Good Shepherd Lutheran Church FY2026 Annual Report

. . . and a look ahead to FY2027

Final Report
November 2026



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
1133 Reston Avenue
Herndon, VA 20170
703-437-5020
gslc@gslcva.org
gslcva.org

Contents

Staff and Leadership **2–3**

Reports

Senior Pastor **4**

Board of Servant Leaders **5**

Finance **6**

Christian Life & Engagement | Parish Life **7–8**

Communications **9-10**

Community Service **11–12**

Congregational Care & Nurture **13**

Discipleship **14–15**

Mission **16**

Property & Facilities **17–18**

Worship & Celebration **19**

Music | Audio/Video | Praise Band **19–21**

Good Shepherd Lutheran School **22–24**

Attachments

Annual Statistics **25**

Financial **26–30**

Communications **31**

Discipleship **32**

Worship **33**

Staff and Leadership

Church Staff

Senior Pastor	Jotham Johann
Assisting Pastor	Gary James
Business Manager	Georgia Thorstenson
Communications Director	Jeff Donahue
Director of Engagement	Heidi Cooper
Organist & Director of Choirs	Anne Lee
Administrative Assistant	Michele Clair
Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director	Holly Vanderhoof
Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist	Matt Hardy
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Michelle Tenhaeff
Communications Assistant	Julie Schorfheide
Communications Assistant	Reid Otterbacher
Social Media Assistant	Chloe Vanderhoof

Preschool Staff

Director	Sarah Brazell
Lead Teacher	Nicki Balentine
Lead Teacher/Teacher's Assistant	Reahgann Harrell
Teacher's Assistants	Daisy Day, Adriana Gonzales, Kristi Nickerson, Aundrea Turner
Substitute/Assistant Teacher	Judy Kurak
Business Manager	Georgia Thorstenson

Property and Facilities

Roger Thorstenson

Music

Sanctuary Choir Section Leaders	Sarah Damers, Stephanie Kruskol, Evelyn Tsen, sopranos Richard Jacobson, tenor Eugene Stromecki, bass
Praise Band	Tara Planeta (violin) Mary Ann Perkel (cello) Peter Revell (bass) Steve Mutter (guitar) Paul Jung (drums) Jackie Huffman (vocals) Matt Hardy (leader; piano)
Brass Quintet	Hart Guonjian-Pettit, trumpet Eric Williams, trumpet Claire Bradley, French horn Dave Mosko, trombone Cameron Farnsworth, tuba
Audio Engineers	Scott Shepherd, Adam Sherman

Staff and Leadership, continued

Board of Servant Leaders (through May 2026)		**(current Board)**
Chair	Rob Fekete	Tony Esse
Vice-Chair	Tony Esse	Paul Devine
Secretary	John Purtilo	John Purtilo
Member	Larry Austin	Rob Fekete
Member	Drew Lipman	Andrew Otterbacher
Member	Jennifer Pelletier	Dan Pelletier
Member	Bernard Schoch	Bernard Schoch

Core Ministry Leaders	
Worship & Celebration	Julie Schorfheide and Georgia Thorstenson
Discipleship	Pastor Gary James
Parish Life	Brian Cors
Mission	Pastor Jotham Johann
Congregational Care & Nurture	June McGurn
Administration	Pastor Jotham Johann

Senior Pastor



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace to you and Peace from God our loving Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and our Comforter and Counselor the Holy Spirit! Amen.

As you read the reports and plans from our capable and faithful staff and core ministry leaders in the pages to come, please join with me in thanking God for all of His tremendous blessings! Please excuse us for any redundancies in our enthusiasm for the ministry of our Lord. In addition, please keep in mind that the final version, along with completed metrics and final financial information, will be provided when the books for the financial year close a few months later.

What a year! We dedicated our Columbarium Peace Garden, in which much ministry will be done! The Preschool made lots of progress in its expansion, including the addition of programs in music, crafts, STEM, and culture as well as in outreach activities to the community. In addition, when I arrived at Good Shepherd a bit over 11 years ago, we were heavily in debt to the tune of $5.5 million in mortgage principal; update: we will be under $1 million in principal within a couple of months! I can go on and on, but for the sake of paper reduction and stunting redundancy, I will stop here.

Beyond our thanksgiving for His blessings upon our past financial year, we ask our Lord of Mission to bless our efforts and provide us wisdom and encouragement during this important, coming year! We're embarking on adding several "Festive Sundays" to our year to celebrate God's goodness and to bring stirring worship to the forefront. In addition to Xmas Eve, Easter, etc., you'll see a choir at multiple services on some Sundays along with brass, on special occasions, accompanied by a robust activity during fellowship time. For instance, on July 26, on New Members' Sunday (special occasion), we received a few dozen members accompanied by the Men's Choir, brass, and waffles, ice cream, and brew! We received 60 new souls (members) during this past year! Wow! Finally, now that we're making great progress on decreasing our mortgage debt, it's time to get our HVAC system, which will soon be 20 years old, refurbished and in order: Phase 2 of our HVAC overhaul continues.

As I mark my 12th year as a pastor of this congregation, I give thanks to God for you and the tremendous attainments of the past year. As I head toward part 1 of a sabbatical, I want to share that it has been an honor and privilege to serve alongside you and I am humbled to continue on in mission with you!

During this sabbatical, I will R.E.S.T.

R for: Rest and Relaxation . . . the relax part will be hard for me . . . not good at it.

E for: engage my elderly family, neighbors, and friends . . . some of whom are in their last legs in life and I can spend some time with them.

S for: sermon prep. I don't want to get back and be catching up on sermon prep while catching up on the other stuff.

T for: trends: I'll be considering and studying trends in the ministry. What is working . . . what is not . . . post-covid . . . for long-term sustainability of Good Shepherd.

There you have it: R.E.S.T.

In Christ, I am,



The Rev. Jotham S. Johann, J.D.
Senior Pastor

Board of Servant Leaders

With the approval of the FY2026 budget by the congregation in August 2025, the fiscal year started. This fiscal year the BoSL completed the following actions:

- The Board finished discussions to address the relationship between the Good Shepherd Lutheran School and the church to clarify the relationship between the school, the BoSL, the School Advisory Committee, and the Senior Pastor.
- The Personnel Manual was updated to include policies for teleworking.
- Established policies for church security.
- Planned for Pastor Johann's sabbatical.
- Established policies for the church budget and the directed giving in the Above & Beyond program.

Tony Esse
BoSL Chair



Finance

The GSLC FY2026 runs from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026. The Voters' Assembly held on August 24, 2025, approved a General Fund budget forecasting annual income from all sources of $1.144M and planned expenses of $1.143M. GSLC has a single mortgage loan with LCEF with a remaining principal balance of $1.003M by the end of FY2026. Monthly regular mortgage payments ($79,345) and additional principal donations ($41,114) reduced the principal balance by approximately $120,459 during FY2026.

The FY2026 actual income from all sources was $1,155,530, which was above the forecasted budget income. Actual Expenses (including mortgage principal payments) as of August 31, 2026, for FY2026 were $1,210,619. This was a deficit (income minus expenses) of $55,089. This deficit was covered from reserves and dedicated accounts while still allowing adequate reserve funds to meet the required reserve balance of at least 2 months operating expenses. The resulting negative balance was due to higher-than-planned expenses for snow removal, higher-than-planned costs for electrical usage, HVAC major repairs, and repairs to the water runoff holding tank.

While not part of the voter-approved budget, the Above & Beyond giving opportunities continue to see vibrant support from the congregation. During FY2026, the A&B program represented requests for 32 items. At the end of FY2026, 20 were fully funded, and the remaining 12 items had received partial funding. The total amount requested through the A&B program was $238,870, and the total amount contributed was $206,271. A&B specific details are available and published throughout the year (in News & Announcements and in Friday eblasts) and are updated as the requests change.

As in past years, the significant number of volunteer hours contributed by GSLC members allows us to deliver support to programs benefiting GSLC members, the local community, and program needs around the world. GSLC is profoundly grateful for contributions of so many hours from our members.

Mike DeWan, Finance Team leader
Georgia Thorstenson, Business Manager
Arlisa Ferrara and Anne Dettner, Financial Secretaries

Christian Life & Engagement

FY2026 saw the continued growth of activities at Good Shepherd. These activities provided an opportunity for fellowship for members and guests, being well attended and enjoyed by all. A summary of several of these events follows.

- Two Connections Classes were held and new members were welcomed into the congregation: 31 new members were received on November 16, 2025, and 23 new members were received on July 26, 2026
- On September 7, 2025, an ice cream truck brought folks together following Rally Day and a meal-packing event.
- Our annual Oktoberfest and Trunk-or-Treat was held on October 19, 2025, with about 100 people participating.
- The annual Women's Retreat was held November 7-9, 2025, led by DCE Krista Young, with 40 women attending.



We welcomed new members on November 16, 2025, and July 26, 2026.

- A "Brunchgiving" was held between the services on Sunday, November 23, 2025, with about 75 people participating.
- The Ladies Advent Tea luncheon was held on December 6, 2025, with 30 ladies and guests attending.
- A Hot Cocoa social was held between the services on January 11, 2026. More than 75 people enjoyed hot cocoa and other snacks
- Chili Bingo was held March 1, 2026, with more than 100 people in attendance and multiple entries into the chili contest. Firefighters from the local fire station joined us again, contributing their award-winning chili.
- On April 18, 2026, in conjunction with the women of Our Savior's Way, a one-day mini retreat was held. Twelve women from Good Shepherd attended.
- A Staff Appreciation Luncheon was held following the 11:00 service on May 17, 2026. Staff members were honored by about 75 in attendance at a catered lunch in the Fellowship Hall.
- A Waffles, Ice Cream, and Your Favorite Brew reception for new members was held following the Festive Sunday Celebration on July 26, 2026. More than 100 people attended.

Planned events for the upcoming year (FY2027) include additional Festive Sundays with special receptions, Fall Fun Festival/Oktoberfest, Brunchgiving, the Women's Retreat, and Chili Bingo.

Parish Life: See next page

Christian Life & Engagement, continued

Parish Life

Parish Life at Good Shepherd is focused on engaging all people in meaningful activities of learning and discipleship, and growing in our faith, our relationship with God, and with one another.

Through Life Groups, Good Shepherd offers a number of avenues to connect in the Word and with each other. Currently, six active groups meet on a regular basis. In addition to a Bible Study component, Life Groups include social activities to encourage fellowship.

A continuing focus in FY2027 will be to further develop the young couples and young families with children group. Danielle Davis initially launched the group last spring.

Heidi Cooper
Christian Life and Engagement Team



Staff Appreciation Luncheon, May 17, 2026

Communications

Fiscal Year 2026 marks another milestone in GSLC's ongoing digital transformation. For the second consecutive year, our communications ministry sustained a clear upward trajectory across every major platform: social media, video teleconferencing, livestreaming, and recorded services. This momentum is not accidental. It reflects the deliberate, sustained investment of talented staff, dedicated volunteers, and a congregation committed to sharing the message of Christ in every space where people gather, including the digital one.

While service availability interruptions increased slightly from four to six incidents during the fiscal year, the vast majority were caused by factors outside our control, including power outages, internet disruptions, and software glitches. In each case, our team responded swiftly, issuing timely email notifications with revised availability estimates to keep our congregation informed and connected. These incidents did not diminish the quality or consistency of our digital ministry; instead, they demonstrated its resilience.

We maintained our expanded offerings, recording special music and holding congregational/staff meetings that resulted in more than 110 platform-based services. When livestream or recorded services faced disruptions, timely email notifications were sent to provide revised availability estimates. These measures, along with refinements to prior large-scale technology and hardware upgrades, ensured the continued delivery of high-quality content, thanks in part to our dedicated Audio/Video Team.

Virtual programming, including worship services, Bible studies, and fellowship events, continued its steady growth, bolstered by the Christian Life and Engagement Team and Parish Life initiatives.

Social Media Progress
GSLC's social media ministry continued to expand significantly during FY2026, strengthening our ability to connect with members, engage the local community, and share the message of Christ beyond our physical campus. Under the leadership of Social Media Assistant Chloe Vanderhoof, our Facebook and Instagram platforms experienced sustained growth in both reach and engagement.

Monthly views now exceed 2,900, representing a 63% increase over the past 18 months, while total unique views surpassed 20,000. Engagement from individuals who do not currently follow GSLC increased by approximately 8%, demonstrating that our content is reaching new audiences and extending awareness of our ministry throughout the surrounding community.

A key component of this success has been the intentional use of targeted social media advertising. During FY2026, paid promotional campaigns supporting Festive Sundays reached more than 35,000 people within our local ministry area. Building on this momentum, current projections indicate that more than 40,000 individuals will be exposed to Festive Sunday messaging and related ministry content through ongoing campaigns. These efforts have increased public awareness of GSLC while providing meaningful opportunities to invite new participants into worship, fellowship, and discipleship.

Our social media strategy has also evolved beyond simple event promotion. Content is now designed to highlight the full life of the congregation, including worship services, ministry activities, fellowship opportunities, music programs, service projects, and member involvement. By sharing a broader range of content, GSLC is able to tell a more complete story of its mission and ministry while creating multiple entry points for community engagement.

Website and Online Calendar Enhancements
Communications Assistant Reid Otterbacher and Special Projects Communication Assistant Julie Schorfheide collaborated again this year to revitalize the GSLC website at https://www.gslcva.org. Their collaborative work focused on making the site more functional, current, and user-friendly for both staff and congregation members.

A key improvement was the overhaul of the calendar submission process. A new online form now accommodates both recurring and non-recurring events, while an Adobe form provides an accessible option for hard-copy submissions. Reid and Julie coordinate through semi-annual planning sessions with ministry leaders and staff to ensure the online calendar accurately reflects all church events in real time. The website also served as a timely resource for updates on seasonal services, Life Groups, and musical programs throughout the year, reinforcing its role as the congregation's primary digital information hub.

Communications, continued

Email Communications Metrics
The Communications Team maintained a structured email campaign reaching over 492 contacts. Hundreds of timely messages were distributed with an impressive open rate of 54%, surpassing industry benchmarks for similarly sized churches. Of note is that our open rate has stayed the same with the increase in the number of subscribers. This success is due to a new format that was created and rolled out for the Friday email Blast (e-Blast). This streamlined revision has decreased the size of the e-Blast, leading to an increase of 2% of our engagement (click rate). Currently our engagement is 13% higher than that of other similarly sized churches.

Transparent Reporting
In FY2026, GSLC has continued its commitment to transparent and effective reporting through a robust publication schedule. This includes seasonal releases of the Above & Beyond program (fall, spring, and, if necessary, summer), the Annual Report, and the General Budget Pamphlet, each designed to inform and engage the congregation. These publications have been complemented by increased integration with the GSLC website (https://www.gslcva.org), which serves as the central hub for accessing detailed updates and supplementary information referenced in our print and email communications. This strategic approach ensures that all members remain connected and informed as GSLC continues to grow in mission and ministry.

Further reports about FY2026 will be published in the fall, after the fiscal year has concluded.

FY2027 Communications Goals
Looking ahead, GSLC will focus on increasing the value of email communications while maintaining its current livestream and recorded service platforms with minor targeted upgrades. Enhancements increasing our social media advertisements campaigns targeted those in our community who are looking for the activities and fellowship offered by GSLC.

Looking ahead, GSLC will continue investing in a data-driven social media strategy focused on three primary objectives:

- **Expanding Community Reach** by increasing targeted advertising and enhancing content designed to connect with individuals and families seeking a church home.
- **Strengthening Congregational Engagement** through consistent, timely, and visually compelling content that highlights the ministries and activities of GSLC.
- **Driving Website Traffic** by using social media as a gateway to https://www.gslcva.org, where visitors can access detailed information about worship services, Life Groups, events, educational opportunities, and ministry programs.

By aligning social media initiatives with broader communications goals, GSLC will continue to strengthen its digital presence, broaden its community impact, and support the congregation's mission of welcoming, connecting, and growing disciples in Christ.

Jeff Donahue – Communications Director
Reid Otterbacher – Communications Assistant
Julie Schorfheide – Special Projects Communication Assistant
Chloe Vanderhoof – Social Media Assistant

Community Service

Community Service at Good Shepherd has continued to help people in our community. We work with various local organizations that provide support for people with food insecurity, homelessness, and various other needs among those living below the poverty line. Our partners include South Lakes High School (SLHS) Food Pantry, Cornerstones, The Closet of Greater Herndon, Lake Anne House (formerly Lake Anne Fellowship House), and Fellowship Square.

Our main initiative is hosting the SLHS Food Pantry each week of the year. Good Shepherd began hosting the pantry in April 2020, during the COVID pandemic. A new stream of curbside distribution to families each week has grown organically and continues to be a strong need to the SLHS Pyramid school families. On average, Good Shepherd distributes approximately 400,000 pounds (200 tons) of food each year to families in need. Numerous volunteers support pantry operations at GSLC, including food intake, sorting, packing, and distribution to the families at SLHS throughout the week. In FY2026, more than 2,200 volunteers (members of Good Shepherd as well as people from the community) provided more than 8,000 volunteer hours at the pantry. The pantry also started working with Camellia Living once a week to provide an opportunity for adults with disabilities to help with pantry tasks. This year, the pantry surpassed distributing THREE MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS of food and toiletries to children and families in need in our community!



We packed 10,000 meals for Meals of Hope on Rally Day, September 7, 2025.

Through our partnership with the SLHS Food Pantry we also supported the Do it Your Way 0.5k, the pantry's only organized fundraiser during the year. Last year, more than 25 people joined Good Shepherd's team, and we hope to have even more this year. With multiple churches, community businesses, and individual donations, the pantry raised more than $50,000.

Other Good Shepherd initiatives include meal and food support for the North County Hypothermia Shelter (December through March) through the Fairfax County Hypothermia Prevention Program. Since 2005, the Fairfax County Hypothermia Prevention Program has prevented death and serious injuries among the county's most vulnerable residents by ensuring that no one must sleep outside during the winter months. Since 2011, Good Shepherd has participated in this program as part of the county's North Fairfax location access provided by Cornerstones. Every Wednesday from the beginning of December



Community Service, continued

through the end of March (17 weeks), we prepare, provide, and serve hot meals for 40+ guests – a minimum of 680 meals!

We also provide grocery gift cards to Lake Anne House, Fellowship Square, Cornerstones, Dogwood Elementary, and the SLHS Food Pantry.

Seasonal drives include meals for Thanksgiving through Cornerstones, and Angel Trees for Cornerstones and Lake Anne House.

We also had a congregational wide event on Rally Day packing 10,000 meals for Meals of Hope as well as children's and youth ministry service projects throughout the Sunday School year.

In the coming year, we are looking forward to undertaking more congregation-wide service projects, including meal-packing events, lunches and after-school bags for Embry Rucker Shelter among others, as well as continuing to support the other initiatives described above.

Join us as Good Shepherd Community Service continues to show God's love in action through service to others in need.

Holly Vanderhoof
Community Service and Youth Ministry Team



Congregational Care & Nurture

The Congregational Care & Nurture Ministry, comprising more than 60 volunteers, helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through devotional literature and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. The ministry also presents programs and events that benefit the congregation.

Volunteer activities

The **Take Them A Meal** team responds to occasional temporary needs for meals for the congregation's ill, infirm, and their families, as well as families with newborn babies.

The **Transportation Ministry's** volunteers provide occasional transportation to worship or to doctor's appointments. We try to match transportation volunteers to those needing rides who live near them.

The ministry organizes **Memorial Receptions** in the Fellowship Hall when the bereaved family wishes to host one on campus. Tasks may include setting up tablecloths and decorations, accepting delivery of food, organizing coffee/beverages, cleaning up afterward, and laundering tablecloths. Volunteers may offer to do one, several or all of these tasks for a given event.

The ministry organizes **Member Care Visits.**

The CC&N teams maintain rosters of those willing to help in all the above. Please see June McGurn to volunteer.

The **Greeting Card Ministry** sends more than 700 cards annually for life events (birthdays, anniversaries, illness/ encouragement, and bereavement) – all volunteer positions in this ministry are full. The **Baptism Memento Ministry** sends gifts/mementos at a baby's baptism and for two years following; adults who are baptized at Good Shepherd are given a gift to commemorate their baptism. This ministry is fully staffed.

Devotional Materials

Portals of Prayer and various care ministry pamphlets, found in the church entryway and admin wing foyer, are part of the CC&N budget; so is Taking Faith Home, the weekly handout distributed through our Friday emails and also available at the welcome centers in the entryway and Fellowship Hall. This ministry is fully staffed.

Programs/Events

In FY2025 the Congregational Care & Nurture team created a **Medical Equipment Lending Bank** for Good Shepherd. Members have donated medical equipment in good condition, and borrowed items when the need arose, returning them when the need has passed. We urge you to donate medical equipment in good condition so others can use it when you are finished with it. Ask June McGurn how to donate or borrow. Overstock of individual types of items is donated to The Closet in Herndon.

This March the CC&N Ministry ran a devotional/Bible study **Book Swap.** Hundreds of books were swapped, and the remaining books were donated.

Eleven **Hikes and Walks** have been enjoyed so far, and there are more to come, including the very popular Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Gardens the first Sunday evening in January. Last January more than 50 people enjoyed the lights and fellowship! Plan to join us this year!

Nineteen people so far have taken the three-hour **Walk in the World of Dementia** class to learn the stages of dementia and learn the techniques that work in each stage; to participate in an exercise that simulates what a dementia sufferer is going through; and to practice proven, hands-on techniques for approaches to patient-centered care. The next class is planned for October 2026.

Twenty-six people have taken the **Red Cross** certification class for CPR/AED (defibrillator) on campus at Good Shepherd so far. Certification lasts for two years.

In March 2025, the Ministry worked with **INOVA** to conduct a Blood Drive, the first at Good Shepherd in years. Thirty-seven potential donors signed up to donate whole blood, thirty-four of whom were GLSC members. We are planning another blood drive in FY 2027.

If you have any questions, are interested in volunteering, participating in any of these classes and activities, or have any ideas for additional programs/activities, please contact June McGurn.

June McGurn
Congregational Care & Nurture Team

Discipleship

The **Discipleship Ministry** budgets fiscal resources for curriculum and supplies for all Good Shepherd education and youth programs, including Sunday School (ages 2–5th grade), middle school (grades 6–8), and high school (grades 9–12). Funding also supports the cost of basic materials for the Adult Bible studies with the expectation that attendees reimburse the cost of study guides and books provided. Additional resources are budgeted to provide class materials, catechisms, and Bibles, as well supplies for special events related to Confirmation, First Communion, and middle and high school youth ministry activities, such as retreats and fundraising events.

The **Children's Sunday School** program maintained steady attendance throughout 2025-2026, welcoming new students as others moved away. Five volunteer teachers, led by the Children's Ministry Coordinator, used the Spark curriculum, aligned with the Revised Common Lectionary, to share the love of Jesus. Lesson activities included the Bible story, crafts, and games centered on the message that Jesus loves you. The program also featured a "Journey to the Manger," a Christmas event for the children, and multiple service projects, including the South Lakes Food Pantry (twice) and Embry Rucker Bagged Lunches, Preschool Goodie Bag Stuffing, Thanksgiving Meal Boxes, and VBS Decorating Projects. A summer pilot program, offering an informal Sunday School curriculum, proved valuable for children's ministry, while allowing several parents to attend the Adult Bible study. Budgeted resources for the 2026-2027 Sunday school ministry will support curriculum, supplies, initiatives to increase attendance, and expanded service projects.

The 2025-2026 **Confirmation Class** included eight 7th and 8th graders, with five members confirmed on Sunday, June 7, 2026. The confirmation curriculum targeted Luther's Small Catechism and uses LCMS and other Lutheran instructional videos, classroom discussion, and written lessons. In 2025–2026, students completed Session B: seven 90-minute sessions covering Lutheran Essentials, including Law and Gospel, the Ten Commandments, Word and Sacraments, and the Apostles' Creed. Confirmands also served as acolytes, participated in and assisted with VBS, and took part in designated service projects. Second-year confirmands developed and presented a personal faith statement to the congregation.

In 2026-2027, confirmation students will complete Session A, a seven-session curriculum, covering the Old and New Testaments, the Trinity, and the Lord's Prayer. Budgeted funds will provide class materials, including Luther's Small Catechism, Bibles, handouts, and The Lutheran Handbook for new students. Funding will also support a limited number of team-building events, the confirmation rehearsal meal, confirmation gifts, class supplies, and additional materials for one-on-one new-member instruction and adult confirmation.

The **First Communion Class** included three students in grades 6–7 and their parents. Students received First Communion on Maundy Thursday 2026 after completing a five-session curriculum on the Lutheran teachings about the Lord's Supper, the Means of Grace, the Sacraments, Holy Communion, confession, forgiveness, communion elements, and the real presence through discussion and video presentations. Funding supports class materials, supplies, and participant gifts.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Good Shepherd was a major success in June 2026, with more than 75 children registered and 65 teen and adult volunteers helping decorate, lead class presentations, guide rotations, and support crews during a high-energy week. Through visual, printed, and spoken resources, the program helped the participants comprehend what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God, their Creator and safe refuge in life's storms. VBS



Decorations at VBS transform our campus to reflect the week's theme each year.

Discipleship, continued

remains one of Good Shepherd's largest outreach ministries, with about 75% of participants, including volunteers, coming from outside the congregation.

Middle School Sunday School grew during 2025–2026 through the dedicated efforts of the Youth Ministry Director and volunteers. The Middle School Ministry (MSM) program also experienced consistent attendance growth. In addition to weekly Sunday School, Good Shepherd middle schoolers attended the Southeastern District (SED) Middle School Gathering, One: God, Hope, Body, Baptism, at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Williamsburg, Virginia. There, along with more than 200 middle schoolers from other SED churches, they shared experiences and fellowship through a packed line-up of programs, worship, and games. Connecting with middle schoolers beyond Confirmation and Sunday mornings remains a ministry challenge, but the program is blessed with steady growth and new relationships as it continues developing and implementing new strategies and programs to facilitate MSM growth.

The **High School Sunday School and Youth Ministry (HSM)** program was vibrant and engaging this year. Students met weekly during the school year for Sunday School and participated in HSM events, including the SED Fall High School Youth Gathering, Great Pumpkin Hunt, Friendsgiving, Mall Scavenger Hunt, Top Golf, and other evening fellowship gatherings. The youth also enthusiastically raised funds for workcamp through weekly donut offerings, Christkindlmarket, Chili Bingo, and the Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast.

In July 2026, HSM joined Group Mission Trips and 15 other churches from across the country in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan. More than 366 campers formed 61 crews to serve 42 homes, completing over 10,980 service hours on projects such as ramps, decks, stairs, and painting. Through hard work and prayer, campers overcame high temperatures, dangerous air quality, and project scope changes caused by previously unseen damage. Workcampers completed 98% of the planned projects after additional work was added based on reassessed needs. Good Shepherd youth also enjoyed an evening on Lake Erie in Port Clinton, Ohio, and an afternoon at a local park pool for a welcome break from the heat. Workcamp continues to be a transformational experience for residents, teens, and volunteer leaders.

Again this year college-age students participated in work camp, giving them meaningful opportunities to develop as leaders, including one instance in which a college-age student managed their own work crew. They were a valuable asset to the Good Shepherd group, and we look forward to their continued involvement and contributions in the years ahead.

The **Adult Bible Study** program included three Sunday morning classes and two additional weekly studies. The Sunday classes averaged 25 attendees each week and included a Women's Bible study led by Heidi Cooper, an Adult Bible study, and special sessions on parenting, "Sticky Faith," and personal relationships, led by the pastors. Two volunteers led the Adult Bible Study through an in-depth study of St. John's Gospel. The general Adult Bible study continued through the summer studying selected Psalms and Lectionary readings. Additionally, Pastor Johann led two multi-session Bible studies: 3 sessions addressing the question "Will we see our pets in heaven?" and a 6-session study for men, titled "The Christian Man."

As part of the adult education program, congregants gathered during Lent and Holy Week to watch *Christ in the Passover,* a video by Jews for Jesus. The following week, 17 participants walked through a Passover Seder, reflecting on the Tenth Plague, Israel's release from slavery, and the Exodus from Egypt, followed by a potluck lunch. Upcoming educational plans include additional Saturday Bible Study events focused on broader biblical and theological issues facing the church today, along with 2026–2027 studies on stress and anxiety, parenting, and outreach. Budgeted funds will support supplies, materials, and curriculum for Sunday morning Bible studies. The ministry also hopes to offer "Spiritual First Aid," a Lutheran Church Charities program, contingent on Above & Beyond funding for speaker travel, lodging, and related expenses, and a small registration fee for course materials.

Pastor Gary James, Holly Vanderhoof, Michelle Tenhaeff — Discipleship Team

Mission

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Mission activities focused on planning, execution, and allocation of Good Shepherd core budgeted and Above & Beyond (A&B) funds to promote national and international mission-related outreach efforts.

The Good Shepherd Mission Team began the planning phase by reviewing last year's outreach efforts to determine if funds were still needed going forward and, if so, if they should remain a priority for Good Shepherd. As a team, we decided to end support for World Vision in the core budget (primarily because World Vision is well funded outside of Good Shepherd) and to add the Wood family (https://www.lcms.org/wood; https://www.theseaside.asia) as a new missionary line item to the Above & Beyond category. We determined that there were several A&B items worthy of continued support:

- Evergreen Lutheran School ($3,500)
- Faith Aid - Mustard Seed House ($5,000)
- Faith Aid - Fraher Family Support ($3,500)
- LCMS Missionary - Osiro: Kenya ($2,500)
- LCMS Missionary - Payne: Tanzania ($2,500)

In order to stay on budget, we shifted some base budget items to the A&B catalog, including Princípe de Paz Luterana ($2,000) and Lutheran World Relief ($5,000).

Good Shepherd continued its long-standing support to the Southeastern District with an allocation of $25,000. Helping Hands was allocated $1,000, with the team drawing funds as needed to purchase quilting materials.

For U.S. Mission Support ($5,500), GSLC provided support to Lutheran Braille Workers, Alaska Mission for Christ, and Mid-Atlantic Lutherans in Mission.

For International Mission Support ($8,500), Good Shepherd provided support to Bethania Kids, Food for the Poor, and Fraher family support.

In addition to the continued A&B items and new LCMS missionary items from above, the following new items were added:

- Lutheran Bible Translators ($3,500): https://lbt.org
- LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces ($1,500): https://www.lcms.org/ministry-to-the-armed-forces

As of this writing, the following A&B items are fully funded: Evergreen Lutheran School, LCMS: Osiro, LCMS: Payne, LCMS: Wood, Princípe de Paz Luterana, LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces.

We are hopeful the remaining three items will be fully funded prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Randy and Melanie Stockman
Mission Team

Property & Facilities

During FY2026, Good Shepherd's Property & Facilities Team made numerous enhancements and repairs to the building and grounds to improve support for worship, ministry teams, and day-to-day operations of the church and preschool. Many of the team's accomplishments are described below.

HVAC Systems
The early weeks of 2026 were very cold (single-digit temperatures), which led to significant problems in the three HVAC systems (#3, #4, and #5) that are located in the attic spaces. Maintaining hot water flow to the units was impossible on several occasions, so our efforts focused mainly on preventing damage to the units due to freezing. The solution was to construct insulated enclosures around the units with electric space heaters inside the enclosures. In spite of these measures, AHU#4 heating coil did experience a leak, which required the coil to be replaced.

During cooling season, three HVAC systems (#4, #6B, and #10) experienced significant refrigerant leaks. System #6B has experienced leaks every spring for the past several years, so we decided that it will be the first system to be upgraded to the more environmentally friendly R-32. The leak on system 10 was caused by a cracked pipe between the AC compressor unit and the associated air handler. The actual components of #10 are operating fine, so it is currently not a candidate for the upgrade to R-32. System #4's refrigerant leak was likely caused by a weld joint getting cracked during the extensive repairs that unit received throughout the year.

As of this report, the cooling side of ACC/AHU#5 is currently inoperative. This unit only serves the music room, which is normally used on weekends. Rather than perform a costly repair of #5, an alternative solution using a portable AC and heating unit located in the music room is being tried. The long-term solution for ACC/AHU#5 will depend upon the success of the portable system.

Building Functionality, Safety, and Comfort
The previously mentioned single digit winter temperatures caused three fire suppression sprinkler heads in the ceiling of the stairwell near the preschool entrance to burst. The primary cause was that the heaters in the stairwell had not been set to a temperature warm enough to maintain a below freezing temperature in the attic space above the stairwell. The sprinkler heads were replaced and the stairwell heaters are set to keep the space warmer during the winter months.

Early in the year the mold issue in the sanctuary above the choir loft was cleaned by Servpro. Following the mold cleanup, we purchased three commercial portable dehumidifier units. Operating these units around the clock is proving to be very effective at keeping the humidity in the sanctuary below the level that permits mold growth. The water that is removed from the air by the dehumidifiers is collected in barrels which are drained on the lawn in the front of the church.

The water heater that serves the Fellowship wing experienced a catastrophic failure of the heating element during the spring. The heating element was still under warranty so the only repair expense was for labor. The leak caused a significant increase in water usage, but Fairfax County adjusted the bill since the cause was equipment failure.

The carpet in preschool classrooms 106 and 107 was replaced since the carpet had bubbled up at the seams, causing a trip hazard for the small children.

The valve body for the wall hydrant on the playground failed and was replaced.

A new AED was installed in the Fellowship Hall to facilitate a quicker response in the event of a cardiac emergency in this area of the church.

Grounds
Inspection of the storm water filtration system by the county resulted in discovery of a need for cleaning and repairs to some sections of the system. All discrepancies identified by the county were corrected by Muller Inc.

Other grounds items that were addressed included repairing fence damage, removal of dead trees, removal of a river birch tree that hung over the Fellowship Hall roof, repairs to leaks in the irrigation system, and replacement of the bulbs in the parking lot and sidewalk lighting fixtures.

Property & Facilities, continued

Construction of the columbarium was completed and landscaping and lighting were installed. A system for managing inurnment contracts and coordinating the labeling of niches has been established. Maintenance of the columbarium grounds has been established and is functioning well.

Contract Renewals
Several contracts for maintaining the church in good operating order were updated during 2026, including the HVAC maintenance and repair agreement, irrigation maintenance agreement, and the IT support agreement.

Plans for the Next Fiscal Year

- Replacement of ACC/AHU#6B with a R-32 based system.
- Several ballasts on the parking lot light poles have failed. The plan is to investigate upgrading these light poles to use LED bulbs.
- Two light fixtures in the Fellowship Hall have failed. We plan to replace them with modern LED fixtures. If successful and cost effective, this effort could lead to a broader replacement of fluorescent bulbs with LEDs.
- Several wall hydrants have leaks and need to be repaired or replaced. Those hydrants that require a new valve body will require cutting access holes in the interior dry wall. Doors will be installed over the access holes to simplify future repairs.
- Some additional discrepancies to the storm water filter system that were identified by Muller Inc. will be corrected.

Thanks to the many volunteers who have helped control operating costs by assisting with scaffolding, repairing doors, replacing light fixtures, repairing plumbing leaks, and many other tasks too numerous to mention. Collectively, the contributions of time by the volunteers saved the church significant funds and greatly enhanced the safety, comfort, and functionality of the facility and grounds.

Roger Thorstenson
Property and Facilities Team



The Columbarium Peace Garden was completed this past year and dedicated on Easter Sunday.

Worship & Celebration

During FY2026, Good Shepherd continued to offer numerous ways to worship: traditional and Matins settings in the sanctuary and Praise/contemporary services in the Fellowship Hall; "family focused" services on Christmas Eve and Easter; livestreaming and recording one service each week; midweek Lenten services; and additional services for Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

Highlights from this year include:

- Welcomed Jackie Huffman as Praise Band singer. (For more about the Praise Band, see below).
- Continued to recruit and train worship assistants.
- Held midweek Lenten services at noon, with recordings released by early evening.
- Welcomed youth as worship assistants/worship leaders in worship services this year.
- Enjoyed the energy and boost to worship provided by the Brass Quintet during additional services this year.

We rejoice in the robust in-person attendance during our summer worship schedule, and also the continued growth of our virtual ministry.

Looking Ahead to FY2027
We plan to continue our current worship schedule. We continue to adjust our Christmas Eve worship schedule to accommodate needs and expectations of members and friends and anticipate returning to offering two "traditional" services as well as one geared toward families. We also look forward to more celebratory Festive Sundays throughout the upcoming fiscal year.

Volunteers
We would like to acknowledge the tremendous participation of volunteers throughout the Worship & Celebration ministry area. Every week, we rely on ushers, scripture readers, prayer leaders, communion assistants, acolytes, choir members, greeters, Altar Care members, cantors, seasonal decorators (those who put up decorations as well as take them down), and many others who support and make our worship services run smoothly.

Reports that follow give additional information about the Music Ministry, the Praise Band, and our Audio/Visual team.

Julie Schorfheide and Georgia Thorstenson
Worship & Celebration Team

Music Ministry

Sanctuary Choir
We continue to welcome new volunteer singers to the choir. They have been faithful in their commitment to serving. Our existing members, despite busy schedules, have kept up their dedication to participating, even on weeks they can't make it to every service. Our section leaders have also kept up their steady work, and continue to be a great addition to the team.

Our brass quintet's role has kept growing, joining us on Festive Sundays throughout the year. Thanks to the faithful communication and coordination of our leader, Hart Guonjian-Pettit, in organizing personnel, this collaboration has continued to run smoothly.

Handbell Choir
Several members of the congregation have asked about joining the Handbell Choir, so we are considering expanding or dividing the group to make room for that interest. Our current Handbell Choir members continue to serve with real enthusiasm, keeping up the tradition of offering a prelude on festive Sundays, and occasionally presenting an anthem during the 8 a.m. service as well.

Worship & Celebration, continued

Men's Choir
The Men's Choir has kept up its tradition of presenting an anthem on a Sunday during summer worship services. This year was especially meaningful, as the group joined the brass quintet in the loft on a festive Sunday. This ensemble continues to be a special presence during the summer months, when the Sanctuary Choir isn't active.

Concerts
We didn't hold an in-house concert this year, but it's something I still hope to bring back in the future. Separately, violinist Charlotte Lee's solo recital is planned for August. As GSLC keeps a policy of not opening the venue to outside concert use, we won't be hosting concerts organized by outside parties, but we do hope to host concerts within our own church community again.

The Role of Volunteers
Volunteers are the heart of both the Sanctuary Choir and the Handbell Choir. Aside from our paid section leaders, every singer and ringer gives their time freely, week after week, balancing rehearsals and services with busy personal schedules. Without their consistent commitment, neither ensemble could offer the level of music they do throughout the year. We are continually grateful for their willingness to serve and for the gift of music they share with our congregation.

Looking Ahead
Looking ahead to the coming fiscal year, we plan to add a new section leader to further strengthen the Sanctuary Choir. We are also considering expanding or dividing the Handbell Choir to accommodate growing interest from the congregation, as well as forming a new Women's Choir, following a model similar to the Men's Choir. In addition, we hope to bring back an in-house concert in the future. We look forward to these new developments and to another year of making music together for the glory of God.

As music director and organist, I remain in constant prayer for the Music Ministry and this church, and I am grateful, always, for the participation and effort of all our musicians. Thank you for your prayers and support.

As Bach's motto reminds us — Soli Deo Gloria.

Anne Lee
Organist & Director of Choirs

A/V and Praise Band

Audio/Visual
Our 2025–2026 year focused on improving reliability, enhancing the worship experience, and building greater flexibility into our Audio/Visual systems. While occasional technical challenges inevitably arose, we ensured the livestream remained available each Sunday.

Although much of this work goes (deliberately) unnoticed during a worship service, it has had a significant impact on the reliability of our systems and the experience of those worshiping both in person and online. This year, we accomplished the following:

- We replaced a critical video switching system by repurposing two existing units at a fraction of the cost of purchasing a new system. This upgrade eliminated the video dropouts that had affected both the sanctuary displays and the livestream while extending the useful life of our existing equipment.
- We enhanced the worship experience by introducing live camera views from the choir loft during organ postludes and brass ensemble performances. This allows both the congregation and those worshiping online to better see and appreciate the musicians who enrich our services.
- We expanded our remote-control capabilities to allow secure off-site operation of the livestream and key production systems in the event of an emergency. These improvements also provide greater flexibility when volunteers are unexpectedly called away from the A/V booth, helping ensure uninterrupted worship.

Worship & Celebration, continued

- In response to a request from Elizabeth Huang, we researched and implemented a free live closed-captioning solution that allows members of the congregation to access captions on their personal devices, improving accessibility for those who benefit from real-time transcription.
- We performed an industry-standard tuning of the sanctuary sound system, improving clarity, consistency, and overall audio quality throughout the worship space.
- We completed a thorough mapping and labeling of the building's A/V cabling infrastructure, making future troubleshooting, maintenance, and expansion significantly more efficient.

Praise Band
As Praise Band Director, I continued to seek feedback from members of the congregation while striving to create a worship environment that is both musically engaging and welcoming. This year, I received encouraging feedback regarding the updated Praise Band configuration and redesigned stage layout, with many commenting on the improved appearance and overall worship experience.

I introduced eleven new songs into our regular repertoire, many of which were requested by members of the congregation. It has been especially rewarding to hear people express appreciation for the expanded music selection and to see increased attendance at the Praise service, with several members sharing that they now attend more regularly than they have in the past.

This year, I also auditioned, hired, and integrated a new drummer into the team while expanding our instrumentation to create a fuller, more impactful sound. I look forward to continuing to build upon this momentum by introducing new music, refining our arrangements, and creating meaningful worship experiences that encourage active congregational participation.

Please do not hesitate to share with me any songs or ideas that would be meaningful to your worship experience.

Matt Hardy
Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist



Worship services on Rally Day (September 7, 2025) included a Blessing of the Backpacks.



Good Shepherd Lutheran School

Good Shepherd Lutheran School has served as a ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church since 1981, providing a Christ-centered early childhood education and Christian outreach to the surrounding community. We serve children ages 2 through 5, welcoming families from our congregation, other Christian churches, and those with no church affiliation. Our mission is to nurture each child spiritually, emotionally, socially, academically, and physically in a safe, loving environment where they experience the love of Jesus every day.

Over the past several years, Good Shepherd Lutheran School has expanded from a traditional half-day preschool into a program offering half-day and full-day preschool, as well as before- and after-care to better meet the needs of today's families. During the 2025–2026 school year, our program operated from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., providing families with flexible scheduling while maintaining our focus on high-quality, Christ-centered early childhood education.

While enrollment remained relatively steady (but dipping down to 11 students) during the 2025–2026 school year, the investments made in curriculum, programming, and community outreach have resulted in significant momentum for the upcoming year. Enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year has doubled compared to the previous year, with 22 students officially enrolled at the time of this report (with 3 more pending). About half of these students are full day (at least 9 a.m.-3 p.m.). This is positioning the school for its strongest year in recent history and demonstrating a growing need for affordable, Christ-centered early childhood education in our community.

In addition to the school-year program, Good Shepherd Lutheran School offers a community summer camp for children ages 2 through 8. The camp provides engaging themed experiences, music, crafts, science activities, outdoor play, and opportunities for children to grow in faith and friendship while meeting the summer childcare needs of local families. This summer also marked the launch of a new early childhood music class for infants and toddlers, introducing them to singing, rhythm, movement, instruments, and music appreciation in a joyful, Christ-centered setting. The success of this new program has created exciting opportunities to continue expanding music education as part of our ministry to children and families.

Staffing

Good Shepherd Lutheran School has continued to strengthen its leadership and teaching team during the 2026–2027 school year. I (Sarah Brazell) continue to serve as Director, a role I assumed in 2024. This year, Nicki Balentine, Lead Teacher of the Dinosaurs classroom, was promoted to Assistant Director in recognition of her outstanding leadership, dedication to the school, and commitment to Christ-centered early childhood education. In her new role, Nicki will continue serving as the Lead Teacher for the Dinosaurs classroom while also providing administrative support and helping oversee the day-to-day operations of the preschool.

To support our growing enrollment, we welcomed a new Lead Teacher for our 2-year-old classroom, as well as two new classroom assistants and a summer camp assistant. We are currently seeking a Lead Teacher for our 3-year-old classroom following the departure of our previous teacher, Reahgann Harrell, who accepted an exciting ministry opportunity at her local church. While we will miss her greatly, we are thankful for the impact she had on our students and celebrate her as she continues serving the Lord in this new role.

As our program continues to grow, we remain committed to building a team of educators who are passionate about nurturing young children academically, socially, and spiritually while partnering with families to share the love of Christ.

Curriculum

Good Shepherd Lutheran School continues to use several high-quality curriculum programs to support children's spiritual and academic development. Our Bible instruction is provided through the Abeka Bible curriculum, while early literacy and school readiness are strengthened through Learning Without Tears' Get Set for School program and the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness curriculum. These programs have significantly enhanced our preschool curriculum and continue to provide students with a strong foundation for kindergarten and beyond.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School, continued

In addition to classroom instruction, students participate in weekly chapel services and music education, enriching their faith formation and fostering a love for worship and the arts. Building on this commitment to a well-rounded education, we are excited to begin offering Spanish classes during the 2026–2027 school year. Instruction will be led by Ms. Gonzalez, one of our assistant teachers, whose warmth, love for the children, and native Spanish fluency make her uniquely gifted to introduce our students to a new language and culture.

The adoption of these curriculum programs was made possible through generous funding from the Circuit 9 grant, and they remain an integral part of our educational program as we continue to expand learning opportunities for our students.

Expansion
The final phase of Good Shepherd Lutheran School's expansion has now been fully implemented, allowing us to better serve the needs of families in our community through flexible scheduling and expanded enrollment opportunities. Our program currently offers the following schedule options:

Before Care: 7:30–9:00 a.m.
Half-Day Preschool: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Standard Preschool Day: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
After Care: 3:00–5:00 p.m.
Late After Care: 5:00–6:00 p.m.

As part of this expansion, we now welcome children beginning at age 2 and no longer require students to be fully potty-trained prior to enrollment. These changes have allowed more families to access our Christ-centered preschool while ensuring children receive individualized care and support appropriate to their stage of development.

The expanded schedule and enrollment options have positioned Good Shepherd Lutheran School to better fulfill its mission of serving both our church and the surrounding community. With enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year doubling over the previous year, we are encouraged to see that these changes are meeting a genuine need for high-quality, Christ-centered early childhood education in the Herndon area.

Marketing and Community Outreach
Good Shepherd Lutheran School has continued to expand its outreach efforts through both digital marketing and community engagement. We have maintained an active presence through Facebook and Google advertising, which have proven especially effective in promoting our programs and played a significant role in filling our new Mini Melody Makers music class.

In addition to online advertising, we have placed a strong emphasis on creating meaningful opportunities for families to connect with our school and church. Throughout the year, we hosted several community events that were open to the public, with most offered free of charge. These included Saturday Storytimes, Pizza & PJs Night, the Spring Fling, and our Mommy & Me Tea. These events welcomed both current and prospective families onto our campus, strengthened relationships within the community, and increased awareness of the ministries offered by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue and expand these outreach events during the coming year. By providing welcoming, family-friendly experiences, we hope to further our mission of sharing Christ's love while introducing more families to the educational and ministry opportunities available at Good Shepherd Lutheran School.

Facilities Improvement
Following a severe storm that washed away much of the playground's protective mulch, we have scheduled the playground to be replenished with fresh mulch in early August to ensure it remains a safe and welcoming place for children to play.

This year, we also enhanced our outdoor learning spaces by creating a preschool vegetable and fruit garden. The garden provides students with hands-on opportunities to learn about God's creation, healthy foods, and the

Good Shepherd Lutheran School, continued

process of planting, growing, and harvesting. In addition, we installed hanging flower baskets throughout the playground and outdoor areas, giving children daily opportunities to observe, care for, and interact with living plants.
As we continue to develop our outdoor learning environment, we hope to add additional features that encourage creativity, exploration, and sensory learning. Future projects include a mud kitchen, a music wall, and other hands-on outdoor elements that will allow children to engage with nature, experiment, create, and learn through play.

Financial Status
Good Shepherd Lutheran School continues to make progress toward financial sustainability as our program grows and expands. This year, we were blessed to receive another generous grant from Circuit 9, which was primarily used to support advertising, marketing efforts, and community outreach events. These funds allowed us to increase awareness of our programs and create opportunities to connect with families throughout the community.

We are also incredibly grateful for the continued generosity and support of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Church donations provided essential support that helped us cover payroll expenses and purchase necessary classroom supplies while our enrollment continued to grow.

Looking ahead to the 2026–2027 school year, we anticipate reaching a significant milestone: being able to fully cover payroll and the majority of supply costs through tuition revenue alone. As we continue to strengthen the financial foundation of the school, we will remain proactive in seeking grant opportunities to support additional outreach, marketing initiatives, and special community events that further our mission of sharing Christ's love with children and families.

Sarah Brazell
Preschool Director

Annual Statistics

Baptisms
Albert Gavriel de Niz, 9/28/25
Hannah Laura Gaffey, 10/26/25
Charles Iseminger and Grace Iseminger, 12/13/25
Evelyn Grace Shebat, 12/26/25
Orlando Ponce Terlecki, 4/26/26
Benjamin Paul Griffith, 5/30/26
Charlotte Marie Darlington, 6/9/26
Aurora Lillian Keogh, 8/9/26
Ryan Fontaine, 8/23/26

Marriages
Efaraima Morrissette and Molly Ellor, 4/10/26
Justin Yinling and Janna Climer, 6/20/26
John Purtilo and Stephanie Shubert, 8/1/26

Funerals and Deaths
George Kain Jr., 10/11/25
Gail Dobberfuhl, 2/21/26
Gerald Maier, 6/16/26

First Communion
Cordelia Rose Nathan-Barry
James Ellis
William Chester Taylor

Confirmed
Hugh Cartwright Conschafter
Josephine Tien Ellis
Margaret Elise Franker
Cadence Leilana Raye
Bradley Pierce Noble

Received into Our Fellowship
Noeline Bakolinirina,
Jean Rakotonjanahary,
Miorantsoa Harilanto,
Antsa Harivod,
Avontsoa Andonjanahary
Heidi, Brian, Graham, Sebastian,
Boyd, Caspian, and Coco Nathan-Barry
Dayle and Russ Butler
Mary Czernowski
Mary Kirkman and Dan Elias
Iris, Max, and Hannah Gaffey
Austin Ger
Abbey and David Gorduek
Eric Huff
Grace and Charles Iseminger
Alison Lake
Anne Lee
Melin, David, and Charlie Lindsay
Lynda and Dar Lundberg
Jodee and Ken Neumann
Jack Norton
Lydia Noyola
Stephanie Randall
Ed and Dawn Regan
Ruth Rollins
Patrick, Evan, Nicole, and
Oliver Rose
Alison and Joshua Salerno
Ron Sienknecht
Philip Sierra
Kyle, Lauren, Brooke, and
Tilley Tadken
Anne and James Vargason
Kathy and Tim Zimmerman

Released from Our Fellowship
Kaitlyn Stavish Muchmore
Ruth and Matthew Filipiak
Michael Drzal
David and Kathryn Biertz
Paul Kasulis

Financial Attachments

FY 2026 Voter Approved Budget & YTD Income & Expenses 08.31.2026		
	FY 2026 Approved Budget	YTD Actuals FY 2026 thru 8/31, 2026
INCOME		
Total Income	1,144,240.00	1,155,530.92
	FY 2026 Approved Budget	YTD Actuals FY 2026 thru 8/31, 2026
EXPENSES		
Christian Life and Engagement (H. Cooper)		
Subtotal	9,000.00	7,416.77
Congregational Caring and Nurturing (J. McGurn)		
Subtotal	1,500.00	1,733.73
Learning & Discipleship (P. James/H. Vanderhoof/M. Tenhaeff)		
Subtotal	11,300.00	10,889.32
Board of Servant Leaders (T. Esse)		
Subtotal	2,500.00	0.00
Mission (R. & M. Stockman)		
Subtotal Missions	40,000.00	41,456.99
Community Service (H. Vanderhoof)		
Subtotal Community Service	2,500.00	1,335.10
Subtotal MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE	42,500.00	42,792.09
Worship and Celebration (J. Schorfheide & G. Thorstenson)		
Subtotal	30,800.00	35,373.72
Communications/Outreach (J. Donahue)		
Subtotal	2,620.00	1,405.19
Finance (M. DeWan)		
Subtotal	194,350.00	196,043.96
Hospitality (M. Clair)		
Subtotal	1,000.00	810.90
Personnel non-salary (Pastor Johann)		
Subtotal	8,800.00	11,006.51
Personnel Salary & Benefits (P. Johann & BOSL T. Esse)		
Subtotal	600,213.80	595,365.05
Property & Facilities (R. Thorstenson)		
Subtotal	238,850.00	307,782.25
TOTAL INCOME (ALL SOURCES)	1,144,240.00	1,155,530.92
TOTAL EXPENSES (includes Principal payments)	1,143,433.80	1,210,619.49
Projected Surplus/Deficit	806.20	(55,088.57)

Financial Attachments, continued

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
Finance year 2026 as of 8/31/2026

Book 01 - General	Balance as of 9/1/2025	Balance as of 8/31/2026
Assets		
Checking Acct Sun Trust	255,689.71	66,687.66
LCEF Steward Acct 10642	556,112.38	573,622.37
LCEF Expanding Mnstry Act	28,152.11	28,607.03
LCEF CD's	342,700.38	357,498.88
Charles Schwab MM Acct	104,032.76	107,724.52
Current Assets:	**1,286,687.34**	**1,134,140.46**
Fixed Assets		
Land - 1133 Reston Ave.	1,430,943.58	1,430,943.58
Building Cmpltd Cnstrctn	13,723,823.16	13,723,823.16
Pipe Organ	533,063.97	533,063.97
FF&E - Nave & Chancel	204,034.99	204,034.99
FF&E - Major Systems	138,725.73	138,725.73
FF&E - Other	136,893.30	136,893.30
Fixed Assets:	**16,167,484.73**	**16,167,484.73**
TOTAL ASSETS:	**17,454,172.07**	**17,301,625.19**
Liabilities		
Long Term Liabilities		
Mortgage (A) PL #17774	1,123,484.55	1,003,025.16
Long Term Liabilities:	**1,123,484.55**	**1,003,025.16**
Liabilities		
Dedicated - Special Offerings		
Pastors Discretionary Fnd	10,870.32	9,814.93
Sunday School Offerings	788.05	788.05
Fellowship	1,893.44	524.77
Alcove Bnch/Lndscp Enhncm	263.25	263.25
Columbarium Niche Fund	38,853.16	15,309.61
Thnksgvng/Chrstmas/Easter	5,628.15	4,651.23
SM-Hypothermia	1,737.76	1,737.76
Adoption Assistance	2,000.00	0.00
Missions-Special Projects	45.00	0.00
Decorative Arts	2,965.59	2,965.59
Altar/Narthex-Flwrs/Plnts	0.00	0.00
Poinsettias	0.00	0.00
Easter Lilies/Flowers/Palms	0.00	0.00
8th Grade Confirm Gift	480.59	480.59
Youth Activities	5,053.22	5,053.22
Confirmation Offerings	39.50	39.50
HSM MsnTrp/Wrkcm CrngAcct	20,464.81	25,469.57
Memorials	5,530.69	4,880.69
Special Offerings:	**96,613.53**	**71,978.76**

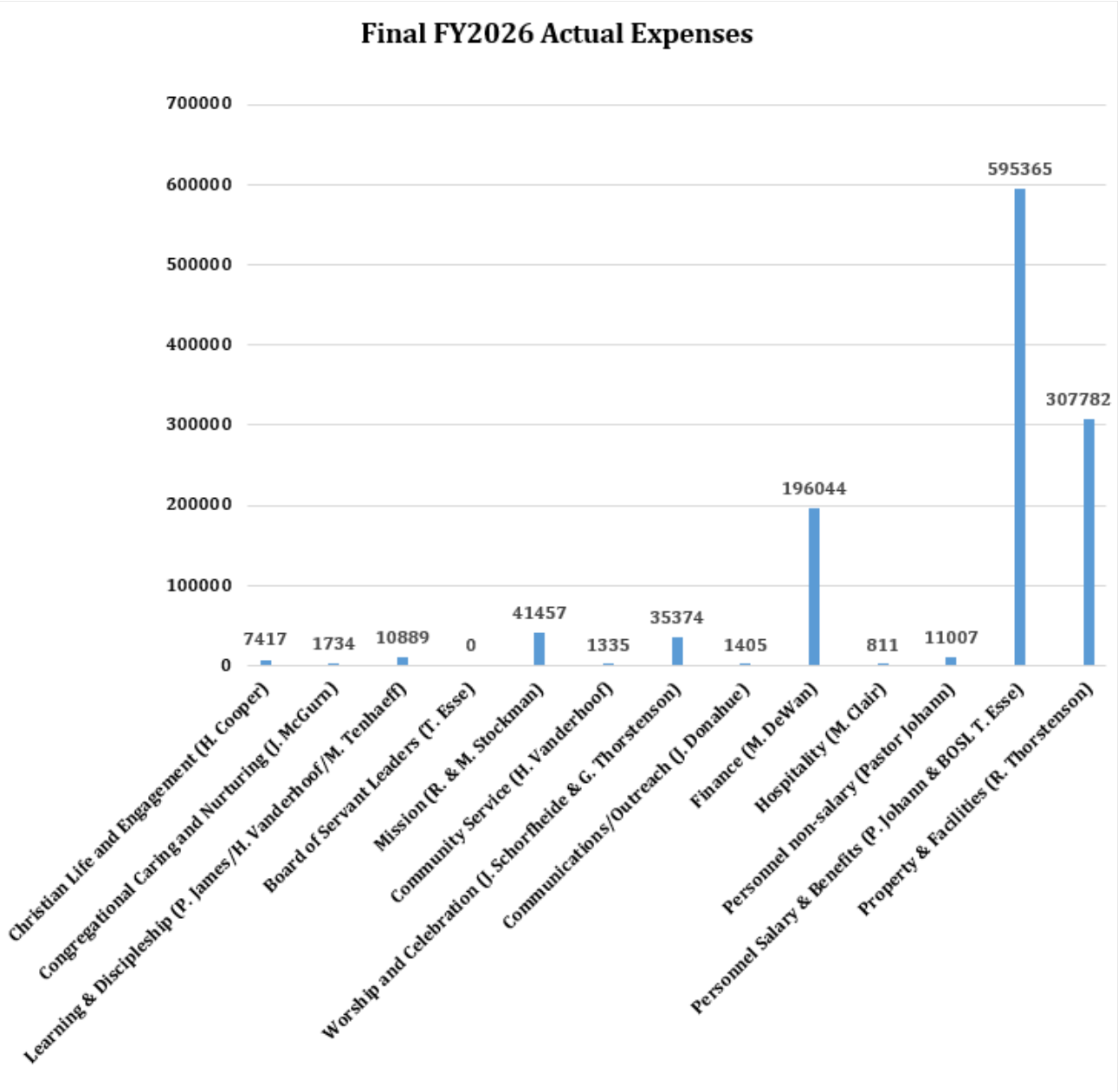
Financial Attachments, continued

continued	Balance as of 9/1/2025	Balance as of 8/31/2026
Dedicated - Above & Beyond		
A&B 'Spiritual First Aid' Seminar	0.00	150.00
A&B SLHS Food Pantry	2,408.91	3,400.91
A&B Helping Hands	200.00	0.00
A&B LCMS Ministry-Armed Forces	0.00	0.00
A&B LCMS - Osiro (Kenya)	0.00	0.00
A&B LCMS - Payne (Tanzania)	0.00	0.00
A&B LCMS Wood (Indonesia)	0.00	0.00
A&B Handbell Maintenance	879.03	879.03
A&B Rplcng Hymnls/Pew Bibles	800.00	0.00
A&BSpclMusicEvnts(Cncrts)	2,570.26	2,646.19
A&B Spcl Music (in Wrshp)	2,976.89	1,415.37
A&B Kids & Yth Mnstry Enh	4,845.63	4,845.63
A&B Sunday Schl Crrclm&Sup	729.86	302.95
A&B VBS Spplies/Spprt/Crrc	1,204.97	3,398.53
A&B Senior Youth Ministry	8,650.91	5,276.75
A&B Workcamp 2026	543.08	1,208.42
A&B Family Life Ministry	6,500.00	6,500.00
A&B ChrlSecLdrs/Anthm	0.00	5,252.89
A&B Praise Serv Enhncmnts	1,022.40	0.00
A&B Evnts(Rtirmnt&Clbrtns)	3,485.45	1,614.17
A&B Website Rfrsh/Upgrade	350.92	350.92
A&B Wknd GrcryPks-Drnsvlle/HHK	5,141.21	2,641.21
A&B Cornerstones	620.00	4,867.46
A&B BagLnchs-Pple in Need	1,630.05	1,630.05
A&B GrcryGftCrds-Dgwd Elm	1,837.90	3,193.75
A&B Dogwood Elem Support	48.18	2,603.18
A&B LLC-Summer Prgrms	100.00	100.00
A&B Music(Sheet) Instrmntl	256.32	0.00
A&B Music (Sheet) Vocal	1,318.60	724.61
A&B Music (Sheet) Hndblls	600.00	600.00
A&B AfricaMssns:FthAid-MSH	20.00	0.00
A&B Samaritan's Purse	50.00	20.00
A&B Lake Anne House	1,900.79	215.00
A&B Fellowship Square	316.38	65.00
A&B IglesiaLtrnaPrncpdePz	542.77	0.00
A&B Lutheran World Relief	249.82	692.48

Financial Attachments, continued

continued	Balance as of 9/1/2025	Balance as of 8/31/2026
A&B Lthrn BibleTrnsltrs/SeedCmpny	0.00	100.00
A&B Fraher Fmly Spprt	20.00	0.00
A&B Evergreen Lthrn Schl	0.00	0.00
A&B Meals of Hope	6,240.00	8,980.00
A&B Conference Rm TV	1,200.00	0.00
A&B Wrshp Srvc Enhncmnts	2,059.80	0.00
A&B Choir Needs	1,230.00	1,230.00
A&B Organ Repair Project	46.24	46.24
A&B FH Stage Bckdrp/Dcrtn	775.41	0.00
A&B ExpandedCC&N Programs	4,063.00	2,880.57
A&B Sabbatical Support	0.00	7,105.32
A&B HVAC System Rplcmnt	72,526.18	46,103.89
A&B Dehumidifiers	0.00	0.00
A&B FH Stage Lighting	1,500.00	0.00
A&B Expnd Prschl Oprtns	4,240.00	2,943.80
A&B Direct Mailing	750.00	750.00
A&B Campus Ministry	5,388.38	4,918.32
A&B LCMS Natl Yth Gthring	1,931.20	2,077.86
A&B Middle School Ministry	0.00	1,275.69
A&B Columbarium & Garden Fund	21,272.59	7,031.08
Above & Beyond:	**175,043.13**	**140,037.27**
Dedicated - Other		
Mrtg Rdctn/FTD Clrng Acct	28,995.35	0.00
A&B Bldg Cntgncy Fund	129,560.62	120,283.37
Other:	**158,555.97**	**120,283.37**
TOTAL DEDICATED	**430,212.63**	**332,299.40**
Book equity:	15,900,474.89	15,966,300.63
Total liabilities, dedicated and equity:	**17,454,172.07**	**17,301,625.19**

Financial Attachments, continued



Communications Attachments

Fiscal Year 2026 marked a significant milestone in GSLC's digital ministry, with **livestream and recorded worship service viewership increasing by 15% across our online platforms.** Through **Facebook Live, YouTube, and Vimeo**, GSLC continued to extend its mission beyond the church walls, connecting with members, homebound worshipers, and new audiences throughout the year.

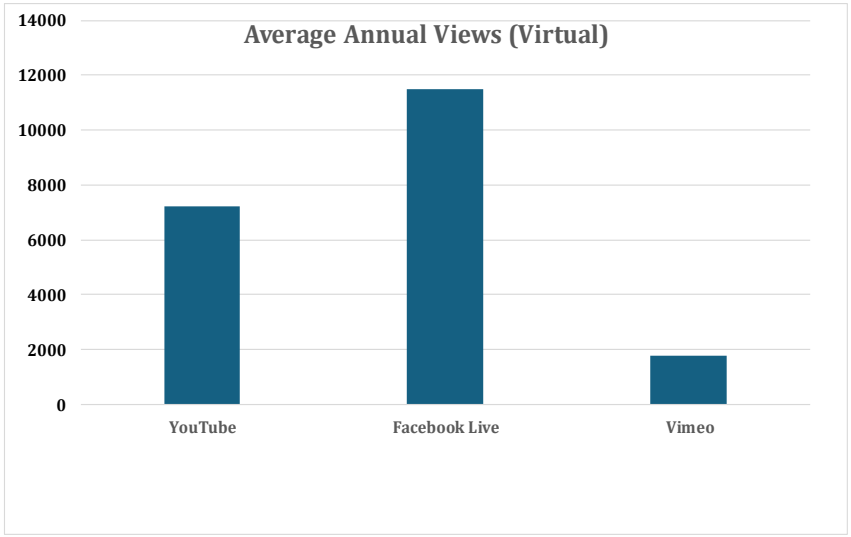
Our platforms generated an **average annual viewership of more than 20,000 views**, including:

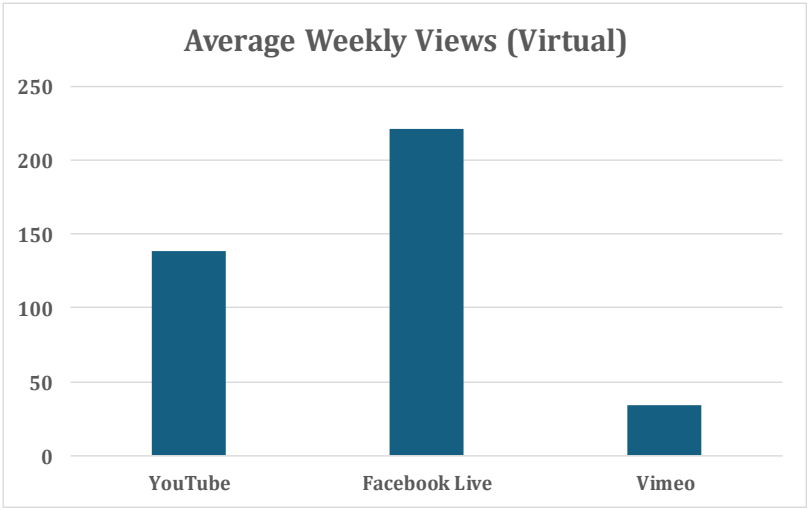
- **Facebook Live:** 11,500 views
- **YouTube:** 7,200 views
- **Vimeo:** 1,760 views

On a weekly basis, GSLC's worship services reached an average of **394 viewers**, demonstrating sustained engagement with our online ministry:

- **Facebook Live:** 221 weekly views
- **YouTube:** 139 weekly views
- **Vimeo:** 34 weekly views

This continued growth highlights the increasing impact of GSLC's digital presence and also reflects our commitment to making worship accessible, engaging, and available wherever people are.

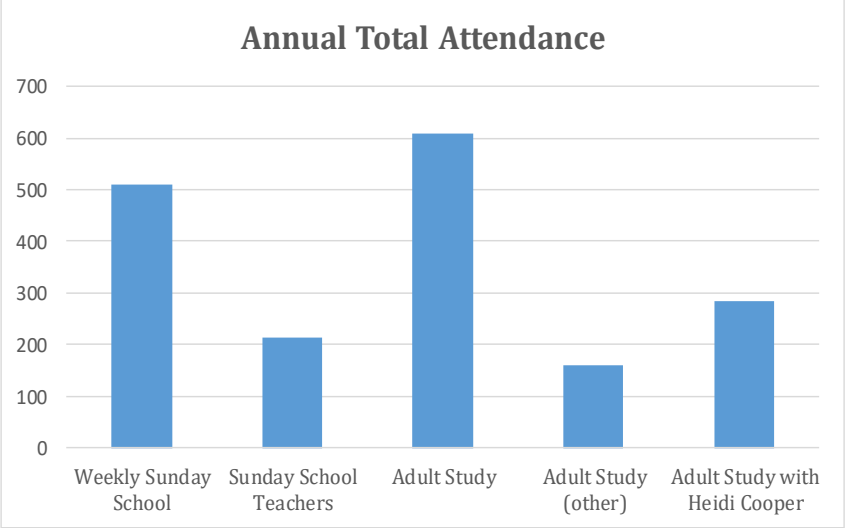


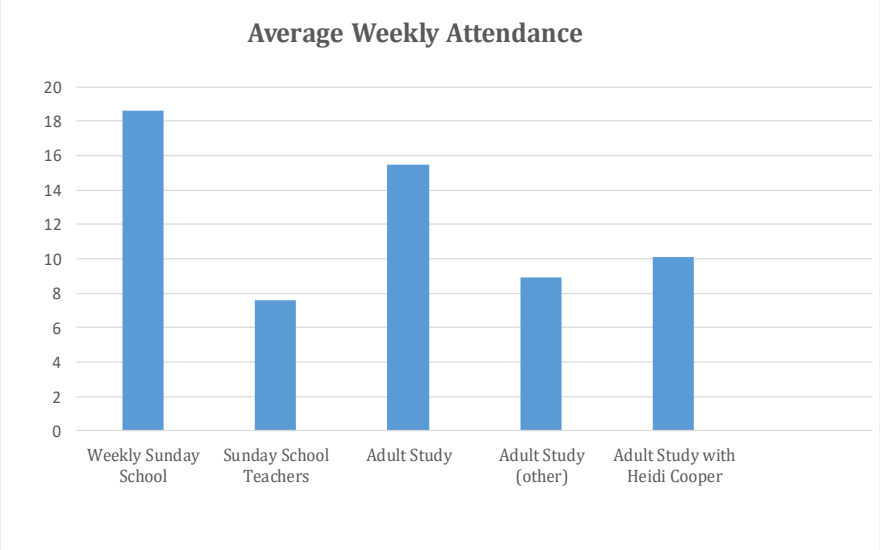


Discipleship Attachments

Sunday School for children (age 2 through Grade 5) and youth (middle school and high school) as well as Bible studies for adults were offered on Sunday mornings throughout FY2026. Most classes met during school year, but some adult classes continued to meet during the summer.

Total attendance (all students and teachers) was 1,776 across the following categories (as shown in the first chart below): weekly Sunday School, 510; Sunday School teachers, 212; adult Bible studies, 610; "other" adult studies ("Will we see our pets in heaven?"; "The Christian Man"; "Sticky Faith"), 161; Heidi Cooper's class, 283. **Average weekly attendance** is show in the chart at the bottom of the page.





Worship Attachments

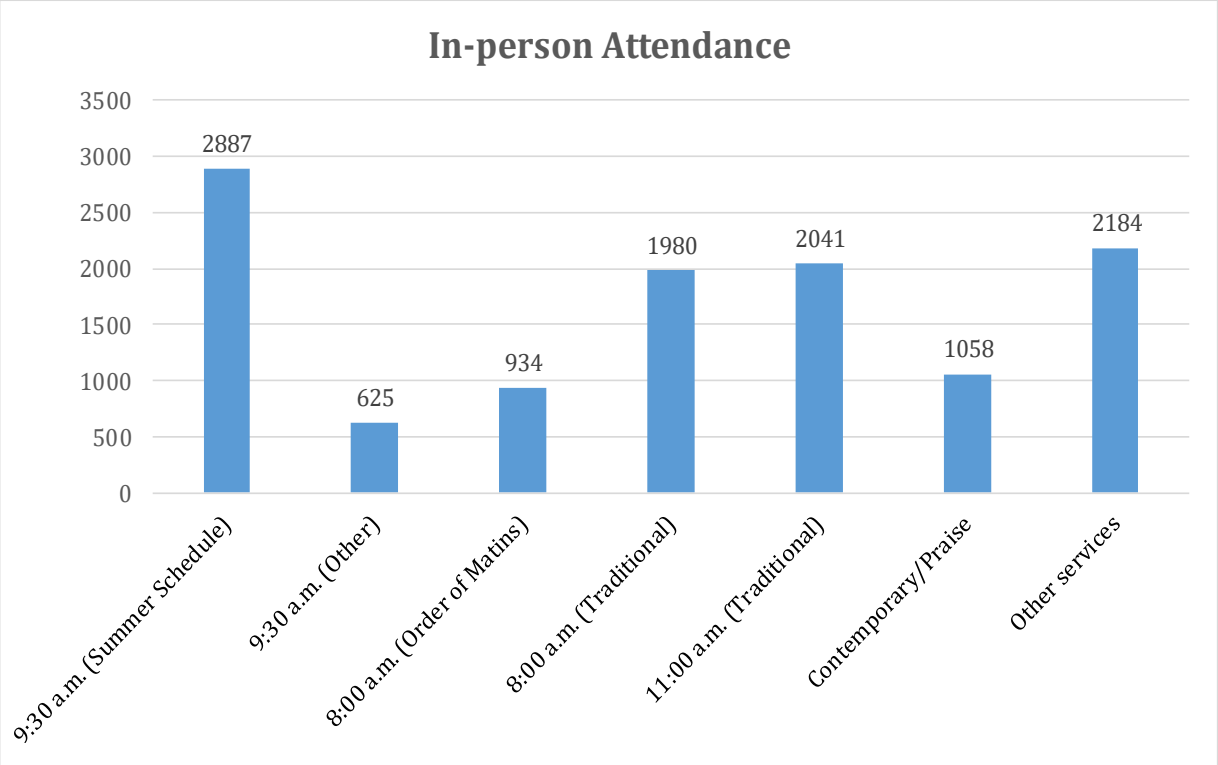
Total in-person attendance for all worship services in FY2026 was 11,709, an increase from FY2025 (11,206 worshippers). Average weekly in-person attendance during FY2026 was 234. The table and the graph below give a breakdown of attendance by service type. Note that during FY2026 there were 50 Sundays on which services were held. In-person worship was canceled on January 25 because of "Snow-crete."

In-person Attendance from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026

Service Type	Attendance
9:30 a.m. (Summer Schedule)	2887
9:30 a.m. (Other)	625
8:00 a.m. (Order of Matins)	934
8:00 a.m. (Traditional)	1980
11:00 a.m. (Traditional)	2041
Contemporary/Praise	1058
Other services	2184

In-person Attendance (Weekly) from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026

Average Weekly In-person Attendance	234





LOVE. GROW. SERVE.

Building up God's people through His word for His world