



**GOOD SHEPHERD**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

**NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**May 24, 2026**

Updates and more information: [gslcva.org/](https://gslcva.org/)  
Livestream: [Facebook Live](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Vimeo](#)  
Preschool: [Facebook](#)  
Vanco online giving: [gslcva.org/giving](https://gslcva.org/giving)  
Text to Give: 833-761-1059



**Next Service Readings:** Genesis 1:1-2:4a | 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 | Matthew 28:16-20

**Pastor Johann's Sabbatical and Vacation**

Pastor Johann will be on Sabbatical and planned vacation from **August 24 through October 19**. For more information please check out the sabbatical plan, in the Featured Events section of the Friday email, or contact the office ([gslc@gslcva.org](mailto:gslc@gslcva.org)).

**Upcoming Events**

Worship Services

**Sunday, May 31:** 9:30 a.m. (Traditional service)  
\*Check out our [website](#) for more information

Sunday School

**Sunday, May 31:** No Sunday School for youth/kids/adults until Rally Day on **Sunday, September 13**.

Prayer Gathering

**Wednesday, May 27:** 7:00 p.m. (video teleconference)

Life Groups

**Men's Bible Study: Friday, May 29,** 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. at Panera (Elden Street)

Community Service

**Monday, May 25:** 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

**Wednesday, May 27:** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

**Thursday, May 28:** 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry transport for distribution at South Lakes High School (lower parking lot)

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

**Giving Opportunities**

Check out the latest **Above & Beyond Catalog** of giving and stewardship projects at [gslcva.org/giving](https://gslcva.org/giving); in the church entry area; and on the Fellowship Hall Resource Table.

Our preschool is expanding so we can welcome more families and strengthen our ministry to young children. We seek support to grow responsibly and ensure our programs remain rooted in faith, excellence, and community care.

We invite the congregation to join us in this important step forward.

Fully funded items and remaining balances, as of May 20, are on the right. For most current data, contact Georgia Thorstenson ([georgia@gslcva.org](mailto:georgia@gslcva.org)). Thank you to everyone who generously supports our stewardship programs

Fund	Remaining Balance	Fully Funded:
"Spiritual First Aid" Seminar	\$3,350	SLHS Food Pantry
Senior Youth Ministry	\$1,474	Special Music (in Worship)
Cornerstones	\$3,327	Vacation Bible School
Lake Anne Fellowship House	\$3,479	Workcamp 2026
Fellowship Square	\$3,135	Workcamp Van Rentals
Meals of Hope	\$340	Choral Section Leaders
Expansion Preschool	\$14,244	Dogwood Elementary Grocery Gift Card
Middle School Ministry	\$474	Dogwood Elementary Support
Dehumidifiers	\$2,800	Sabbatical Support (1st Interval)
Faith Aid - Mustard Seed	\$3,974	Columbarium & Garden Fund (1 bench)
Faith Aid - Fraher Family Support	\$2,068	Evergreen Lutheran School
Lutheran World Relief	\$2,454	LCMS - Osiro (Kenya)
Lutheran Bible Translators	\$3,500	LCMS - Payne (Tanzania)
		LCMS - Wood (Indonesia)
		Principe de Paz Luterana
		LCMS Ministry - Armed Forces

**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](mailto: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!

**Summer Adult Bible Study**

Starting next **Sunday, May 31**, Pastor James will be sponsoring an Adult Bible Study following the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service. This Bible Study will be based on the documentary film and study, "Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World." Stay tuned for location details next week.

For more information please contact Pastor Gary James ([pastorgary@gslcva.org](mailto:pastorgary@gslcva.org)).

**Budget (Expenses and Income)**

Monthly	April 30	Fiscal Year to
Budget needs	\$95,150	\$761,200
Actual expenses*	\$98,676	\$823,104
Total income (all)	\$88,721	\$791,496
Offerings minus expenses	(\$9,955)	(\$31,608)

**GSLC Tax-Free Donations**

Are you 70½ and taking an IRA distribution? **Donate 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 QCD amount 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.

\*Actual includes principal & interest on mortgages, salaries, facility, and all ministry expenses

\*\*Total income includes offerings and LCEF interest

YTD spending exceeds YTD budget because of unanticipated HVAC, mold, debris removal, storm water filtration repair, and added snow/ice removal.

## Vacation Bible School—Volunteers

**Volunteers Needed! Rainforest Falls VBS:** One of our largest outreaches during the year is Vacation Bible School (VBS). We simply can't do it without the help of our volunteers. We have lots of opportunities to volunteer during the week and the weeks leading up to VBS. If you can lend a hand, please register at [www.gslcva.org/vbs](http://www.gslcva.org/vbs). For more information contact the VBS Leadership Team at [vbs@gslcva.org](mailto:vbs@gslcva.org).

**Registration Is Ongoing! VBS Dates: June 22-26 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

### Vacation Bible School

**Rainforest Falls VBS:** Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

**Join us on June 22 through June 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Please register at [www.gslcva.org/vbs](http://www.gslcva.org/vbs) (register by June 7).



### Mini Melody Makers

Are you ready to make some noise with your little ones? We are thrilled to announce our brand-new 4-week music program designed specifically for infants and toddlers! Mini Melody Makers is a high-energy, parent-child class where you and your child can explore the joy of music together through rhythm, song, and play. It's the perfect way to bond while supporting your little one's early development.

**July Session Details:** Tuesdays & Thursdays (July 7-30) at 9:30 a.m. in room 102.

Secure your spot today at <https://tinyurl.com/mwkm9sjk>

### Summer Camp at Good Shepherd Lutheran School

Join us at Good Shepherd Lutheran School from **July 6–31** for a four-week camp bursting with **STEM fun, creative arts & crafts, and music-filled moments**. Perfect for ages **2–8**, this camp blends learning and play into one unforgettable adventure.

Please contact Preschool Director [Sarah Brazell](mailto:Sarah.Brazell@gsllc.org) for details.

### Community Service

**Do you know someone who needs help finding resources in our area?** For a list of comprehensive services, please call or visit 2-1-1 Virginia, 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. (<https://211virginia.org>)

**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, June 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](mailto:holly@gslcva.org)).

**Volunteers Needed! The Closet of Greater Herndon:** Good Shepherd's next volunteer days are **June 11, July 6, July 29, and August 20**. The Closet needs volunteers to maintain day-to-day operations. Please consider donating some time to this valuable resource in our community.

Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/5n7kbmb2>

**South Lakes Food Pantry continues to serve the community!** What a significant difference you've made in the community with your support of this incredible ministry. We average well over **7,000 pounds (3½ tons) of food and toiletries to families and students in need each week**. Please consider shopping from our urgent needs list or donating money to the pantry for food purchase. Contact: Holly Vanderhoof ([holly@gslcva.org](mailto:holly@gslcva.org)).

**No-contact donation curbside drop offs:** Mondays 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Wednesdays 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 on Thursdays:** Bags will be loaded and unloaded at the school for you. Thursday 2:50 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Interested? Contact Holly ([holly@gslcva.org](mailto:holly@gslcva.org)).

**Urgent needs:** Pasta, jelly, diced tomatoes, pasta sauce, peanut butter, bar soap

**Women Giving Back:** 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 multiple ways to serve, including Farmers Market Gleaning, Career Mentors, Financial Literacy Mentors, Interpreters, Front Desk Assistants, Pathways to Sustainable Employment Program, and so much more. Interested? Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yhatjxby> to sign up or learn more.