect with other young families? Join us **THIS SUNDAY** at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, conversation, and community. Bring the babies, drop off the older kids at Sunday School, and let's build something meaningful together. We'll discuss our study plans, share our goals, and dive into God's Word while planning childcare support. Questions? Contact Heidi Cooper (heidi@gslcva.org).

Upcoming Events

Worship Services

Sunday, February 15: 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

(Traditional services)*

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

Choir Practice

Sunday, February 15: 9:30 a.m. (choir room)

Sunday School

Sunday, February 15: 9:30 a.m. (kids, youth, adults)

Prayer Gathering

Wednesday, February 15: 7:00 p.m. (video teleconference)*

Life Groups

Manic Mondays: Monday, February 9: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Cors's House).

Word Workers: Wednesday, February 11: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Virtual (Zoom).

Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study:

Thursday, February 12: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. GSLC (Room 203).

2GETHER4LUNCH: Thursday, February 12: 11:30 a.m. Euro Bistro (Herndon).

Men's Friday Bible Study: Friday, February 13: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at Panera Bread (Elden Street).

*Check out our [Calendar on the website](#) for life groups

Community Service

Monday, February 9: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

Wednesday, February 11: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

Thursday, February 12: 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

Men's Breakfast & Archery Event—Saturday, February 21

Join us for a Men's Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on **Saturday, February 21**, at La Madeleine in Reston. We'll wrap up by 8:40 a.m. and head out together for our archery outing. Our Men's Group Archery Event begins at 9:00 a.m. at Double Archery in Leesburg, where the range will open early exclusively for our group. We'll have a full hour with private access to the range and instructors. More details will be shared as we get closer to the date.

Save the Date—"Seen" Retreat

Don't miss this exclusive opportunity! Join Our Savior's Way for an inspiring one-day women's retreat on **Saturday, April 18**, where you'll connect with women of faith from across our area. Mark your calendar now for a day of meaningful fellowship and spiritual growth.

Pet Bible Study

Join us for the second offering of our Bible Study about pets - the same study previously offered on January 18 - on **Sunday, March 1, at 9:30 a.m.** This gathering will be a time of reflection and deeper understanding of God's Word. Interested? Do you want to know where 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. Please sign-up either by scanning the QR code to the right or on the sign-up list in the church entryway.



First Communion

We're excited to announce that First Communion classes for 5th and 6th grade students will begin on **Sunday, February 22**. **Class Details:** Leader: Pastor James Time: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (during Sunday School) Duration: Five sessions preparing students for Holy Communion Requirement: Parent or guardian must attend class with their child

How to Sign Up or Ask Questions:

Phone: 703-437-5020

Email:

Michele (michele@gslcva.org) or

Pastor Gary James (pastorgary@gslcva.org)

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 February 18, March 12, and 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 (February 25, March 4, March 11, and March 18). 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. 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: peanut butter, jelly, canned meat, pasta, bar soap, diced tomatoes, pasta sauce

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.

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!

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). Register through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ybc5t9am>.

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. 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).