Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



14th Sunday after Pentecost August 25th, 2024 9:30 am



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Website: GoodSoilLutheran.org Facebook: goodsoillutheranministries

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YouTube: Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

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.

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

	Gathering The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. e and Welcome ession and Forgiveness be the holy Trinity, + one God, rgives all our sin, mercy endures forever. Amen. confess our sin and come to God for healing.
In the Confession † Confe	be the holy Trinity, + one God, rgives all our sin, mercy endures forever. Amen.
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. Gracious have me We con but have me we mak We place In your Draw me and turn our Sav God propagation our Sav God propagation in the new the sound in the	is kept for reflection. Its God, Itercy on us. Infess that we have honored you with our lips, Itere harmed our neighbors with our tongues. Iterity and disputes. Iterity and disputes. Iterity and disputes. Iterity and the poor and the suffering last. Iterity great mercy, forgive us our sins. Iterity are to us with grace in time of need, Iterity and Lord. Amen. Iterity and Lord. Amen. Iterity and Lord in more. Iterity and have been saved. In mane of + Jesus Christ, Irce of eternal healing, Ins are forgiven. Amen.

	† Gathering Hymn: God is Here (ELW 526) v. 1, 2, 3
	1 God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
	2 Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.
	3 Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore. Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000 Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
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: Now the Feast and Celebration (ELW 167)
	Refrain: Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy to the God of life and love and freedom;

praise and glory forevermore!

- 1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God. *Refrain*
- 2 Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ forever. *Refrain*
- 3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

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O God, our teacher & guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us

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

hear.

† Prayer of the Day

as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

New Testament Reading: James 3:13-4:2a, 7a, 8a

To put this reading into context:

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

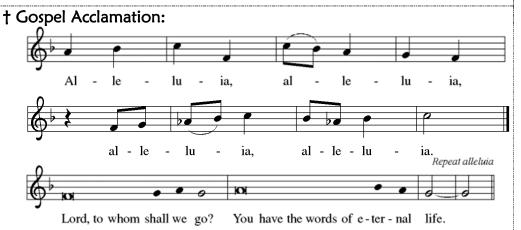
Hear now the reading.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly and unspiritual. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

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.



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: Mark 9:33-37

To put this gospel reading into context:

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

The holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³³Then [Jesus and the disciples] came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me

	
	welcomes not me but the one who sent me."
	The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.
	Children's Sermon
	Sunday School is on summer break! Young children are welcome to remain in the sanctuary during the sermon or go to the "learn and grow in faith" area (nursery room at the end of the hall on the east side of the building). Children must be supervised by an adult.
	Back to School Blessing
	Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison
	Silence for Reflection.
	Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You're invited to reflect on the following question:
	When has a child or a young person shown you or taught you something about God's love, presence, or character?
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: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (ELW 712) 1 Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed: we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart; consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart. 2 Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul, by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.

_	As we worship, grant as vision,
	till your love's revealing light
	in its height and depth and greatness
	dawns upon our quickened sight,
	making known the needs and burdens
	your compassion bids us bear,
	stirring us to ardent service,
	your abundant life to share.

As we worship grant us vision

4 Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go, to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show; hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give, that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.

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

own

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

participation.

+ The Church + Creation + Nations and leaders

+Those in need

† Prayers of Intercession Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with

A brief silence.

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We especially pray for Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Bishop Laura Barbins. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

confidence for the church, God's good creation, & all who are in need.

Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Receive our prayer,

O God. Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage

Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. We pray for all impacted by war, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Haiti, India and places in Africa. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

community + The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God

+ This faith

Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing & wholeness to all who suffer. Transform economic, political, & social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism & generational poverty. Today we pray especially for Kathy, Helen, Gail, Carl, Pam, Mary Lou, Tim, Brenna, Bruce, Frank D., Jonathan, Madeline, Kate, Ann, Susan, Rich, Rowen, Shawn, Archer, Ruth, Steve, Dick, Mindy, Kristina, family & friends of Steve, Jeanette, Khams & his people & family in Manipur... & all those we name aloud or in our hearts. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it brings hope & life. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great. Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at

Transforming God, you accompany all through changes & transitions.

O God. Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name

of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Receive our prayer,

† Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always

And also with you.

The people greet one another 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.

A practice of the

Christ's peace in each other and

share it together.

ancient church.

we recognize

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.

The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.

- 1 Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
 - thanks be to you forever!
 Raising high the weak and lowly:
 thanks be to you forever!
 - 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever! Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!

Ending: Thanks be to you forever!

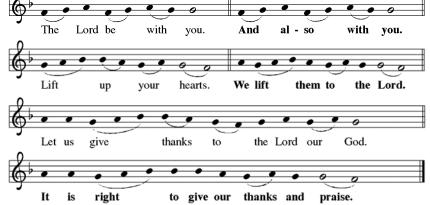
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† Offering Hymn: Praise to You O God of Mercy, ELW 208 v. 1 & 2

† Offering Prayer

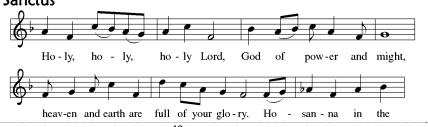
Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

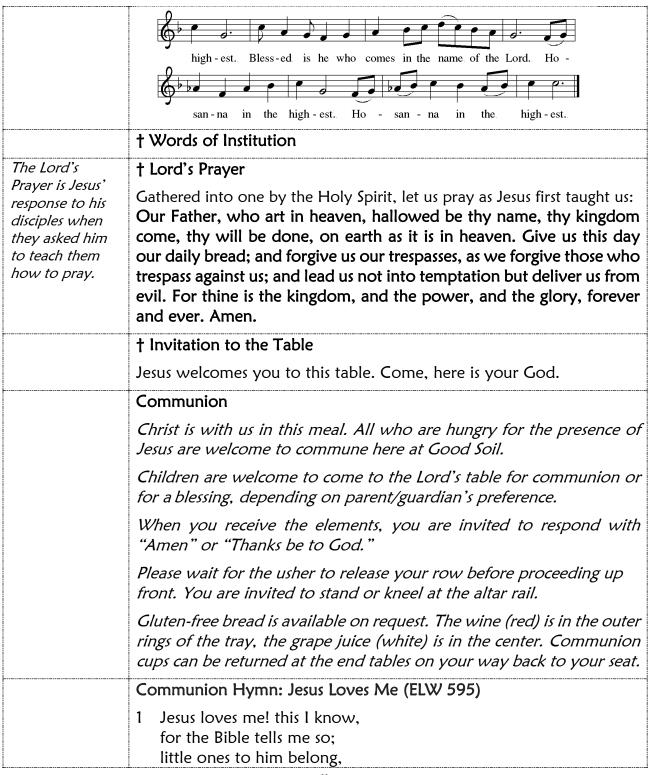
† Great Thanksgiving



† Preface

† Sanctus





they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

- 2 Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gates to open wide; he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. *Refrain*
- 3 Jesus loves me! he will stay close beside me all the way; when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high. *Refrain*

Communion Hymn: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (ELW 843)

- Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light; praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.

 Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word; praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand; from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place; Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness,

	seeing what our God has done. Praise the one redeeming glory;			
	praise the One who makes us one.			
	1. Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt. 2. Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955 Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.			
	† Post-Communion Table Blessing			
	Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.			
	Blessing and Dedication of Parking Lot			
<u></u>	<u>The Sending</u>			
	God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. † Blessing			
	God all mighty, God most merciful \pm bless you, keep you, and give you peace. Amen.			
Through the sending hymn	† Sending Hymn: Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing (ELW 389) v. 1, 2, 3, 5			
we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.	 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die. 			
	2 Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.			
	3 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.			
	5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.			
	Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.			

The dismissal sends us out as Christ's	† Dismissal
Body: fed,	Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
nourished, & ready	Thanks be to God.
to serve. Worship	
has ended, and	
our service begins!	
	Postlude

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Coffee hour is on summer break!

Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Isaac Krankowski	Reader: Anne Paine
Ushers: Mark & Mary Kay Liston	Counters: Barbara Munch & Mark Liston
Online Usher: Ellen Young	Acolyte: George Young



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, August 25, 2024

Especially in our prayers: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Barbins of the NEO Synod, Kathy Aloi, 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 Schluep, 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 today are given with gratitude for God's compassion, forgiveness and salvation, and in memory of Jerry W. Hoegner; loved all, loved by all.

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 or text 216-408-0304.

September is our special Season of Creation celebration at Good Soil. Each Sunday we'll look at the different ways God shows God's love for us through God's creation. Please mark your calendars for 9/1 & 15. On these Sundays, Good Soil will celebrate services outdoors under the big cottonwood tree in the parking lot (in the Sanctuary if weather doesn't permit). Please bring a folding chair! Also, as part of the month-long celebration, you're invited now to drop off or email Cara in the church office up to 5 of your favorite photos reflecting all the glory with which God's creation surrounds us; flowers, trees, clouds, sunsets, sunrises, rivers, lakes, oceans, birds, bees, butterflies, mountains, animals, etc. We'll incorporate them in our creation collage board. See you then!

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!



TODAY: Good Soil's RIC team is hosting a Lunch & Learn on *Welcome to All – Living Out God's Hospitality on Sunday Morning.* Join us after worship in the lounge for a presentation by Pr. Eric Bodenstab. We'll discuss why we welcome, how to welcome, & the problem with "All are Welcome". Scan the QR code to the left for the Zoom link.

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 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, or visit www.suburbancooperative.com

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Aug 25	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
	Back to School Blessing	
	Blessing and Dedication of Parking Lot	
Sun, Aug 25	"How to be a Welcoming Church" by Pr. Eric Bodenstab	11:15 am
Sun, Sept 1	Outdoor Worship- Planet Earth Sunday Bring a chair!	9:30 am
Sat, Sept 7	Ladies' Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun, Sept 8	In-Person and Livestream Worship- Humanity Sunday	9:30 am
Sun, Sept 8	God's Work Our Hands ELCA Sunday Service Project: stuffing	10:30 am
	hygiene bags for Trials for Hope in Fellowship Hall	
Sat, Sept 14	Team Up to Clean Up Service Project @ Lutheran Metro	8:30 am
	Ministries (2100 Lakeside Ave)	
Sun, Sept 15	Outdoor Worship- Sky Sunday Bring a chair!	9:30 am