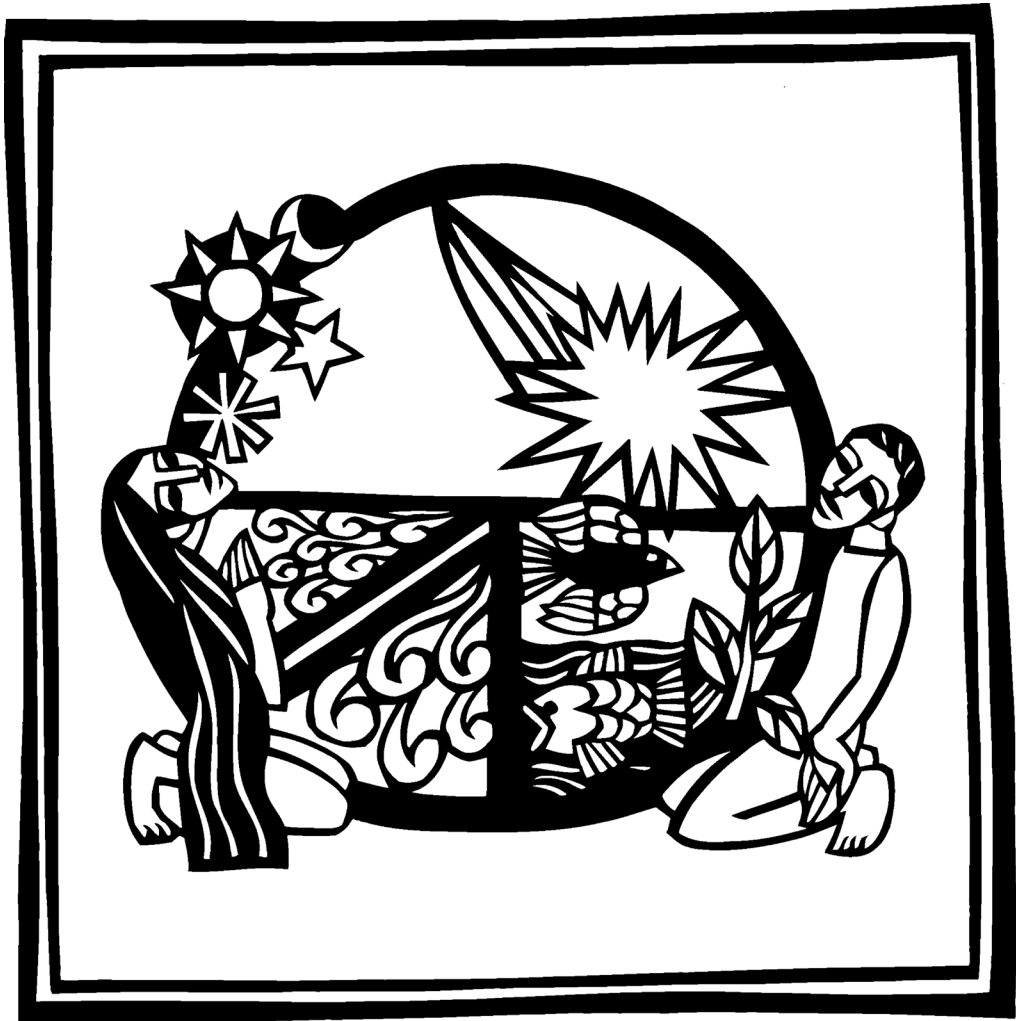


**Good Soil Lutheran Ministries**  
*Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve*



**First Sunday in the Season of Creation: “Planet Earth Sunday”**  
**September 1st, 2024**  
**9:30 am**



20300 Hilliard Blvd  
Rocky River, OH 44116  
(440) 331-1773

*The Rev. Marissa Harrison*  
[pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org](mailto:pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org)  
Cell Phone: 813-494-6507

*Church Administrator Cara Rovella*  
[admin@goodsoillutheran.org](mailto:admin@goodsoillutheran.org)

*Worship and Music Coordinator Brynna Bailer Mango*  
[brynnabailermango@gmail.com](mailto:brynnabailermango@gmail.com)

Website: [GoodSoilLutheran.org](http://GoodSoilLutheran.org)  
Facebook: [goodsoillutheranministries](https://www.facebook.com/goodsoillutheranministries)  
Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)  
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/GoodSoilLutheranMinistries)

### Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

### For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

### For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Ask an usher about hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

### Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

### Bulletin Key

**Bold Font** – Spoken by the Congregation  
**Regular Font** – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant  
† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

## Planet Earth Sunday

*Today begins "The Season of Creation" -- a time when the global church unites through prayer and worship as we intentionally reflect on God's presence in creation and our calling to care for it. We give thanks, we pray, we lament, we hope, and we recommit ourselves to healing our relationship with our sacred home. This Sunday is Planet Earth Sunday. We worship with our planet home, spinning through space. We join the Psalmists and sing with Earth: "Let the heavens be glad and let Earth rejoice" (Psalm 96:11). We celebrate Earth as a sacred place, a sanctuary filled with God's presence.*

### Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### Prelude and Welcome

#### † Call to Worship and Land Acknowledgment

*In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.*

#### † Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of God, who creates planets, the name of Christ, born on planet Earth, and the name of the Spirit, who envelopes our planet. **Amen.**

Christ Jesus, we gather in your name to worship in this sanctuary called Earth, a planet filled with your presence:

**Quivering in the forests, vibrating in the land, pulsating in the wilderness, shimmering in the rivers.**

We confess that we have become alienated from Earth and have viewed this planet as disposable, a source of endless resources, a mere stopping place on our way to heaven.

**We have polluted the atmosphere with greenhouse gases.**

**We have turned our greed into global warming.**

**We have helped cause the arctic regions to melt.**

**We are part of society that loves progress more than the planet.**

**We are sorry.**

Christ hears our confession, forgives our sins, and teaches us to love Earth as our home and to revere it as God's sanctuary. O God, reveal yourself to us and show us your face in all creation.

**Holy! Holy! Holy! The Earth is filled with your presence. Amen.**

† **Gathering Hymn: Creating God, Your Fingers Trace (ELW 684)**  
v. 1 & 2

- 1 Creating God, your fingers trace  
the bold designs of farthest space;  
let sun and moon and stars and light  
and what lies hidden praise your might.
- 2 Sustaining God, your hands uphold  
earth's myst'ries known or yet untold;  
let water's fragile blend with air,  
enabling life, proclaim your care.
- 3 Redeeming God, your arms embrace  
all now despised for creed or race;  
let peace, descending like a dove,  
make known on earth your healing love.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934 Text © 1979 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

*The assembly and  
presiding minister  
greet one another.  
(scripture reference:  
2 Corinthians)*

† **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

† **Hymn of Praise: This Is My Father's World (ELW 824) v. 1 & 2**

- 1 This is my Father's world,  
and to my list'ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
his hand the wonders wrought.
- 2 This is my Father's world;  
the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world;  
he shines in all that's fair.

In the rustling grass I hear him pass;  
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901

*The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.*

### † Prayer of the Day

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mystery of our fragile planet we celebrate the wonders of Earth. Help us to discern how we have fallen short as caretakers of our home and show us how to empathize with the groaning of creation. Teach us to sense the presence of God pulsing through Earth as a living green blue sanctuary. Teach us to love Earth as our home, in the name of Christ, the Word of God, who is the creative impulse in all creation. **Amen.**

### The Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

#### **First Reading: Psalm 33:5b-9**

To put this reading into context:

*The Word of the Lord in creation: The Psalmist summons us all, Earth and all her inhabitants, to praise God because of what God's word has done. The Word is the means by which God created the skies, Earth, and all the seas.*

Hear now the reading.

<sup>5b</sup> The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,  
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.

<sup>7</sup> He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;  
he put the deeps in storehouses.

<sup>8</sup> Let all the earth love the Lord;  
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

<sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it came to be;  
he commanded, and it stood firm.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.*

† **Gospel Acclamation: Heleyuan (ELW 171)\***

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.  
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.  
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

*\*This gospel acclamation tunes comes from our Muscogee (Creek) native siblings*

*Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading*

**Gospel Reading: John 1:1-5, 10a, 11-14**

To put this gospel reading into context:

*The Word becomes part of Earth: The Word, that is before all things and is God, is the source of all creation. And that Word becomes flesh and blood, the very stuff of creation. The Word of life becomes part of the living planet called Earth.*

The holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Sermon**

**Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison**

*Silence for Reflection.*

*Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You're invited to reflect on the following question:*

*What on earth fills you with awe and wonder? What in the natural world helps you experience the mystery and majesty of our Creator?*

*The Hymn of the Day is the assembly's proclaimed response to the sermon—making the sermon event a mutual conversation of faith.*

**† Hymn of the Day: Earth and All Stars! (ELW 731)**

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

*Refrain:* God has done marvelous things.  
I too sing praises with a new song!

2 Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

5 Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Text © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our own participation.*

**† Prayers of the Church**

With all of creation, we pray for the church, the world, & all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Equip your church to share your love with all people and creatures. We especially pray for Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Bishop Laura Barbins. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for your creation. Inspire all people to

*Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:*

- + The Church*
- + Creation*
- + Nations and leaders*
- + Those in need*
- + This faith community*
- + The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God*

show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution. Protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. We pray for all impacted by war around the globe. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You comfort those who are ill in body and mind. Give healing and strength to those we remember in our prayers today, spoken aloud or silently at this time. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A practice of the ancient church, we recognize Christ's peace in each other and share it together.*

### **† Passing of the Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*We greet one another (and creation!) saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.*

*God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.*

### **The Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **Offering**

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today by using the QR code or at <https://tinyurl.com/drtvut77>

*Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.*





### † Offering Prayer

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and as signs of our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth. Help us be caretakers of our sacred home.  
**Amen.**

### † Great Thanksgiving Dialogue

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### † Preface and Sanctus

It is indeed right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars, and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, and for life to be born of Earth.

Your Spirit is the life in all things, renewing the barren and healing the wounded, groaning in anticipation of a new creation born of water and the Spirit. You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die, and rise from death—to redeem humankind, to renew creation, and to affirm all.

Your presence is in all things, Christ among us, filling Earth—land, sea, and air—filling every element and place, filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea, and the whole company of creation we proclaim your presence among us:

**Holy, holy, holy,  
God of all life,  
Earth and sea and sky are full of your presence  
and glorify your name. Amen.**

† Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.*

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

† Invitation to the Table

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

**Communion**

*Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil.*

*Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.*

*When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."*

*Gluten-free bread is available on request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center.*

**Communion Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth (ELW 879)**

1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:

*Refrain:*

Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,  
sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

- 3 For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain*
- 4 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above;  
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*
- 5 For each perfect gift of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
for thyself, best gift divine,  
to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain*

**† Post-Communion Table Blessing**

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

**The Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**† Blessing**

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all,  
fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and all around  
us. through whom all things are reconciled and renewed.

**Amen.**

*Through the  
sending hymn  
we are sent out  
into the world to  
follow Jesus.*

**† Sending Hymn: For the Fruit of All Creation (ELW 679)**

- 1 For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,  
thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping,  
thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labor,  
God's will is done.

In the help we give our neighbor,  
 God's will is done.  
 In our worldwide task of caring  
 for the hungry and despairing,  
 in the harvests we are sharing,  
 God's will is done.

- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit,  
 thanks be to God.  
 For the good we all inherit,  
 thanks be to God.  
 For the wonders that astound us,  
 for the truths that still confound us,  
 most of all, that love has found us,  
 thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000  
 Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*The dismissal sends  
 us out as Christ's  
 Body: fed,  
 nourished, & ready  
 to serve. Worship  
 has ended, and  
 our service begins!*

**† Dismissal**

Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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*Coffee hour is on summer break!*

**Today's Worship Servants:**

Music: Dave Paine & William Eversole	Reader: Kirsten Reading
Ushers: Bill & Darlene Wahl	Counters: Kirsten Reading & Jessica Berkshire
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Acolyte: Jack Johnson
Cantor: Brenna Connor	Communion Bread: Anne Paine
Altar Care: Darlene Wahl	



## Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, September 1, 2024

**Especially in our prayers:** Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Barbins of the NEO Synod, Kathy Aloï, Helen Andrews, Gail Boggs, Carl Bruns, Pam Bruns, Mary Lou Busby, Tim Chiang, Brenna Connor, Bruce Crosby, Frank Dunaway, Jonathan Gray, Madeline Kelly, Kate Labuda, Ann Layman, Susan Omerod, Shawn O'Neil, Archer Oster, Ruth Patrick, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Rowen, Dick Schlupe, Mindy S., Kristina Seeley, family & friends of Steve Tewell, Jeanette Weidlich, Khams Zotal & his family & people of Manipur, & the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Haiti, India and places in Africa.

**The altar flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God in honor of Verna Fink's birthday.**

**Flower Sign-Up-** Interested in signing up to adorn Christ's altar with flowers for worship? You can sign up with the flower list on the bulletin board in the hallway or online using this QR code. Please note: The physical flower list on the bulletin board has first priority. Best efforts will be made to ensure the digital calendar reflects the physical one, but if you happen to digitally sign-up for a date that is already taken on the physical sheet, you will be contacted to reschedule. Each vase costs \$20.



**Two Ministry Opportunities in September-** Please join in one or both of these opportunities: **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8** is God's Work Our Hands ELCA Sunday After church, a robust coffee hour will be served downstairs. We will be assembling hygiene bags for Trials For Hope. **SATURDAY SEPT 14** Team Up to Clean Up, an annual event at Lutheran Metro Ministries (2100 Lakeside Ave) that brings together shelter residents, volunteers, staff, and partners from around the community for a day of gardening, neighborhood cleanup, woodworking, art projects, games, live music, and cookout at Noon! Projects will include planting bulbs and flowers, assembly of metal picnic tables, refurbishing a wooden garden bench, and refreshing their gazebo. **Schedule for Saturday, September 14: registration 8:30-9:00, projects 9:00-11:45, cookout 12:00-1:30.** \*\*Volunteers provide their own transportation to this event. There is street parking and a small parking lot may be available. Sign up in the lounge for the service opportunity participation and pick up a t-shirt to wear for either or both events. Sign-up will be available Aug 18 and 25. If you have any questions, please reach out to Sharon Regan: [regansharon17@gmail.com](mailto:regansharon17@gmail.com) or text 216-408-0304.

**September is our celebration of the glory of God's Season of Creation!** September 15 is Sky Sunday where we plan to worship outside under the sky by the big cottonwood tree. *Please join and be a part of the celebration by wearing something with your favorite shade of blue as we thank God for the majesty of His sky overhead.* On September 22, we celebrate Mountain Sunday and the glory of God's creation He surrounds us with. *We want every*

*household to help celebrate all God's beauty before our eyes by bringing just a small, simple vase of cuttings or flowers from your own garden or yard. Grow only vegetables? Bring one of your favorites. They will be displayed and part of our service as we give all honor and glory to God for His marvelous creation. Remember, wear something blue on September 15. Bring your flowers (or a prized vegetable) on September 22. P.S. Don't forget to bring a folding chair for our outdoor worship on September 1 and 15.*

**Lakewood Community Outreach Every 3rd Sat-** Want to share God's love in a tangible way and help feed neighbors in our community? Our friends in Lakewood are seeking additional volunteers to assist with their summer produce distribution. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 9am to help prep food in the parking lot of Lakewood Congregational Church (1375 W Clifton Blvd). You can also help by donating plastic bags (bin located under the coat rack in the hallway) and praying for this ministry. Thanks for your support!

**Coffee Hour Fellowship Makes a Comeback!** - Coffee Hour Fellowship resumes in September as we celebrate special Season of Creation Services & continues on into 2025. Volunteer hosts are needed to set-up, brew, & clean up the coffee/tea service &/or provide snacks/baked goods. The Coffee Hour volunteer sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the first-floor lounge. **Coffee Hour Set Up/Using the Bunn Coffee-Maker 101** will be offered 9/22 & 9/29 after the 9:30 service.

**Newsletter-** Want to keep up with news at Good Soil or share the e-news with a friend? Sign up or share our newsletter *Seeds* with the QR code to the right or this URL: <https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp> The e-news is currently on summer break.



**Meals on Wheels is looking for drivers!** West Shore Rocky River-Lakewood Meals on Wheels needs drivers to deliver meals to our recipients, especially M-W-F. Please contact Kathy Blackwell @ 440-333-6298 or [rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org](mailto:rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org) for more info.

**Suburban Cooperative Nursery School** has been successfully educating westside preschoolers since 1961. They're now enrolling for Fall with openings in the age 3 preschool program and the age 4 Pre-K program. For more info or to schedule a tour, call 440-331-9929, email [suburbancoop@gmail.com](mailto:suburbancoop@gmail.com), or visit [www.suburbancooperative.com](http://www.suburbancooperative.com)

## Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
<b>Sun, Sept 1</b>	<b>Outdoor Worship- Planet Earth Sunday</b> <i>Bring a chair!</i>	9:30 am
Sat, Sept 7	Ladies' Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am
<b>Sun, Sept 8</b>	<b>In-Person and Livestream Worship- Humanity Sunday</b>	9:30 am
Sun, Sept 8	God's Work Our Hands ELCA Sunday Service Project: stuffing hygiene bags for Trials for Hope in Fellowship Hall	10:30 am
Sat, Sept 14	Team Up to Clean Up Service Project @ Lutheran Metro Ministries (2100 Lakeside Ave)	8:30 am
<b>Sun, Sept 15</b>	<b>Outdoor Worship- Sky Sunday</b> <i>Wear blue and bring a chair!</i>	9:30 am
<b>Sun, Sept 22</b>	<b>In-Person and Livestream Worship- Mountain Sunday</b> <i>Bring home grown flowers or vegetables!</i>	9:30 am
<b>Sun, Sept 29</b>	<b>In-Person and Livestream Worship- Season of Creation Hymn-Sing</b>	9:30 am

