



# GOOD SHEPHERD

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 27, 2025

Updates and more information at: [gslcva.org/](https://gslcva.org/)  
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### Next Service Readings:

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 | Colossians 3:1-11 | Luke 12:13-21

### New Connections Class starts next Sunday

Are you interested in learning more about Good Shepherd? Would you like to make a deeper connection with us and our ministries? If so, we would love to engage with you. Our next Connections Class starts **Sunday, August 3, at 10:45 a.m.**, and runs for three consecutive weeks.

**Session One:** Learn more about how Good Shepherd operates, what ministries and opportunities we have for service and Christian education.

**Session Two:** Pastor Johann will give you a mini primer on Lutheran teachings and theology.

**Session Three:** Connect with a current member who will help you explore areas of our life and ministry where you might like to become involved.

Can't make one of the sessions? No problem! We offer make up classes. After completing the classes, you are invited to become a member of our congregation, should you choose to do so. No pressure!

**Note:** If you are transferring to Good Shepherd from another LCMS church, you don't need to attend session two, unless you would like to.

Interested? Contact the church office or Heidi Cooper ([heidi@gslcva.org](mailto:heidi@gslcva.org)).

### Food Truck! Today!



Stay after the service for cupcakes, coffee, and conversation



### Coming soon: Voters' Assembly

Good Shepherd's Annual Voters' Assembly will be held **Sunday, August 24**, following the 9:30 a.m. service. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. The meeting will be in-person only, in the Fellowship Hall. A light lunch will be provided.

At the assembly, the FY2026 budget will be presented and voted on. Copies of the proposed budget, as well as supporting materials, will be emailed before the assembly. Hard copies of these items will also be made available in the church entry area starting two weeks before the meeting.

### Missed the Sanctuary Choir concert in June? Now you can watch the video!



The Sanctuary Choir wrapped up the "choir year" with a concert on Sunday, June 1. The concert featured choral pieces as well as performances by Charlotte Lee, violin, and by Hart Guonjian-Pettit, trumpet, accompanied by Anne Lee on piano. The Music Ministry is pleased to announce that a recording of the concert is now available on YouTube. Use the QR code at the left to access the video. Special thanks to Matt Hardy for his work in preparing the video. Enjoy! And be sure to share it with your friends.

### Lutheran World Relief – Texas flood emergency

In the early hours of July 4, heavy rains caused the Guadalupe River in central Texas to rise by 25 feet in minutes. As a result, catastrophic flash flooding swept through the Texas Hill Country, devastating everything in its path. As of July 23, at least 134 people have died. The damage affects several counties in central Texas — a region with high levels of poverty and above-average numbers of elderly adults and people with disabilities. Lutheran World Relief is on hand, distributing emergency food, water, tarps, clean up kits, hygiene supplies, and clothing to people whose homes were damaged or destroyed. Go to <https://lwr.org> to learn more or to donate.

### Events This Week

**Worship Services: Sunday, August 3:** 9:30 a.m. (Traditional services) | Questions? Check out our website (<https://gslcva.org/worship/services/>)

**Sunday School: Sunday, August 3:** 10:45 a.m. (Adult Sunday School - see article below for details). Sunday School for kids and youth will return in the fall. | Questions? Check out our website under "Education": [kids](#), [youth](#), and [adult](#)

**Prayer Gathering: Wednesday, July 30:** 7:00 p.m. (video teleconference)

**Community Service: Monday, July 28:** 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms) | **Wednesday, July 30:** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms) | **Thursday, July 31:** 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry transport for distribution at SLHS (lower parking lot) | **Saturday, August 2:** 8:50 to 11:15 a.m. A Simple Gesture (lower level) | Questions? Contact Holly Vanderhoof ([holly@gslcva.org](mailto:holly@gslcva.org)) *SEE OTHER SIDE for more service opportunities.*

### Life Groups

**Men's Friday Bible Study: Friday, August 1:** 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at Panera Bread (Elden Street).

**\*Notes:** 2GETHER4LUNCH will not meet in July or August | Interested in our Life Groups? Many of our Life Groups are now on summer break. Check out our [website](#) for details in the fall.

### Looking ahead to September

Summer worship schedule continues through Sunday, August 31.

**Beginning Sunday, September 7, we return to our "regular" worship schedule**, as follows: Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Our informal worship service features contemporary music and is held in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with communion celebrated on fourth Sundays.

**Also on September 7, we resume Sunday School for children and youth.** We'll kick off the new Sunday School year with Rally Day. More information will be coming soon.

### Adult Bible Study continues study of Minor Prophets

The Adult Bible study is meeting in Room 111, following today's worship service. The group is continuing its whirlwind tour of the Minor Prophets. **In September, two new Bible studies will begin:**

- An in-depth look at John's gospel, using William Barclay's *The Gospel of John*, Volumes One and Two
- A five-session series on "Sticky Faith," presenting practical ways to build lasting faith in your children.

## GSLC Tax-Free Donations

Are you 70½ and taking an IRA distribution? Make your donation to GSLC tax free. You can make a tax-free donation Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to GSLC directly from your IRA. This is the only method under U.S. tax law to donate Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) amounts tax-free. It's available to IRA owners age 70½ or older. You can transfer up to \$100,000 per year (indexed for inflation, so possibly higher in future years) directly from your IRA to one or more IRS-approved charities. The amount of the QCD is excluded from your taxable income and fulfills your RMD. For married couples, each spouse with their own IRA can give \$100,000, effectively \$200,000 combined. With a QCD, the income is simply not counted, and you don't need to itemize to get the benefit. This keeps your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) lower, which can also help you avoid things like higher Medicare premiums (IRMAA surcharges) or the 3.8% net investment income tax if you're near those thresholds. Check with your investment advisor to make sure the donation is correctly accomplished and satisfies IRS rules for both your RMD and a QCD.

## Community Service

**Do you know of someone who 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.

### A Simple Gesture Food Collection

Every other month, A Simple Gesture delivers collected food to the South Lakes High School Food Pantry along with other local food pantries. Help intake, sort, and shelve donations on Saturday, August 2, from 8:50 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. This effort involves 50-70 volunteers from the area and is a great way to help serve the food pantry and love your neighbor in the process. If interested in volunteering, contact Holly Vanderhoof, [holly@gslcva.org](mailto:holly@gslcva.org).

### The Closet of Herndon

**Volunteers desperately needed!** The Closet has put out a call for volunteers. Please consider volunteering directly through The Closet at <https://www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/volunteer>. The Closet **needs** volunteers to maintain day-to-day operations. Please consider donating some time to this valuable resource in our community.

**The Closet of Greater Herndon collections at Good Shepherd.** Good Shepherd is collecting donations for The Closet. Please place your donations in the black cart labeled "The Closet" in the closet off of the church entry area (on your way to the Fellowship Hall).

### Helping Hands

**Helping Hands needs donations.** Helping Hands needs donations of cotton or cotton blend fabric and yarn of any kind. These donations would greatly help us in our mission to provide quilts, prayer shawls and lap blankets for Lutheran World Relief and for a local hospice. Donation collection is in the church entry area. Look for the donation bin marked "Helping Hands." Thanks to all who have generously donated.

### South Lakes Food Pantry – Continues to Serve the Community!

The Food Pantry has distributed more than **TWO MILLION POUNDS** of food and 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](mailto:holly@gslcva.org)) to get up-to-date volunteer needs.* Needs are on the rise. We are averaging well over **7,000 pounds (3½ tons) of food to families and students in need each week.** Please consider shopping from our urgent needs (see list below) 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 Thursday afternoons, 2:50 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Bags will be loaded at GSLC and then unloaded at the school for you. Interested? Please contact Holly ([holly@gslcva.org](mailto: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:** jelly, bar soap, dried kidney beans (1 lb. bags), dried garbanzo beans (1 lb. bags)

### 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. Visit: <https://womengivingback.org> for more information.

### 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 to learn more about these opportunities as well as their virtual volunteer orientation sessions. Interested? Please contact Holly Vanderhoof ([holly@gslcva.org](mailto:holly@gslcva.org)).