Opportunities for Designated Giving

Fall/Winter FY2027



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
1133 Reston Avenue
Herndon, VA 20170
gslcva.org

Introduction

Dear Siblings in Christ,

What a blessing from God "Above and Beyond" has been! We prayerfully started this stewardship program in 2017 to offer support for ministries that the general budget could not accommodate. It provides us opportunities to indeed go above and beyond, giving to the passions for various ministries that the Holy Spirit has seeded and ignited in each of our hearts. We thank the Lord of Mission for everyone who has generously responded to the "glocal" (local to global) projects within the program, year in and year out. Gifts to the sustained Above and Beyond program are just one way for us to acknowledge our willingness to hear God's call to do even more than we can imagine and trust in Him to provide (Ephesians 3:20). These gifts may be offered in celebration of a life milestone; in honor or memory of a person; to advance an area of ministry that has touched your life; or simply to respond to an area of initiative identified by Good Shepherd's ministry teams, who have done so after prayer, discussions, and research. God calls us to generous stewardship and the sacrificial giving of our time and our treasure (2 Corinthians 9:5-7, et al.). By this new Fiscal Year 2027 (fall/winter) catalog, may He continue to stretch us in our outreach, giving, and fulfillment as His followers. We thank God for your generosity, in advance.

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

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

About the program

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

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

Above and Beyond giving falls into two categories:

1. Immediate opportunities are those that do not extend past the current fiscal year. Ministry teams will make every effort to spend all available gifts during the current fiscal year. Once the desired Above and Beyond amount is reached, no more gifts will be accepted for that opportunity during the current fiscal year. These opportunities will be reviewed and updated each year. Examples of this type of opportunity would be a gift to support Pastor Johann's sabbatical or one of the community service projects listed on page 4.

2. Long-term opportunities are those associated with special projects. Because of their significance and magnitude, these opportunities are likely to span a number of years. Once sufficient funds have been received for the project, they will be spent and the fund will be closed. Examples of this type of opportunity would be a gift to upgrade the HVAC system.

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

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

Tax-Free Donations

If you are 70½ or older and taking an IRA distribution, you can make your donation to GSLC tax-free through Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) directly from your IRA. This is the only method under U.S. tax law to donate Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) amounts tax-free. You can transfer up to $111,000 per year directly from your IRA to one or more IRS-approved charities. The amount of the QCD is excluded from your taxable income and fulfills your RMD. For married couples, each spouse with their own IRA can give $111,000, effectively $222,000 combined. Check with your investment advisor for details and applicable regulations.

FAQs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Giving opportunities

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Lake Anne House

Lake Anne House offers modern affordable housing for more than 300 low-income seniors in our area. Help us provide financial support so that their residents can receive help with medications, doctor appointments, and many other needs that they may have.

Lake Anne House: $4,000

Fellowship Square

Fellowship Square provides quality housing for low-income seniors in our area. Help us provide financial support so that their residents can receive help with medications, doctor appointments, and many other needs that they may have.

Fellowship Square: $4,000

Dogwood Elementary Grocery Gift Cards

Provide 100 families in need (as identified by the parent liaison and/or the social worker) a $25.00 grocery gift card. Nearly 100% of Dogwood students are living at or below the poverty level.

Dogwood Elementary Grocery Gift Cards: $2,500

Dogwood Elementary Support

Dogwood's Parent Liaison office shares many needs with us, including requests for shoes, clothing, diapers, and wipes. Dogwood has an early childhood program that begins as early as 6 weeks. At Dogwood, nearly 100% of students live at or below the poverty level.

Dogwood Elementary Support: $2,000

What about Cornerstones and the SLHS Pantry?

Thanks to your generosity, we still have donations available from the FY2026 Above & Beyond giving period. We're using those funds right now to continue to support these programs—but we anticipate making requests for contributions in the next A&B catalog, which will be published in early February.

DISCIPLESHIP

Campus Ministry

To strengthen connections and relationships with Good Shepherd's post–high school students attending schools locally and across Virginia, we are refocusing campus ministry to include day visits to the various campuses. Campus Ministry funds would cover mileage for the Assisting Pastor and Youth Coordinator, as a team, and food for student meetings. Funds will also support student gatherings at home during key holiday breaks and summer.

Campus Ministry: $2,500

Middle School Ministry

Help put additional ministry resources into the hands of our middle school youth and support more ministry/fellowship opportunities for them, including offsetting costs of the Southeastern District Middle School Gathering April 9–11, 2027.

Middle School Ministry: $2,000

What about VBS, Senior Youth Ministry, Workcamp 2027?

Thanks to your generosity, we still have donations available from the FY2026 Above & Beyond giving period, as well as balances in some dedicated accounts. We're using those funds right now to continue to support these programs—but we will be making requests for contributions in the next edition of the A&B catalog, which will be published in early February.



WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION

Section Leader Support

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

Section Leaders: $26,000

Special Music in Worship

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

Special music in worship: $19,800



SENIOR PASTOR



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

Sabbatical Support, 2nd interval: $7,500

MISSIONS

Each year, the Mission ministry team considers appeals from many organizations worldwide in deciding which ones Good Shepherd will support. A number of those organizations—such as the Southeastern District, various LCMS mission programs, Lutheran World Relief, and others—are being supported through the General Fund (the FY2027 budget approved by GLSC voters in August).

During the coming months, the Mission Team will be making decisions about which mission efforts to augment through the Above & Beyond program. The team will include specific requests for additional mission support in the spring A&B catalog. We urge you to continue to support our current partners with your prayers and your regular giving to the General Fund.

PROPERTY AND FACILITIES

Inclement Weather Fund

During recent years, we have experienced several extraordinary weather events that required financial resources well beyond the norm. For example, last winter's two-week period of single-digit temperatures caused unexpected cost increases in several areas. A sprinkler head for the fire suppression system ruptured in the attic. Numerous repairs to the attic HVAC units were necessary to restore them to operation after the big freeze was over. In the interim, it was necessary to run portable space heaters in the affected areas. Additionally, frequent snow and ice removal from sidewalks and the parking lot throughout the winter, as well as increased electrical and gas usage, drove up costs for these utilities. Current predictions for the coming winter indicate wetter and icier than normal conditions due to the high potential for frequent freezing rain.

Inclement Weather Fund: $15,000



Remember Snowcrete?

Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)

The HVAC replacement/upgrade project continues. Our approach is to replace portions of the HVAC system in phases, starting with those that are experiencing the most maintenance issues and other portions that would have the greatest impact on operations if they failed. Less critical elements of the system will be replaced in later phases of the upgrade. Phase 1 of the HVAC upgrade (i.e., replacing the boilers) was completed in 2023 at a cost of $150,000 using money from the building contingency fund. Phase 2 of the HVAC system started the process of replacing the elements of the cooling system that are nearing the end of their serviceable life. The cooling portions of the HVAC system use refrigerants that are no longer produced, resulting in high maintenance costs whenever leaks occur or system components fail.

The Phase 2 modifications involve conversion of some cooling system components from R-22 to R-32, which is an approved replacement for R-22 and R-410B. The price of R-32 is currently less than $13 per pound whereas R-22 is currently approximately $135 per pound. The exterior AC compressors and associated piping will require replacement as the associated zones are upgraded in this and future phases.

The upgrade of zone 6B to an R-32 based system is in progress as of fall 2026.

HVAC replacement/upgrade: $45,496

Note: There will be further phases in this project over the next decade. We currently estimate that the complete upgrade of cooling system will cost approximately $1,250,000. We plan to spread this cost over time, only upgrading zones when reliability and cost to operate become issues.

LED Conversion of Parking Lot Lights

The church parking lot has (42) 150w incandescent light fixtures, which on average are lit about 12 hours per day. Normally when a fixture stops lighting it's a simple matter of climbing a ladder and swapping out the burned out bulb. However, in the past year several of the fixtures have experienced failures of the ballasts, which cause the bulb to light when the power comes on. Hiring an electrician to replace the ballasts would be quite costly and potentially involve multiple visits over time.

What initially seemed like a problem actually opened the door to a cost-saving opportunity, since lighting technology has improved significantly since the church was built.

The 150w incandescent fixtures, which generally have a life span of about 2 years, can be replaced with 36w LED fixtures that are a little brighter and have a lifespan of about 10 years. The 150w bulbs consume about 657 Kw of electricity over the year whereas the 36w LED bulbs will consume only 157.7 Kw — less that ¼ of the energy usage and a very significant reduction in the church's electrical bills year round.

At today's electrical rates, this conversion will pay for itself in about 3.2 years. Additionally, and maybe more importantly, the parking lot will experience far fewer lighting outages, making it safer for people participating in evening activities.

Conversion of the first 18 high-priority fixtures (from a safety perspective) are being funded from the property budget. Funding the remaining 24 fixtures sooner rather than later will enable quicker realization of the savings.

Parking Lot Light Conversion: $6,720

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Good Shepherd Lutheran School has made tremendous progress over the past year as we work to grow our enrollment, strengthen our programs, and serve more families in our community. Since the beginning of our expansion efforts, we have grown from 11 children to 29 children enrolled in our program. This growth reflects the need for quality, Christ centered early childhood education in our community and the dedication of our staff to providing a nurturing, developmentally appropriate learning environment.

VAAEYC Conference Registration

Funding will cover early-bird registration for staff to attend the Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children (VAAEYC) conference. This professional development opportunity will help our educators strengthen their teaching practices, learn new strategies for early childhood education, and bring valuable resources and ideas back to our classrooms. Investing in our staff directly benefits the children and families we serve. If we register by January 31, 2027, we will be able to obtain the "early bird" rate, which is a $35 fee reduction per staff member (reflected by the amount requested).

VAAEYC Conference Registration: $975

Advertising and Community Outreach

These funds will support targeted advertising through Facebook and Google to increase community awareness, strengthen enrollment, and promote our outreach programs.

- **Google Ads:** Funding will cover approximately three months of Google advertising focused on general enrollment. These ads help us reach families actively searching for preschool and early childhood education options in our area. This has already proven to be an effective investment, as we have successfully enrolled several students as a direct result of Google advertising. Continuing these efforts will help us reach additional families and build a more consistent enrollment base.
- **Facebook Ads:** Funding will support approximately six Facebook advertising campaigns throughout the year. We primarily use Facebook advertising to promote community events and family engagement opportunities, including our Family Flock Days and Mini Melody Makers program. These events introduce local families to Good Shepherd Lutheran School, build relationships within the community, and create opportunities for families to become familiar with our programs.

Advertising and Community Outreach: $3,000

General Expansion and Operational Support

Late in the summer we found it necessary to open a third classroom and hire additional staff to accommodate our growth from 11 to 29 enrolled children, and to serve children beginning age two (and maybe not quite potty trained). Previously, we had accepted children at age two and a half who were fully potty trained. We also had a larger number of two-year-olds enroll than anticipated, and the teacher student ratio for two-year-olds is lower.

We expanded our hours and scheduling options to better support working families. Approximately half of our enrolled students attend full-time, spending at least 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at school, and we offer extended care from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We are required to have at least two staff members during these earlier and later hours, but the number of students using those hours does not yet cover all staff costs for this time period.

When 2026 tuition rates were established in December 2025, we did not anticipate the need for a third classroom this school year, which has affected our budget. While our enrollment growth is bringing us closer to financial stability, the expenses associated with expanding our facilities, staffing, and hours of care have made that transition more challenging. Additional funding would help us manage the costs of this transition while we continue building the enrollment to sustain our program independently.

General Expansion and Operational Support: $15,000



Since its founding in 1984, and as a ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran School has faithfully pursued its mission of providing Christ-centered learning for all of God's children and their families.

About Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

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

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

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

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

Opportunities to Give: Time and Talents

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

One way we share is by serving. We are always looking for help, with everything from answering phones to stuffing bulletins, singing in the choir, being a worship assistant, joining the Property and Facilities team, taking part in community service, and so much more. If you are interested in finding out how you might use your talents to the glory of God, contact the church office (gslc@gslcva.org) and request the Time and Talent survey. Fill it out and return it to the church office. Even if you've filled it out before, you might have new interests or other updates. Take a look at the form, and consider how you might share your time and your talents to serve at Good Shepherd and promote God's kingdom.

Above & Beyond donation form

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

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

Item(s) (use catalog description: e.g., "Inclement Weather Fund" or "Sabbatical Support"):

_____

_____

_____

Donation amount(s): _____

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

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

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

GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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