



GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 26, 2021
Updates and more information at gslcva.org/

Next Sunday's readings

Genesis 2: 18 - 24 Hebrews 1: 1 - 4; 2: 5 - 12 Mark 10: 2 - 16

Next worship services: October 3

Good Shepherd holds outdoor and indoor services weekly.

- Outdoor worship on Sunday, September 19, 8:30 a.m. - [Click here to register](#)
- Indoor worship on Sunday, September 19, 9:45 a.m. - [Click here to register](#)

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.



COVID-19 guidance—new

Effective September 26 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (GSLC) will follow Fairfax County Government COVID-19 guidelines. These will apply to all employees, members, and visitors participating in indoor activities including worship, Christian education, youth activities, meetings, and office work. General information can be found at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid-19-information-portal>.

The current guidelines mandate masks for everyone, regardless of vaccination status. GSLC will make an exception for worship officiants while speaking from the chancel, musicians while singing from the choir loft, and worshippers when partaking in communion. Office workers may remove their mask when alone in a private office. Masks may also be removed for eating and drinking in the building. Separate seating areas in the sanctuary for unvaccinated worshippers will be discontinued.

Although not mandatory, the guidelines recommend physical distancing (6 feet), frequent handwashing, and staying home when ill.

Continuous communion

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will offer continuous communion during indoor worship services beginning October 3.

During continuous communion, participants will leave their pews and approach the front of the church, where they will receive a communion wafer and an individual cup of wine, consuming both elements before returning to their seats. An usher will indicate when participants may leave their pews to join the single-file line approaching the altar. Face masks (which are required at indoor worship as of September 26) may be removed to consume the communion elements.

Worshippers who do not wish to take communion in this manner will still be able to use prepackaged communion elements, which will be available at the welcome center in the church entry area. As in the past, worshippers should take a bag with the prepackaged elements before entering the sanctuary.

Livestream links

Indoor worship service on Sunday morning at 9:45 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/GieO8Xc_sCY)
- Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/event/1064052>)

Adult Education

Ladies Bible Study: "Be Still and Know" - Starting Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 7:30 p.m., we will begin an evening Bible Study via Zoom, in lieu of a Sunday morning class. The first session looks at Psalm 46 in detail and examines storms of life. Then, in the following seven sessions, study narratives from the Gospels as Jesus meets various women who are experiencing their own storms and explore the perspective of each woman as He provides refuge, strength, help, and hope. Sign up by emailing Heidi Cooper: heidi@gslcva.org.

Adult Bible Study: The "Letters of John" - Pastor James's Adult Education has been cancelled. The Bible study will be reschedule once the congregational survey results have been reviewed and worship times, where applicable, have been adjusted.

Music Director—leave of absence

Nemeh Azzam has submitted a leave of absence, effective immediately. This request was accepted as Nemeh is focusing on his health and that of his family (Fabiana and Noor). The worship team and Pastor Johann are working to find substitutes and an interim, later, to fill-in for Nemeh. Prayers of recuperation, health, and wellbeing continue for Nemeh, Fabiana, and Noor during this difficult time.

Youth Confirmation

Confirmation for 7th and 8th grade students is starting back up. For those who choose to take part in the confirmation program please register by contacting Michele Clair at michele@gslcva.org for more information. The first session is scheduled with Pastor James on October 14 and will be an in-person class starting at 6:45 p.m.

Sunday Spark

The Sunday Spark for kids has returned! With the return to campus and format changes the Kids' Message, when available, will be included in the Livestream Service. The family fun page and grade specific lessons are now included in the Sunday morning "livestream service" email. For those who chose to worship via our Virtual Recorded worship service a time stamp will be included with the release of the afternoon podcast and videos annotating the location of the Kids' Message in the worship service.

HSM630 stay connected!

High School students—download the GroupMe app and scan the code below to join our HSM630 Group Chat. This is a great way to stay connected to the latest information about the youth group.



High School Ministry (HSM)

HSM630 Kickoff! High School Ministry invites teens in grades 9—12 to join us tonight from 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. at the fire ring in the church parking lot. Bring a chair or blanket—s'mores will be provided! Come hear what's in store for HSM630 this year and enjoy some fellowship! Please e-mail Holly Vanderhoof for more information: holly@gslcva.org.

HSM630 Fall Retreat!

Join us for our High School Fall Retreat—In the Making—November 5—7 at Camp Caroline Furnace. The cost is \$125.00 which includes lodging, meals (except for Friday dinner and Sunday lunch), and a retreat themed t-shirt. Stay tuned for additional information on registration and retreat specific details.

Above & Beyond (A&B) opportunities—year end review

Thank you to those who have responded to the Above and Beyond (A&B) program this year. Your generosity has enabled us to expand our outreach to GSLC members, to our local community, and to worldwide outreach programs. Our 2020 - 2021 A&B campaign was our most successful yet, despite being in the heart of the pandemic. And on top of that, we finished our core finances in the black for the 4th consecutive year in August. The biggest blessings are, of course, all the special ministries, and equipment for ministries that have been installed/implemented during the calendar year out of A&B.

Thanks be to God for these blessings.



Flower sponsor

Are you looking for a way to commemorate a birthday or anniversary? give thanks for answered prayers? offer a memorial for a loved one? glorify God for His many blessings? You can do so – by “sponsoring” floral decorations in the sanctuary or entryway.

Pick the Sunday or Sundays on which you'd like to be a flower sponsor. Put your name on the chart in the hallway near the Fellowship Hall for those Sundays, and make a note about what you'll be honoring or celebrating. (This information will be included in the bulletin for that Sunday.)

You can also sign up for a sponsorship online, at gslcva.org/ministries/worship, under “Flower sponsorships.”

You may take your flowers home after church services have concluded. The flowers will be either potted plants or arrangements of cut flowers, depending on the season and/or availability. Flowers that are not taken by 5:00 p.m. on Monday will be donated to shut-ins, when possible.

Sponsorships are \$40. Please submit your payments when you sign up to be a sponsor. You can submit a check (use one of the envelopes on the bulletin board) or pay through our online payment portal.

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.

Women's retreat

Ladies, mark your calendar for the annual women's retreat this November 12-14, in Winchester, VA. Once again, after a long hiatus, we will be enjoying a weekend of Bible study, fun and fellowship at the George Washington hotel in lovely downtown Winchester.

"Households of Faith" is the theme for this year's conference. With 2100 scripture references to households, we may need to move in for the week just to explore this topic from a scripture lens. Led by Sally Hiller, we will explore the meaning of "Household", the importance of a spiritually vibrant household, and how we as followers of Jesus build such a household. Plenty of room is available so consider inviting a friend, your sister, your mom or your daughter. This event is for all women over 21. We can't wait to have you with us!

Sign up information with costs and rooming options can be seen on the website - [Click here to register](#).

For questions, contact Heidi Cooper at: heidi@gslcva.org.

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

Family Opportunity - Gleaning for Cornerstones! Help collect donated food from local farmers every

weekend at the Reston Farmer's Market at Lake Anne for Cornerstones. Meet at the Snap at Market tent when you arrive. Volunteers under the age of 16 must have adult supervision.

Dates: October 2 and October 23. Time: 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/k28jkxx2s>

Save the date! Do it Your Way 0.5K for South Lakes High School Food Pantry - October 17. Join us October 17 at Lake Anne from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. to support the pantry as part of the Good Shepherd team. Check out N&A for registration details in the coming weeks. This is a fun, family opportunity for all ages!

South Lakes Food Pantry is now operating out of their new space on the lower level! *If you are interested in helping, email [Holly Vanderhoof](mailto:holly@gslcva.org), 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. - 4:00 p.m.

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

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

Low on food for next week's pack! URGENT NEEDS: diced tomatoes, canned veggies, boxed mac & cheese, spaghetti, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned beans, cereal, oatmeal, snacks

Thanksgiving Meals! It's that time of year again when we help provide area families in need with a Thanksgiving meal. Each meal is \$50 and includes a \$25 grocery gift card. Stay tuned for online donation information and let us do the shopping. Meals will be delivered the week of the week of November 15.

Angel Tree. With the holidays around the corner we will once again support Cornerstones' clients with Angel Tree gifts. Due to COVID-19 we will be asking for store specific gift cards. Look for a signup genius soon to sponsor a child or adult! Gifts will be delivered the week of November 15.

The Closet of Greater Herndon. New volunteer opportunities! The Closet now requires proof of COVID-19 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>

Lutheran Social Services Nations Capitol Area (LSSNCA). LSSNCA walks with those in need and mobilizes community partners to provide services that offer hope and rebuild lives. Within a two month period they are expecting to resettle potentially 800 Afghans. Refugees have been housed at the Dulles Expo Center, while they wait to resettle, and gifts to LSS will help provide transportation, temporary housing, and other immediate needs.

For more information visit: https://lssnca.org/take_action/afghan-allies.html