

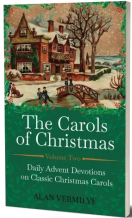


Next Service Readings

Micah 5:2-5a

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-55



Ladies' Bible Study

Join us today, in room 203, we continue our study of *The Carols of Christmas*. You'll enjoy a fresh glimpse of some of the same joyful and nostalgic melodies you sing every year now set to personal reflections and discussions. Join us each Sunday through December 15, at 9:30 a.m. for this study.

Questions? Contact Heidi Cooper (heidi@gslcva.org).

Children's Sunday School Christmas Program—today!

You're invited! Join the Children's Sunday School today **Sunday, December 15**, at 9:45 a.m. in the Gathering Place (lower level). Come for fellowship and the Word as we journey to Bethlehem, to share the Nativity story with a Christmas carol sing-along, followed by a birthday party for Jesus! All children are invited to participate. Congregation and friends are welcome to sing and celebrate with us.

Advent materials available

Advent devotional materials -- including booklets and a calendar of daily Advent activities especially for families -- are available in the church entry area. Please help yourself to these items!

Christkindlmarket-today!

Join us today after the late service for the Annual GSLC Christmas Shoppe & Pasta lunch! This year we will be hosting the Christkindlmarket today **Sunday, December 15**, from 12:15 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This festive holiday event, hosted by our very own youth, is fun for the whole family! Parents, bring your little ones to the "Kids' Christmas Market" where there will be lots of inexpensive items for your child to pick out and purchase. There will be gifts for every member of the family! Our GSLC Youth Groups will be on hand to help children select their gifts and gift-wrap them as well. While the kids are shopping, catch up with your Good Shepherd friends, meet some new ones, and enjoy a wonderful meal. A goodwill offering will be collected during the meal and the proceeds from this event will benefit the Sr. High Youth and their fundraising efforts for the 2025 Summer Workcamp in Winchester, Kentucky. Invite your friends and come out for some Christmastime fun!



Adjustments to December Services

During the month of December Good Shepherd will have several changes to the worship schedule. Specifics for each service are as follows: **Sunday, December 22**, only one service at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. | **Tuesday, December 24**, will have special Christmas Eve worship services at 4:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. with preservice music at 7:10 and 9:45 p.m., respectively. | **Sunday, December 29**, only one service at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Questions? Contact the church office (gslc@gslcva.org).



Above & Beyond—fall catalog

Good Shepherd is pleased to release the fall edition of the Above & Beyond (A&B) catalog. The fall catalog has 31 items, including funding for the Columbarium garden (deadline to give of December 31), HVAC system - Phase 2, and much more. Please prayerfully consider supporting these items and thank you to all of those who have previously supported these items. Electronic copies of the catalog can be found on our [Giving webpage](#) and hard copies are available in the church entry area and office. Questions? Contact Georgia Thorstenson (georgia@gslcva.org).

Good Shepherd Outing at Gray Ghost Winery

Join us for a special Christmas outing on **Friday, December 27**, to Gray Ghost Winery in Amissville, Virginia. Owner Al Kellert has crafted 27 amazing cork sculptures celebrating the Christmas season and they are a must see for young and old. We will have a private wine tasting and charcuterie at 1:00 p.m. (\$15.00/person) then tour the tank room with the beautiful Christmas decorations. Children and pets are welcome. Bring a friend too.

Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/3274529f> to let us know you are coming. Questions? Contact Heidi Cooper (heidi@gslcva.org).



Winter Walk of Lights

Extend your Christmas cheer all the way to Epiphany by joining the GSLC Hiking Group on our venture to Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. We will take in the garden's extraordinary "Winter Walk of Lights" on **Sunday, January 5, 2025**. Last year, the gardens were a true hit with young and old! We will meet at 5:00 p.m. near the front doors of the Meadowlark Botanical Garden Visitor Center (9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, in Vienna, Virginia 22182). Ample parking is available adjacent to the Visitor Center. The GSLC Congregational Care and Nurture Ministry will support our outing; the ticket price will be a very reasonable **\$5 per person** over two years old – a big discount from the regular Group Price of \$14! Guests welcome! Dress warmly and wear comfortable shoes to walk along the 0.6 mile, slightly rolling, paved pathways through the light displays. Food and drink are available for purchase along with light-up wearables and handheld toys. The paths are wheelchair accessible. We do need an approximate headcount to purchase tickets ahead of time, so please R.S.V.P. by December 23 by scanning the QR code, or using the paper sign-ups in the church entryway. The event will be held



rain or shine. Interested? Please visit the Winter Walk of Lights website (<https://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights>). Questions? Please contact the GSLC Hiking Group leads (Jeannie Johns, John Purtilo, and Drew Lipman) through the church office (gslc@gslcva.org) for more information.

Events This Week

Worship Service: Sunday, December 22: 9:30 a.m. (Traditional)

Check out our website (<https://gslcva.org/worship/services/>) for more information.

Sunday School: Sunday, December 22: No Sunday School

Choir Practice: Sunday, December 22: 10:45 a.m. (Choir loft).

Prayer Gathering: Wednesday, December 18: 7:00 p.m. (video teleconference)

Community Service: Monday, December 16: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms) | **Wednesday, December 18:** 10:00 to 12:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms) | **Thursday, December 19:** 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry transport for distribution at SLHS (lower parking lot) | Questions? Contact Holly Vanderhoof (holly@gslcva.org).

Cornerstones Angel Tree-Thank you!

With your help we were able to help 27 families with Christmas by providing resources for 60 children with a total of 151 gift cards valued at \$3,775.00. Thank you so much for supporting this very special endeavor!

Community Service

Do you know of someone that needs help finding resources in our area? For a list of comprehensive services in our area please call or visit: 2-1-1 Virginia. 2-1-1 Virginia is a source of information about community and social services available in Fairfax County and statewide. When you dial 2-1-1, a trained professional will listen to your situation and suggest sources to help using one of the largest databases of health and human services in Virginia.

Volunteers needed! The Closet of Greater Herndon. Congregation scheduled days have returned to The Closet! Good Shepherd's next volunteer day are January 2, January 24, February 18, March 18, and April 2. The Closet needs volunteers to maintain day to day operations. Please consider donating some time to this valuable resource in our community. Scan the QR code to signup or visit <http://tinyurl.com/5n7kbmb2>.



Lake Anne House Angel Tree. With the holidays around the corner, we are supporting Lake Anne House (formerly Lake Anne Fellowship House) in Reston. Please help our elderly neighbors in need, providing items on the Lake Anne House wish list. How can you help? Visit the Angel Tree in the church entry area and take a tag, sign your name, and provide your email address at the table. Please drop off your beautifully wrapped gifts with the tag attached, next to the tree by **Sunday, December 22, please ensure that the tag is securely attached.** Greeting cards and presents will be delivered to Lake Anne House Christmas week.

Hypothermia Shelter Meals - SIGNUP OPEN! An opportunity to serve through supporting the hypothermia shelter meals program is fast approaching! Every Wednesday from the beginning of December through the end of March (17 weeks), we prepare, provide, and serve hot meals for 40 guests. **Would you like to know what it is like to prepare food for the Hypothermia Prevention Program?** The best way to think about preparing the food is to consider what you would bring if this were a picnic. You need to provide food in disposable containers and include any needed (sturdy) plates, bowls, cups, napkins, eating utensils. One consideration is that the clients often don't have a full set of teeth - shredded or ground meat is preferable to chunks of meat. The same is true about the fruit. This year the need is much greater as they are serving about 70 people. **We will be helping with that number by providing a minimum of 40 meals.** Serving in person is also back this year! Volunteers must be at least 18 years old to serve in the shelter. For more information and to signup scan the QR code or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/4n5m8b9u>.



South Lakes Food Pantry - continues to serve the community! Since the beginning they have distributed more than **TWO MILLION POUNDS** of food & toiletries to our neighbors in need. What a significant difference you've made in the community with your support of this incredible ministry. *If you are interested in helping, email Holly Vanderhoof, holly@gslcva.org, to get up-to-date volunteer needs.* Needs are on the rise. We are averaging well over **7,000 pounds (3 ½ tons) of food to families and students in need each week.** Please consider shopping from our urgent needs or donating money to the pantry so that they can purchase food for the pantry.

NO-CONTACT Donation curbside drop offs:

Mondays (2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.)

Wednesdays (10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.)

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

DRIVERS NEEDED. Looking for additional drivers on Thursdays. Bags will be loaded and unloaded at the school for you. Thursday afternoons, 2:50 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Interested? Please contact Holly (holly@gslcva.org). **LOADING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** We are averaging 200 bags each week, not including the additional donations of fresh produce and meat from Trader Joe's. Volunteers would meet at the church lower parking lot at 2:30 p.m., please allow 45-60 minutes for this volunteer need.

URGENT NEEDS: diced tomatoes, pasta, bar soap, snacks (granola bars and popcorn)

Women Giving Back. Women Giving Back supports women and children in crisis on a first step to stability by providing quality clothing at no cost, assisted by a caring and committed community. From grassroots humble beginnings, Women Giving Back has grown into an organization that serves more than 24,000 women and children in need every year. To learn more about Women Giving Back and how to volunteer visit: <https://womengivingback.org>.

Cornerstones Volunteer Opportunities. Cornerstones offers a multitude of volunteer opportunities to serve members of our community. Opportunities include Farmers Market Gleaning, Career Mentors, Financial Literacy Mentors, Interpreters, Front Desk Assistants, Pathways to Sustainable Employment Program Volunteers and so much more. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/mvzzu4ue> to sign up for a volunteer hub and learn more about these opportunities as well as their virtual volunteer orientation sessions.

Interested? Please contact Holly Vanderhoof (holly@gslcva.org).

Online Church Directory

GSLC's online church directory is a great way to connect with other members, and to help you connect names with faces. Our directory - using an application called "Instant Church Directory" - is OPT-IN only. To sign up, send the name and email address for ONE PERSON in your family to the church office. Members and non-members who regularly attend GSLC are invited to join our online directory.

Confirmation Guardian Angel

Pastor James is seeking Guardian Angel volunteers to send notes of encouragement, cards and on occasion small items recognizing special occasions in the confirmand's personal and faith journey. Interested? Please contact Pastor Gary (PastorGary@gslcva.org).

Life Groups

Women's Morning Bible Study

Thursday, December 19: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Vicki's house)

Contact Vicki Peter through the church office (gslc@gslcva.org) for more information*

Men's Friday Bible Study

Friday, December 20: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at Panera Bread (Elden Street)

Contact Jeff Kroese, Jeff Peterson, and Jim Smith through the church office (gslc@gslcva.org) for more information*

*When contacting the church office (gslc@gslcva.org) please type the Life Group name in the email Subject line when requesting more information via email.