



GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 15, 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



Ash Wednesday's Readings:

Genesis 3:1-15 | Revelation 22:1-5, 14 | Mark 1:9-13

Chili Bingo—Registration ongoing

Chili Bingo is almost here! Join us **Sunday, March 1 at 12:30 p.m.** after the 11:00 a.m. service for great food, friendly competition, and BINGO prizes. Bring chili, cornbread, salad, or dessert—and enter your chili for a chance to be crowned Chili King or Queen. Contest entries should serve 12+. All proceeds support our High School Ministry Workcamp trip to **Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan**. Questions: Heidi Cooper (heidi@gslcva.org) Register via the QR code to the right or at <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 (This service will be livestreamed and recorded)

First Communion for students who have received instruction

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)

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.

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. (Rm. 202)**. 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? Please sign-up either by scanning the QR code to the right or on the sign-up list in the church entryway.



Upcoming Events

Worship Services

Wednesday, February 18: 12:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (Ash Wednesday with imposition of ashes)

Sunday, February 22: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional service) and 11:00 a.m. (Contemporary/Praise services)*

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

Choir Practice

Sunday, February 22: 9:30 a.m. (choir room)

Sunday School

Sunday, February 22: 9:30 a.m. (kids, youth, adults)

Life Groups

Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study:

Thursday, February 19: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. GSLC (Room 203).

Men's Friday Bible Study: **Friday, February 20:** 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 16: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

Wednesday, February 18: Good Shepherd Days at The Closet (The Closet of Greater Herndon)

Wednesday, February 18: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

Thursday, February 19: 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

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!

Vacation Bible School

Save the date—Vacation Bible School is back from **Monday, June 22 through Friday, June 26!** Registration opens **Sunday, March 29.**

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.

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

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 Preschool Receives Significant New Funding

The GSLC preschool has secured a substantial boost in support from the Circuit 9 Mission Endowment Fund, which serves Lutheran churches across Northern Virginia. With the most recent award of \$27,480 for 2025, the preschool has received a total of \$46,580 in funding over the past 14 months. This continued investment underscores the circuit's commitment to strengthening early childhood education within the 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>.