

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



13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 18th, 2024
9:30 am



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Rocky River, OH 44116
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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

Please ask an usher about our 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.

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, & invites all to come & eat her bread & drink her wine. The 1st chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created, with a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), invites us to eat his flesh & drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread & wine we share.

Gathering

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

Prelude and Welcome

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider, help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

† Gathering Hymn: Soul Adorn Yourself with Gladness (ELW 488) v. 1, 3, 4

1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor,
there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

- 3 Now in faith I humbly ponder
 over this surpassing wonder
 that the bread of life is boundless
 though the souls it feeds are countless;
 with the choicest wine of heaven
 Christ's own blood to us is given.
 Oh, most glorious consolation,
 pledge and seal of my salvation.
- 4 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
 truest friend, and dearest treasure,
 peace beyond all understanding,
 joy into all life expanding:
 humbly now, I bow before you,
 love incarnate, I adore you;
 worthily let me receive you,
 and, so favored, never leave you.

Text: Johann Franck 1618-1677 tr *Lutheran Book of Worship* Text © 1978 Augsburg Fortress.

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

† Prayer of the Day

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Word

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

First Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6

To put this reading into context:

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

Hear now the reading.

- ¹Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
⁴“You that are simple, turn in here!”
To those without sense she says,
⁵“Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

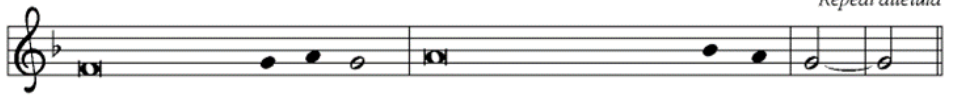
Thanks be to God.

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

† Gospel Acclamation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

through the
Living Word of
the Gospel.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

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 6:51-58

To put this gospel reading into context:

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

The holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵²The Jewish authorities then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

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.

Sermon: The Rev. David Connor

Silence for Reflection.

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: We Eat the Bread of Teaching (ELW 518)

Refrain: We eat the bread of teaching,
drink wine of wisdom,
are given here a taste of the kingdom.
Together joined, the greatest and the least,
we all are one at Wisdom's holy feast.

1 Wisdom calls throughout the city,
knows our hunger, and in pity
gives her loving invitation
to the banquet of salvation. *Refrain*

2 Simple ones whose hearts are yearning,
come and gain from Wisdom's learning;
bread and wine she is preparing,
know her loving in the sharing. *Refrain*

3 Enter with delight and singing,
for her richness now is bringing
us this joyful celebration;
eat and drink in jubilation. *Refrain*

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997 Text © 1998 World Library Publications. 3708 River Rd., Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131. All rights reserved.

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 Intercession

Calling on the spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, & all in need.

A brief silence.

May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. We especially pray for Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Bishop Laura Barbins. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation. Protect and conserve the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair

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*

wages and safe working conditions. We pray for all impacted by war, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Haiti, India, and places in Africa. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort. 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 and family in Manipur... & all those we name aloud or in our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek refuge in God. Break down walls & barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

May we journey on wisdom's paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God and trust that you receive them into your holy keeping. **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.

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.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, & your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil keep making an impact by giving today with 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.

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

- 1 Praise to you, O God of mercy:
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!

Text: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

† Offering Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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

† Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

† 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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

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."

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding down the center aisle to the front in a single-file line. We will be observing standing processional communion, rather than kneeling at the rail.

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 cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: I am the Bread of Life (ELW 485)

1 "I am the Bread of life.
You who come to me shall not hunger,
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

Refrain: "And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."

2 "The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever, you shall live forever." *Refrain*

3 "Unless you eat
of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his blood,
and drink of his blood,
you shall not have life within you." *Refrain*

4 "I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
If you believe in me,
even though you die, you shall live forever." *Refrain*

5 Yes, Lord, I believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
who have come into the world. *Refrain*

Communion Hymn: Come, Let us Eat (ELW 491)

1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together,
our Lord's body let us take together.

2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

- 3 In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,
in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
in the presence of our Lord we gather.
- 4 Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,
rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

1. Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6 Text © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. 2. Text: Billema Kwillia, b. c. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt. Text sts. 1-3 © Lutheran World Federation. Text st. 4 © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

† 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

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

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

† Sending Hymn: Let Us Go Now to the Banquet (ELW 523)

Refrain: Let us go now to the banquet,
to the feast of the universe.
The table's set and a place is waiting;
come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.

- 1 I will rise in the early morning;
the community's waiting for me.
With a spring in my step I'm walking
with my friends and my family. *Refrain*
- 2 God invites all the poor and hungry
to the banquet of justice and good
where the harvest will not be hoarded
so that no one will lack for food. *Refrain*

3 May we build such a place among us
 where all people are equal in love.
 God has called us to work together
 and to share ev'rything we have. *Refrain*

Text: Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955, *Misa popular salvadoreña*; tr. Bret Hesla, b. 1957, and William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956
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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. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Coffee hour is on summer break!

Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Sean Lanter	Reader: Anne Paine
Ushers: Dave Blocksom & Stan Zeager	Counters: Joe Lanter & David Paine
Online Usher: Kathy Berkshire	Acolyte: Evan Lanter



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, August 18, 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 Sudan.

The altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God in honor of Larry Jacobson's birthday and for educators and students as we enter this new season of learning.

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 SEPTEMBER 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 Sat, 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 25th. 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!

Save the Date: Sun, 8/25, 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, and the problem with "All are Welcome". Scan the QR code to the left for the Zoom link.

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.



Gather Together Hike- Gather Together (20's&30's age) will hold a spiritual hike 8/29 at 5:45 PM. We'll meet at the Bain Park Cabin Gazebo (21077 N Park Dr, Fairview Park, OH 44126) for time in nature, incorporating a spiritual practice, a walk through the woods, and time together. Parents with children are welcome to bring little ones along—we'll take a mid-point break for discussion at a nearby playground where kids can play. Contact Mary Washburn to RSVP or if you have any questions: 210-241-8455 or mary.washburn@outlook.com.

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 18	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sat, Aug 24	Produce Distribution, New Covenant Lutheran Church, 1424 Hayden Avenue, East Cleveland	8:00 am
Sat, Aug 24	Gather Together Hike- Bain Park Cabin Gazebo, 21077 N Park Dr, Fairview Park, OH 44126	5:45 pm
Sun, Aug 25	In-Person and Livestream Worship <i>Back to School Blessing</i> <i>Blessing and Dedication of Parking Lot</i>	9:30 am
Sun, Aug 25	"How to be a Welcoming Church" by Pr. Eric Bodenstab	11:15 am

