



*Opportunities for
Designated Giving*



ABOVE & BEYOND WINTER/SPRING UPDATE

This winter/spring edition of the FY2026 Above and Beyond (A&B) catalog shows **updates to the funding status** for all projects and includes **new giving opportunities for Missions (pages 12-14) and Property and Facilities (page 16)**.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the current A&B program. This year's "wish list" includes 31 items totaling \$185,050 in donation requests. As of the week of February 16, three items have been fully funded. Your generous funding for these programs and support for the A&B program through the years has allowed GSLC to continue to support local needs and global programs.

Contributions to the A&B program are ongoing, so the "wish list" balances in this catalog represent a snapshot of funding levels. For the most up-to-date information about current funding balances, please contact Business Manager Georgia Thorstenson (georgia@gslva.org).

God's blessings to you all.

Introduction

Dear Siblings in Christ,

What a blessing from God “Above and Beyond” has been! We prayerfully started this stewardship program in 2017 to offer support for ministries that the general budget could not accommodate. It provides us opportunities to indeed go above and beyond, giving to the passions for various ministries that the Holy Spirit has seeded and ignited in each of our hearts. We thank the Lord of Mission for everyone who has generously responded to the “glocal” (local to global) projects within the program, year in and year out. Gifts to the sustained Above and Beyond program are just one way for us to acknowledge our willingness to hear God’s call to do even more than we can imagine and trust in Him to provide (Ephesians 3:20). These gifts may be offered in celebration of a life milestone; in honor or memory of a person; to advance an area of ministry that has touched your life; or simply to respond to an area of initiative identified by Good Shepherd’s ministry teams, who have done so after prayer, discussions, and research. God calls us to generous stewardship and the sacrificial giving of our time and our treasure (2 Corinthians 9:5-7, et al.). By this updated Fiscal Year 2026 (winter/spring) catalog, may He continue to stretch us in our outreach, giving, and fulfillment as His followers. We thank God for your generosity, in advance.

Sincerely, in Christ,
The Rev. Jotham Johann
Senior Pastor

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind,
not regretfully or under compulsion;
for God loves a cheerful giver.
(2 Corinthians 9:7)*

About the program



Good Shepherd’s annual budget covers general operating expenses to support the ministries and programs of the church. It is funded by unrestricted, general funds—the generous, regular offerings of our members. To be fiscally responsible, our ministry plans are prioritized so that the general operating budget is balanced against projected offerings.

Gifts to the Above and Beyond (A&B) effort help enhance and grow our ministry programs further than our general budget can accommodate.

Above and Beyond giving falls into two categories:

- 1. Immediate opportunities** are those that do not extend past the current fiscal year. Ministry teams will make every effort to spend all available gifts during the current fiscal year. Once the desired Above and Beyond amount is reached, no more gifts will be accepted for that opportunity during the current fiscal year. These opportunities will be reviewed and updated each year. Examples of this type of opportunity would be a gift to Vacation Bible School (VBS), the “Spiritual First Aid” seminar, or Meals of Hope/Rise Against Hunger meal packing events.
- 2. Long-term opportunities** are those associated with special projects. Because of their significance and magnitude, these opportunities are likely to span a number of years. Once sufficient funds have been received for the project, they will be spent and the fund will be closed. Examples of this type of opportunity would be a gift to replace the screens in the sanctuary.

Donors can specify which opportunities they wish to support, whether long-term or immediate. If a donor does not specify an opportunity, the Senior Pastor will determine where to allocate the gift. In the event GSLC does not have a Senior Pastor on staff, the determination will be made by the serving Pastor or by the Board of Servant Leaders.

To receive a tax deduction for federal tax purposes, a donor must release control over the gift to the church or designate it to a fund established in advance by the church. General offerings are considered Unrestricted Funds, and GSLC makes the sole determination on how to expend such funds. The funds supported by Above and Beyond gifts will be considered Temporary Restricted Funds. Such funds may only be used for the defined purpose unless released by the donor.

Tax-Free Donations

If you are 70½ or older and taking an IRA distribution, you can 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. You can transfer up to \$111,000 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 \$111,000, effectively \$222,000 combined. Check with your investment advisor for details and applicable regulations.

FAQs

What is a “designated gift”? A designated gift is a donation that is to be used for a particular purpose.

May I designate my gift to an opportunity that is not listed here? Maybe. When a designated gift is received, it goes into a specific, designated fund to support a particular opportunity or project. The fund has to be in place before you can donate to it. (This policy is in line with IRS regulations.) These designated, or restricted, funds are created by the Board of Servant Leaders. So if there is a project or opportunity you’d like to support and you don’t see it listed here, discuss it with the pastor or the appropriate ministry team leader. If they agree that the opportunity is aligned with GSLC’s mission and we have the resources to undertake it, a new designated fund will be established to receive the gift. If you make a designated gift and there is no fund for it, we will have to return your gift.

May I direct my gift to more than one opportunity? Yes. GSLC will allocate your gift according to your direction. Contact Business Manager, Georgia Thorstenson, georgia@gslcva.org, for instructions on how to make your wishes known.

May I designate my gift for a GSLC staff individual? No. IRS regulations state that such gifts are not tax deductible to the donor and are taxable income to the recipient.

What happens to restricted, or designated, funds at the end of the year if they have not been spent? It depends. Some funds are “annual” and some are “multi-year.” Donations to multi-year funds will be accumulated and rolled over until the purpose of the fund has been satisfied. Donations to annual funds are meant to be spent by the end of the fiscal year in which the donation is made, and GSLC will do its best to conduct the activities that the funds are intended to support. If an “annual” Above and Beyond program is continued in the next fiscal year, unused Above and Beyond balances will be rolled over. If the program is not continued or if it is moved to the general budget, donors will be contacted for permission to redirect the gifts or have them returned.

When and how often can I make a donation? You can make a one-time donation, or you can give periodically at any time during the fiscal year (September 1 through August 31). Note, however, that gifts received toward the end of the fiscal year may not be spent before the new fiscal year begins.

How can I make a donation? You can submit a check, use an electronic funds transfer, or contribute with other types of financial instruments. Contact the Business Manager, Georgia Thorstenson, georgia@gslcva.org.

Will I receive a statement for my designated gift? Yes. Both your regular, general offering and designated gift contributions will be reported on your statement of giving, which is made available each January.

Giving opportunities



COMMUNITY SERVICE



Meals of Hope / Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing

Meals of Hope provides meals for those in need in our community. Help fund a meal-packing event at Good Shepherd with a minimum of 10,000 meals.

Meal Packing: \$5,000 \$1,900

Lake Anne House

Lake Anne House offers modern affordable housing for more than 300 low-income seniors in our area. Donations to this fund help these residents with medications, doctor appointments, and many other needs that they may have.

Lake Anne House: \$4,000 \$3,635

Fellowship Square

Fellowship Square provides quality housing for low-income seniors in our area. Your gift to this fund helps residents with medications, doctor appointments, and many other needs that they may have.

Fellowship Square: \$4,000 \$3,770

Dogwood Elementary Grocery Gift Cards

Make a difference in the lives of families in need at Dogwood Elementary School. Gifts to this fund will provide 100 families with grocery gift cards (\$25.00 each; families are identified by the school's Parent Liaison office and/or the social worker). Nearly 100% of Dogwood students are living at or below the poverty line.

Dogwood Elementary Grocery Gift Cards: \$2,500 Fully Funded!

Dogwood Elementary Support

At Dogwood Elementary, nearly 100% of students are living at or below the poverty line. The school's Parent Liaison office keeps track of the needs of its students and handles many requests, including for shoes, clothing, diapers, and wipes. Dogwood has an early childhood program that begins as early as 6 weeks. Help us support these students and the early childhood program.

Dogwood Elementary Support: \$2,000 Fully Funded!

Cornerstones

Cornerstones is known for its expertise and perseverance in connecting vulnerable people in our area with comprehensive resources that ensure stability, empowerment, and hope for the future. This fund offers financial support to Cornerstones so that their valuable programs can help those most in need. For comprehensive information about Cornerstones, go to <https://www.cornerstones.org>

Cornerstones: \$5,000 \$4,517

South Lakes High School Food Pantry

Good Shepherd provides storage space for shelf-stable goods for the SLHS Food Pantry and helps with food distribution 50 weeks of the year. Myriad volunteers sort, pack, and deliver food to South Lakes High School for distribution. This fund supports the operational costs of the pantry, including grocery gift cards, carts, bins, and other needs.

***SLHS Food Pantry: \$2,000
Fully Funded!***



DISCIPLESHIP

“Spiritual First Aid” Seminar

Our nation is facing a mental health crisis with widespread stress, anxiety, and grief. Jesus calls us to love and serve our neighbors. As part of Good Shepherd’s Education ministry, and to help equip our people to better provide spiritual care in time of personal and community crisis, we plan to host a seminar—“Spiritual First Aid”—in February or March 2026.

Spiritual First Aid is a framework for emotional and spiritual care that integrates biblical principles, empirical evidence, and trauma-informed practices. The framework is designed to equip Christians with the skills necessary to compassionately and confidently support individuals during challenging times, while offering hope grounded in the Gospel. The program consists of nine hours of live, interactive training, typically conducted on Friday evening and Saturday.

As the seminar host, Good Shepherd would provide lodging, meals, and transportation for two facilitators who are members of the Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) staff and certified to lead the seminar. In addition to funding the facilitators, lunch and snacks will be provided. A \$25 registration fee will be required for attendees to assist in covering the \$129 materials cost (remainder funded by a LCC donor). An invitation to attend will be extended to local Southeastern District member churches.

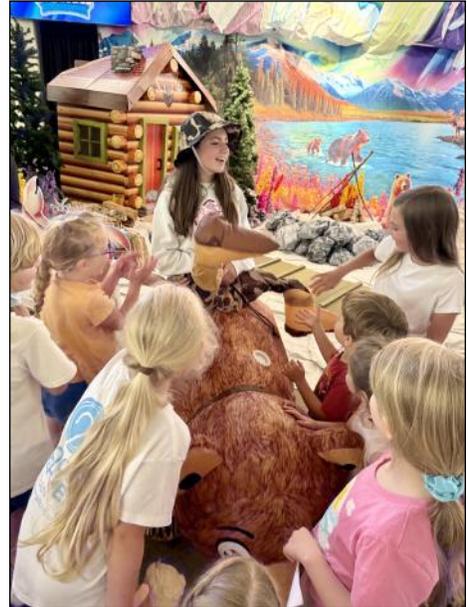
“Spiritual First Aid” seminar: ~~\$3,500~~ \$3,450



Vacation Bible School

VBS is one of Good Shepherd's biggest outreach efforts to our neighbors, and we hope to make "Rainforest Falls VBS" a huge success in 2026. Each year, we transform the church campus to reflect the VBS theme and make the week truly memorable for all participants. Your gift will help offset the cost of supplies, course materials, and decorations.

Vacation Bible School: ~~\$4,500~~ \$1,500



Photos from VBS 2025

Middle School Ministry

Help put more ministry resources into the hands of our Middle School Youth and support more ministry opportunities for them.

Middle School Ministry: ~~\$2,000~~ \$1,974

Senior Youth Ministry

Help put more ministry resources into the hands of our Senior Youth and support more ministry opportunities for them.

Senior Youth Ministry: ~~\$1,500~~ \$1,475

DISCIPLESHIP (continued)



Workcamp 2026: Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan (July 11-18)

By contributing the Workcamp fund, you can help more high school youth participate in summer Workcamp, an annual mission trip that is a highlight for many of our teens. This fund holds down costs for the teens and adult leadership and provides essential supplies.

Workcamp 2026: ~~\$3,000~~ \$967

Rental Vans for Workcamp 2026

The cost of renting 4 to 5 vans is a big piece of workcamp. Giving to this fund will help offset these costs and ensure that Workcamp is a success for those participating.

Van Rentals: ~~\$4,500~~ \$2,500

COLUMBARIUM PEACE GARDEN

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Columbarium Peace Garden. It's now complete! We hope it will be a continuing place of inspiration, enjoyment and remembrance.

While complete, the following elements of the project still require funding.

- One of the biblical passages that have been engraved on the back wall of each columbarium unit (\$2,000)
- Two teak benches placed in front of each columbarium and along the pathway (\$2,000 each)

Thanks for your continued support of the Columbarium Peace Garden.

Biblical passage: \$2,000

Teak benches: \$4,000



WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION

Section Leader Support

We value the professional singers who join with our Sanctuary Choir members so that the choir is able to provide an anthem and choral support for worship services each week, and for special worship services (Reformation, Christmas, Easter, etc.). Section leaders also sing solos and duets when the Sanctuary Choir is off, including during the summer. Many of these choral offerings are also livestreamed and recorded. Your gift to this fund will ensure that these singers can continue to supplement our Sanctuary Choir and be a part of our Music Ministry in many ways.

Section Leaders: ~~\$23,250~~ \$16,608

Special Music in Worship

The Brass Quintet, led by Hart Guonjian-Petit, as well as other instrumentalists add to the celebration on Festival Sundays and other special occasions. By supporting this fund, you can ensure this special music continues to be a part of worship services on Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, Reformation, and Christmas Eve.

Special music in worship: ~~\$5,000~~ \$2,532



COMMUNICATIONS/WORSHIP/AV/ PROPERTY AND FACILITIES



Replace Sanctuary Screens

The projection screens in our sanctuary have served us well for about 15 years! However, because of their age, they are not capable of reproducing the color and brightness that our recently upgraded projectors can provide. Upgrading these screens will allow the congregation to fully appreciate the depth and color of the imagery that is carefully chosen by our worship planning team each week and will make the words on the screens easier to read.

Help us keep the blues blue and the greens green!

Replace sanctuary screens: \$17,300

MISSIONS

Evergreen Lutheran School

<https://trinitydecatour.com/evergreen-lutheran-detroit-michigan/>



Evergreen Lutheran Church is a small, inner-city church in Detroit, Michigan. The church operates the last LCMS Lutheran School within the city limits of Detroit, and both the church and the school operate on a shoe-string budget. Your donations to this fund will help Evergreen keep its doors open.

Evergreen Lutheran School: \$3,500

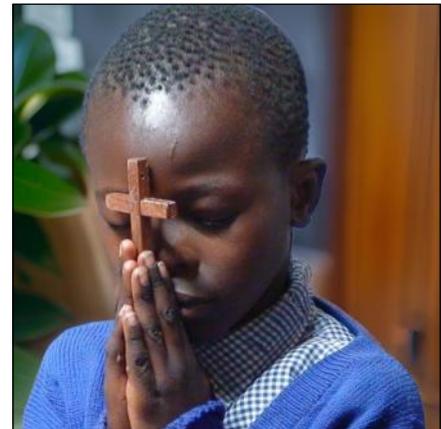
Faith Aid—Mustard Seed

<https://faithaid.org/mustard-seed-house/>

Mustard Seed House is a Christian ministry that provides accommodation and Christian support for families in Kenya with children who are sick. Families and patients travel long distances to receive care at Tenwek Hospital, so lodging is a concern. Mustard Seed House supports families not only with safe lodgings and but also through Christian counseling and encouragement as they prepare for ongoing treatment.

Mustard Seed House began in 2021 as a 3-bedroom rented house at Tenwek. Mustard Seed Houses (all rented) now serve more than 4,000 people a year.

Through its capital campaign "Room for More," Faith Aid seeks funds to build larger, permanent Mustard Seed Houses near Tenwek and has set a goal of more than \$2 million to complete the project over the next few years. The first 12-bedroom house is scheduled to open in June. Your contribution to this Missions area will help Mustard Seed reach its goal.



Faith Aid—Mustard Seed: \$5,000

Faith Aid—Fraher Family Support

<https://faithaid.org/fraher/>

Jacob and Lauren Fraher serve impoverished children in Kenya in need of life-saving care at Tenwek Hospital, a mission hospital that seeks to exemplify Christ in all aspects of care and holds tightly to the motto "We Treat but Jesus Heals!" In addition to sponsoring surgeries, the Frahers expanded their efforts at Tenwek in January 2021 with the opening of Mustard Seed House, a home away from home for children and families traveling for treatment. (Read more about Mustard Seed House above.) Jacob and Lauren are joined in the mission field by their four children, Miriam, Micah, Layla, and Lorelei.

Faith Aid—Fraher Family Support: \$3,000

Lutheran World Relief

<https://lwr.org/>

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to challenges threatening their livelihoods and well-being. LWR provides aid in emergencies and helps families restore their lives; partners with communities to build and grow rural economies; and seeks to break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive. Its goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and to create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after its projects end.



Lutheran World Relief: \$5,000

Lutheran Bible Translators

<https://lbt.org/>

Lutheran Bible Translators partners with local leaders to create translation programs for the many communities who do not have access to God’s Word in their native language. Your prayers and financial gifts enable them to provide the resources, tools, and support that local leaders need to make the Word of God more accessible than ever.

Lutheran Bible Translators: \$3,500

LCMS—Osiro (Kenya)

<https://www.lcms.org/osiro>



Shara Osiro serves the Lord through The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod in Africa, based in Kenya. As the regional shared ministries manager, she supports ministry programs and services that extend across multiple countries in the region. Working with the region’s leadership team, she helps develop strategic programs and project plans for the included ministries, and then regularly reviews and revises those plans.

LCMS—Osiro: \$2,500

Shara and Michael Osiro

LCMS—Payne (Tanzania)

<https://www.lcms.org/payne>

The Rev. Bryan and Deaconess Keah Payne serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod in Tanzania. Bryan is a theological educator at a new seminary in Shinyanga, Tanzania, where he teaches classes and assists in forming pastors for service in Africa. Keah serves alongside the deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania’s South-East of Lake Victoria Diocese and supports their professional development.



Rev. Bryan, Keah, Serenity, and Dalton

LCMS—Payne: \$2,500

Missions continued on next page

LCMS—Wood (Indonesia)

<https://www.lcms.org/wood>



Rev. Matthew, Kali, Laurel, Caroline, Eleanor, and Kermit

The Rev. Matthew and Kali Wood serve on behalf of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod in Indonesia. Matthew serves the LCMS Asia region as an area facilitator with responsibilities in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, and Australia, and works with local church leaders to develop ministry strategies and to connect local church partners with LCMS congregations, organizations, and individuals. He helps train pastors and lay leaders for the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI) by providing continuing education and resource development.

LCMS—Wood: \$2,500

Príncipe de Paz Luterana

<https://lcmspuertorico.org/mayaguez>

Príncipe de Paz Luterana (Mayaguez) is one of three LCMS churches in Puerto Rico. The LCMS has been working in Puerto Rico since the 1990s. The LCMS supports an extensive effort to share the Gospel and strengthen congregations through the work of pastors, deaconesses, GEO missionaries, short-term teams, and lay workers. Please help support this congregation in Puerto Rico.



Príncipe de Paz Luterana: \$2,000

LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces

<https://www.lcms.org/ministry-to-the-armed-forces>

The LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces supports all LCMS chaplains who serve on active duty, in the reserves, the National Guard, Civil Air Patrol, and Coast Guard Auxiliary. LCMS chaplains deliver Word and Sacrament ministry to our military personnel and their families. The LCMS cares deeply for those who currently serve, for those who have donned the cloth of our nation in uniform, and for those who served our nation and live in our communities.

LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces: \$1,500

SENIOR PASTOR



Sabbatical Support

Pastor Johann will be taking a much-overdue sabbatical in two intervals (late summer–early fall of 2026 and 2027), a combined 3 months. Support will be needed for substitute/s to lead worship, preach sermons, make visitations, lead the staff, and handle other pastoral functions in his stead. Some additional support for modest expenditures, including travel, fees for questionnaires related to Pastor Johann’s sabbatical research, and related costs, is also desired.

Sabbatical Support: 1st interval (2026): ~~\$6,500~~ \$3,289

Sabbatical Support: 2nd interval (2027): \$6,500

PROPERTY AND FACILITIES

Dehumidifiers for the Sanctuary

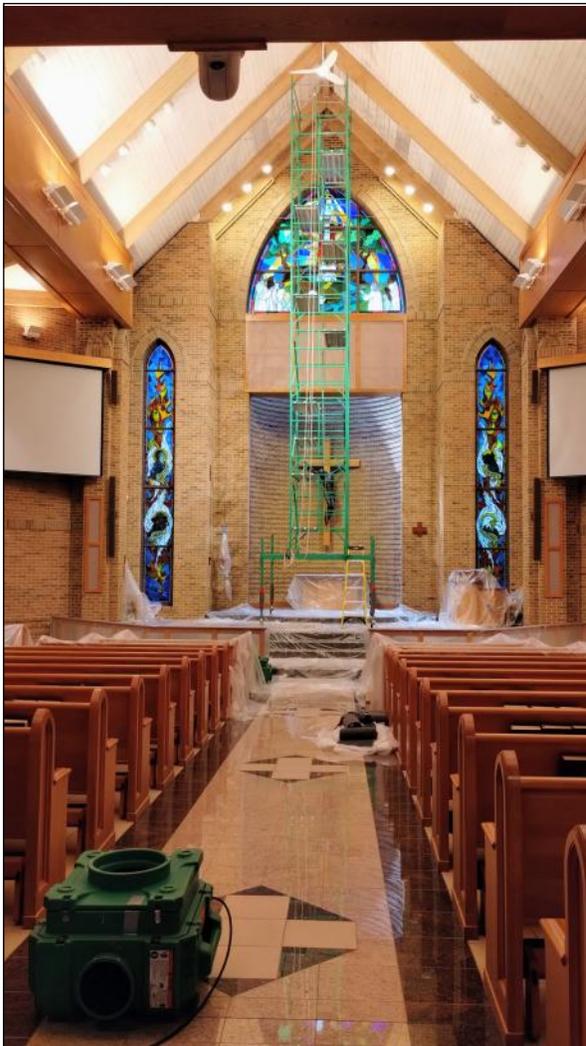
During the summer months, the humidity level in the sanctuary typically exceeds 60% at the floor level. In the peak of the space, the humidity levels are even higher—which creates an environment that is highly susceptible to mold growth.

Running the HVAC in the space around the clock would be very costly, especially since removing the humidity would require both heating and cooling to sufficiently remove the moisture.

A test during the summer of 2025 showed that 3 commercial dehumidifiers such as those used by commercial mold abatement companies (e.g., Servpro) can keep the humidity in the sanctuary below 40%, which is sufficient to prevent mold growth.

The Property Team conducted a trial using 1 high-capacity commercial unit during late summer of 2025. Although 1 unit improved the humidity levels, it was insufficient to adequately lower humidity throughout this large space. Therefore, 2 additional high-capacity commercial humidifiers are needed to resolve the issue.

Dehumidifiers: \$6,000



The high humidity levels in the sanctuary have led to mold on the ceiling, and removing the mold is not easy. The Property Team has determined that ongoing use of high-capacity commercial dehumidifiers is needed to keep the mold away.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Good Shepherd Lutheran School – our preschool – is entering an exciting new chapter, and we need your help to see it through.

Since its founding in 1984, and as a ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, the preschool has faithfully pursued its mission of providing Christ-centered learning for all of God’s children and their families. What began as a half-day program (9:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.) gradually expanded to include extended care until 3:15 p.m.



This year, we have expanded our program even further, extending our hours and offerings to include care from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This important step allows us to better meet the needs of local families who are seeking high-quality, Christ-centered care throughout the workday. By offering before- and after-care alongside our core preschool program, we are able to serve more children and support working parents in our community.

In the past, Good Shepherd Lutheran School has been largely self-sufficient through tuition income. However, with lower enrollment in recent years, we are still in need of additional financial support from the congregation to continue this expansion. Funds are needed to cover the costs of extended hours, additional staffing, and marketing efforts to help spread the word about our growing program.

How did our previous expansion funds help GSLS?

The support we have already received has made a tremendous difference. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we were able to hire a new director, **Sarah Brazell**, whose leadership has brought renewed vision and energy to the program. In addition, this past summer we successfully launched our **first-ever six-week summer camp**, providing children with opportunities to learn, play, and grow in their faith throughout the summer months.

Through our recent marketing efforts, we have already welcomed several new families

into our school community. Many of these families do not have a church home, giving us the beautiful opportunity to share the love of Jesus with children and parents who may be hearing the Gospel for the first time. This outreach reflects the heart of our mission: to nurture young children academically, emotionally, and spiritually while pointing them to Christ.

Why does GSLS still need congregational support?

As we continue this journey, your support is more vital than ever. The funds raised will help us **expand our marketing outreach** to reach more local families, **maintain high-quality care and education**, and **continue supporting our dedicated staff** who pour their hearts into this ministry every day. Together, we can ensure that Good Shepherd Lutheran School remains a place where children and families experience the love of Jesus in all that we do.

*Preschool Expansion Support: ~~\$40,000~~ **\$31,273***



About Good Shepherd



Our vision

We will be a congregation known for building up God's people through His Word for His world.

Worship

During worship, God comes to us through his gifts of Word and Sacrament. What a joy to respond with prayer and songs of praise. Our worship services give us opportunity to listen to God's word and meditate upon it, thus feeding our faith; and express our concerns for our friends, families, community, and the world through prayer.

Serve

We are called to actively share the Good News of Jesus Christ through word and deed. One way we share is by serving one another and our neighbors in our community and throughout the world. We list many Community Service Opportunities in our weekly bulletins, monthly newsletter, and online.

Grow

We are committed to spiritual growth through the weekly gathering for prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, and through lifelong learning. In addition to growing in knowledge, we want to grow in love and service to others within and beyond our church community.

Connect

As we grow in our love for Jesus and our neighbors, as we serve our neighbors near and far, we help and encourage one another, challenge one another, and share one another's joys and sorrows.

Opportunities to Give: Time and Talents

Most of the information in this catalog is about sharing our treasure. But God has given talents to share, and the choices we make about how we spend our time are part of stewardship as well.

One way we share is by serving. We are always looking for help with everything from answering phones, to stuffing bulletins, to assisting with the weekly service materials, and much more. If you are interested contact the church office and request the Time and Talent Survey. Fill it out and return it to the church office. Even if you've filled it out before, you might have new interests or other updates. Take a look at the form, and consider how you might share your time and your talents to serve at Good Shepherd and promote God's kingdom.

Above & Beyond donation form



Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

I/We would like to donate to the following items from this Giving Opportunities catalog to sustain/expand Good Shepherd's ministry for Christ:

Item(s) (use catalog description: e.g., "Preschool Expansion Support" or "Meal Packing"):

Donation amount(s): _____

Return your donation, with this form, to the church office (1133 Reston Ave., Herndon, VA 20170). For more donation options, see the FAQ section on page 3 of this booklet.

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

*Building up God's people
through His Word
for His world*



1133 Reston Avenue
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<https://gslcva.org>