



# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 2, 2021  
Updates and more  
information at  
[gslcva.org/](http://gslcva.org/)

### Next Sunday's readings

Isaiah 43: 1 - 7

Psalms 29

Acts 8: 14 - 17

Luke 3: 15 - 17, 21 - 22

### Next worship services: January 9

Good Shepherd will resume our regular worship schedule January 9 with [8:00 a.m. indoor](#) (MATINS), [9:00 a.m. outdoor](#), and [11:00 a.m. indoor](#) (PRAISE). Fellowship, and donuts, will be available at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### Registration for services

By registering in advance of worship services, you help us plan for those services. When you fill out the Sign-Up Genius form for our worship services, we have a better idea of how many bulletins to print, how many communion packets to prepare, and even whether holding an outdoor service is viable. As always, registration is not required, but we do strongly encourage you to let us know in advance, if you can, that you will be attending.



### Livestream links

Indoor worship service on Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. will be a recorded livestream event. Our current livestream platforms are:

- Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/events/158368062885622/>)
- YouTube ( [https://youtu.be/Gie08Xc\\_sCY](https://youtu.be/Gie08Xc_sCY))
- Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/event/1064052>)

### Public health update—worshippers urged to take protective steps

As the number of new cases of COVID-19 continues to surge in Virginia, public health officials strongly encourage everyone who plans to attend indoor worship services and holiday gatherings in the coming days and weeks to take steps to slow the spread of the virus, regardless of your vaccination status. "Large indoor gatherings, such as Christmas services, increase the potential for transmission of disease and come as Loudoun County and the greater Northern Virginia region are experiencing a winter surge of COVID-19," said Loudoun County Health Director Dr. David Goodfriend. "The average number of daily cases of COVID-19 in Loudoun has tripled over the past month; many of these cases are in fully vaccinated individuals, who are more likely to have mild or no symptoms while contagious and therefore may unknowingly spread the virus to others." Dr. Goodfriend asks that residents voluntarily take these steps as they gather to worship this Christmas even when there are no requirements to do so:

- **Wear masks while indoors.** Mask usage has been shown to reduce COVID-19 transmission and is particularly important when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- **Get tested before going to church or holiday gatherings.** Home tests are available at local pharmacies. (Find testing locations on the [Virginia Department of Health website](#)).
- **Attend virtual services.** If your church offers a virtual option for Christmas services, consider staying home and watching the service online.
- **Stay home when sick.** Consider worshipping at home if you are sick for any reason, at increased risk of a severe infection due to age or medical status, or if you are otherwise uncomfortable attending a large-scale event during the COVID-19 winter surge.

"These measures are proven to help slow the spread of respiratory diseases, including COVID-19 and the flu," said Dr. Goodfriend. "We can voluntarily do our part by taking these simple steps to protect ourselves, our families and others in the community who may be more susceptible to serious illness and death."

Public health officials continue to recommend wearing a mask in public indoor spaces, in part, because breakthrough cases of COVID-19 are possible. Breakthrough cases are those that occur in fully vaccinated people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention surveillance data shows that the [Omicron variant](#) of the virus that causes COVID-19 now represents more than 70 percent of all cases in the United States. The Virginia Department of Health [urges everyone](#) who has not yet been vaccinated or received a booster dose to do so as soon as they are eligible, along with continuing other [disease mitigation measures](#) that slow the rapid spread of the virus. The vast majority of individuals who are hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated.

For additional information about COVID-19 and to sign up for COVID-19 text and email updates from Loudoun County, visit [loudoun.gov/coronavirus](http://loudoun.gov/coronavirus).

### Coronavirus Relief Fund: accepting applications

Our Coronavirus Relief Fund is available for those among us who may be especially hurting (furloughed, unemployed, etc.) because of this crisis. If you know of anyone at Good Shepherd who is especially hurting, please contact the church office. If you are hurting but want to keep the information confidential, please contact Pastor Johann directly. To donate to the fund, make your contribution to GSLC, and note that it's for the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

# Above & Beyond (A&B) catalog for 2021 - 2022

Thank you to those who have, or are looking, to respond to the Above and Beyond program this year. Your generosity enables us to expand our outreach to GSLC members, to our local community, and to worldwide outreach programs. The new catalog is available on our website or as a hard copy in the church office and Welcome Center. Look in the catalog on the pages indicated with each item, for a description of these opportunities and their funding needs. Check with Business Manager Georgia Thorstenson for the most up-to-date information on giving opportunities.

[Please Click here to see our FY 2022 A&B Catalog and other opportunities \(under the Giving Section\)](#)

For questions regarding A&B please contact Georgia Thorstenson at [georgia@gslcva.org](mailto:georgia@gslcva.org).



## Baklava with Georgia

Join us, virtually, for Georgia's baklava class. During this 20 minute video you will see how to make this Greek inspired dessert. Visit the ["News & Resources"](#) section of our website for the video and the recipe!

## Adult Education

Ladies Bible Study - "Elijah: Faith and Fire"

On Tuesdays, starting January 18, at 7:30 p.m. Heidi Cooper will be holding an ongoing series of evening Bible Studies via a teleconference platform, in lieu of a Sunday morning class. This 7-session study entitled *Elijah*, by Priscilla Shirer, focuses on how every fervent believer longs to summon up the kind of boldness and faith that can stand firm. Join us for this study through the life and times of the prophet Elijah to discover how the fire on Mount Carmel was forged in the valley of famine. And how the emboldened, fiery faith you desire is being fashioned by God in your life right now. Sign up by emailing Heidi Cooper: [heidi@gslcva.org](mailto:heidi@gslcva.org).

Word Workers: "The Christ Key"

Melinda DeWan will be holding a Life Group that meets via a teleconference platform on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The purpose of the group is to develop close relationships while sharing the spiritual journey. This year the group will be studying *The Christ Key* by Chad Bird. Word Workers welcomes all who would like to join! Sign up by contacting the church office.

## Poinsettia pick up

For those who sponsored poinsettias for the Christmas Eve services the plant(s) may be picked up, if desired, after the 9:30 a.m. indoor worship service.

## Music CDs for Advent, Christmas

"A King is Born," a 2-CD set featuring Advent and Christmas music sung by the GSLC Sanctuary Choir, will be available in the church entry area in the Fellowship Hall (near the coffee and donuts) through December. Suggested donations: \$20. Proceeds will benefit the Music Ministry.

## High School Ministry (HSM)

**2022 Summer Workcamp – SAVE THE DATE! Drum roll please ....our next Workcamp (high school mission trip) location has been selected and this coming summer we will be serving in...[Erie, Pennsylvania](#)! Mark your calendars and save the dates for our 2022 Sr. High Youth Workcamp: July 10-16, 2022.** Stay tuned for an informational letter and registration form that will be sent out in the coming weeks. Until then, mark your calendars and save those dates, and if you have any questions about Workcamp, contact [holly@gslcva.org](mailto:holly@gslcva.org).

### Upcoming HSM Events (Grades 9-12)

January 2 – HSM: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
January 9 – Sunday School (Youth Room): 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.  
January 16 – Sunday School (Youth Room): 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.  
January 16 – HSM: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 pm.  
January 23 – Sunday School (Youth Room): 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.  
January 30 – Sunday School (Youth Room): 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.  
January 30 – HSM: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 pm.

**HSM630 Stay Connected!** High school kids – download the GroupMe app and scan the code below to join our HSM630 Group Chat to stay connected for the latest information about youth group.



## Hypothermia giving tree

Good Shepherd will be supporting Support the North County Hypothermia Shelter with items for their clients. During cold weather, these items will help those who are homeless to make it through the winter. [For more information please click here](#) OR contact Holly Vanderhoof, [holly@gslcva.org](mailto:holly@gslcva.org), for more details.

**Community Service and COVID-19. Active COVID protocols will be followed in most cases and are subject to change.**

**North County Hypothermia Shelter.** Good Shepherd will once again be supporting the Fairfax County hypothermia shelter every Wednesday, December through March. COVID-19 restrictions are allowing for in-person servers to return but they will be limited to 3 individuals (2 are preferred). All volunteers that are serving must be fully vaccinated (two shots of Pfizer/ Moderna, one of J&J; extra booster even better) and provide proof (vaccination card) prior to “volunteering”. All servers must have their temperature checked and complete a short wellness check form on the evening they serve. Masks and gloves must be worn, and appropriate social distancing must be observed while in the hypothermia shelter. More volunteers may assist with getting the meal to the hypothermia room at the start of the evening and to take away everything at the end of the meal. Vaccination proof will only be done once if serving multiple times. All volunteers must be 18 years or older. You can also opt to make and/or coordinate meal and deliver to the Hypothermia Shelter and choose not to serve the meal – vaccination not required if you are not serving the meal.

Meals should be delivered between 5:30 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. to the Hypothermia Shelter, located in the North County Human Services Building, 1850 Cameron Glen Drive in Reston, just ¼ mile from the Embry Rucker Shelter. Food should be delivered hot and in disposable containers, along with all the napkins, plates, cups, and plastic utensils needed for the evening.

Restaurant food deliveries are also welcome! Please provide enough food for 40 people.

Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/54wur4me>

**South Lakes Food Pantry!** We have collected, stored and distributed more than 225,000 pounds of food and toiletries in the last 18 months to families in need. What an incredible difference you’ve made in the community by your support of this incredible ministry. *If you are interested in helping, email Holly Vanderhoof, holly@ gslcva.org, to get up-to-date volunteer needs. Revised volunteer guidelines: masks required regardless of vaccination status.*

**NO-CONTACT Donation curbside drop offs:**

Mondays: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Donations may also be shipped to the church: SLHS Food Pantry,  
c/o GSLC, 1133 Reston Ave., Herndon, VA 20170

**URGENT NEEDS:** jelly, diced tomatoes, boxed milk, peanut butter, cereal

**Cornerstones Winter Coat Collection.** Help our neighbors in need stay warm this winter! New or gently used coats and new hats, gloves, mittens and scarves may be donated at the following locations and dates.

**January 8** at North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr., Reston, VA 20190 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

*Donations of children’s coats in all sizes and adult coats in sizes 3XL or larger are especially appreciated at this time.*

**The Closet of Greater Herndon. New volunteer opportunities!** The Closet now requires proof of COVID vaccination from all staff and volunteers who work/volunteer at The Closet. This measure is being taken to protect the health and safety of the store’s customers, volunteers, and staff. *Masks required regardless of vaccination status.*

Signup at: <https://tinyurl.com/vv9czt8k>