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



Second Sunday in the Season of Creation "Humanity Sunday" September 8th, 2024 9:30 am



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

The Rev. Marissa Harrison pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org Cell Phone: 813-494-6507

Church Administrator Cara Rovella admin@goodsoillutheran.org

Worship and Music Coordinator Brynna Bailer Mango brynnabailermango@gmail.com

> Website: GoodSoilLutheran.org Facebook: goodsoillutheranministries Instagram: goodsoilchurch YouTube: Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

<u>Welcome</u>

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.

Humanity Sunday

This Sunday "The Season of Creation" continues -- 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 the work of caretaking and healing. This Sunday is Humanity Sunday, and we celebrate the kinship between humanity and the rest of creation. God took on flesh and blood to be a human being and teach us how to care for one another and the world. As humans who bear the image of God, our role is to be servants who follow the image of God in Christ, the redeemer of all creation.

	<u>Gathering</u> 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 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 and, 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. We have polluted the atmosphere with greenhouse gases. We have turned our greed into global warming. We are part of a 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.

	\dagger Gathering Hymn: Shall We Gather at the River (ELW 423) v. 1, 2, 4
	Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
	<i>Refrain:</i> Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.
	2 On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray, we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. <i>Refrain</i>
	 Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease; soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. <i>Refrain</i> Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899
The assembly and	† Greeting
presiding minister greet one another. (scripture reference: 2 Corinthians)	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
	 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,

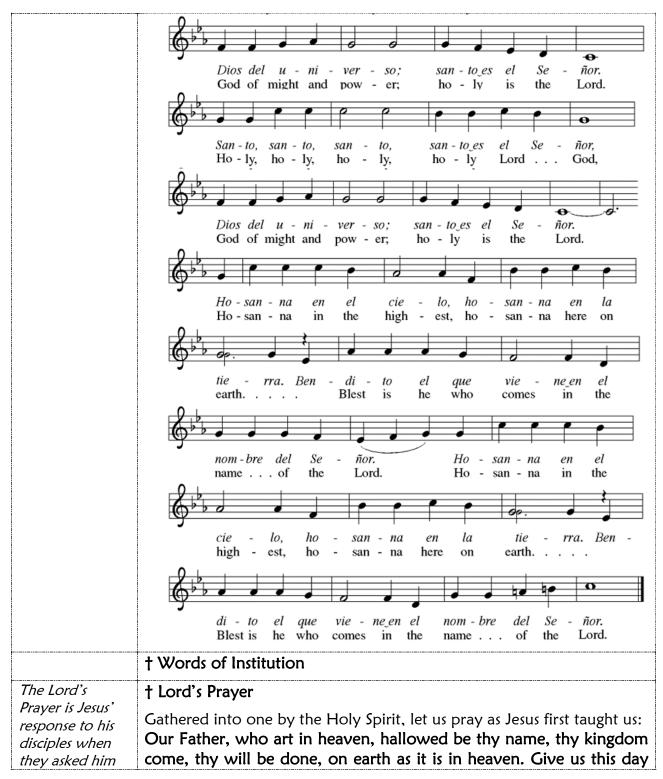
	declare their maker's praise. This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'rywhere. Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901
The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.	† Prayer of the Day God, our Creator, as we reflect on the ways that humans have sought to dominate creation help us to hear the cries of our fellow creatures. Fill us with your risen power so that we may preserve our planet home and celebrate life with people from all lands and nations. In the name of Christ, the Risen Servant of all. Amen.
	<u>The Word</u> God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song. New Testament Reading: Philippians 2:1-8
	To put this reading into context:
	The message of Paul is that when Christ became human it meant emptying himself of divine power and dominion and becoming a servant.
	Hear now the reading.
	¹ If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.
	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)* *This gospel acclamation tunes comes from our Muscogee (Creek) native siblings and may be sung in a round. 1* 2 3 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 - jah. He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - jah.
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 10:42-45 To put this gospel reading into context: Jesus warns his disciples against seeking power and dominion like that of the Romans. The disciples are to serve like Christ, rather than be served. The Son of Humanity came to serve, not to be served. The holy Gospel according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.
	 ⁴²Jesus called [the disciples] and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be servant of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." 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:
	When humanity is at its best, how do we reflect the character of God? What are some examples of this? How can you do this?

The Hymn of the	† Hymn of the Day: God's Work, Our Hands (ACS 1000) v. 1, 3, 4
Day is the assembly's proclaimed response to the sermon—making the sermon event a mutual conversation of	 God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world, raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold. Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.
faith.	3 God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear, praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least. Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.
	 God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise! Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love. Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your gospel. Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress
As the church,	† Prayers of the Church
we pray for those in our community and	With all of creation, we pray for the church, the world, & all in need. <i>A brief silence.</i>
around the world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our own participation.	Revealing God, you make yourself known throughout creation. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. We especially pray for Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Bishop Laura Barbins. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.
Each petition addresses a different topic,	Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.
often in the same pattern:	Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet the complex needs of others. We pray for all impacted by war,

+ The Church + Creation + Nations and leaders +Those in need + This faith community + The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God	especially in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Haiti, India and places in Africa. We also pray for all affected by the school shooting in Georgia. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer . Transforming God, you have created every human being in your image. Break chains of discrimination & injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard & inspire us to advocate for those who are overlooked. Today we especially pray for Kathy, Helen, Gail, Carl, Pam, Mary Lou, Tim, Brenna, Bruce, Frank D., family & friends of Evelyn, Jonathan, Madeline, Kate, Ann, Alis, Susan, Rich, Rowen, Shawn, Archer, Ruth, Steve, Dick, Mindy, Kristina, Jeanette, Scott, Khams & his people & family in Manipur and all those we name aloud or in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer . Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of
	life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. 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	† Passing of the Peace
ancient church, we recognize Christ's peace in	The Peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.
each other and share it together.	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	<u>The Meal</u> God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.
with everything we have. Our offering is one	
with everything we have. Our	God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The offering is	† Offering Hymn: Light Dawns on a Weary World (ELW 726) v. 1			
brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.	 Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes. 			
	Refrain: The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing! We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.			
Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.				
	† 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 Earth. Help us be caretakers of our sacred home. Amen.			
	† Great Thanksgiving			
	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	
	† Sanctus San - to, san - to, san - to es el Se - ñor, Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God,			



to teach them how to pray.	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."
	Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar 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: O God of Every Nation (ELW 713)
	1 O God of ev'ry nation, of ev'ry race and land, redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand; where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled, in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.
	2 From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right, from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night, from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,

_		
		deliver ev'ry nation, eternal God, we pray.
	3	Lord, strengthen all who labor that all may find release from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase; when hope and courage falter, Lord, let your voice be heard; with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.
	4	Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease, when hatred and division give way to love and peace, till dawns the morning glorious when truth and love shall reign, and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.
	Co	mmunion Hymn: Let Streams of Living Justice
	1	Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth; give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth. The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights, the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight. Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r;
		abolish ancient vengeance:

(ELW 710)

2 For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end, for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;

proclaim your people's hour.

	knit our lives as they are spun; on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run. O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one; dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.	
	 3 Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek; your harmony is language; we are the words you speak. Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams, our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams. Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way—the path untried; your truth—the heart of stranger; your life—the Crucified. 1 Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923 Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. 2 Text: William Whitla, b. 1934 Text © 1989 William Whitla. 	
	† Post-Communion Table Blessing	
	Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.	
	<u>The Sending</u> 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: A New Commandment (WOV 664) A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you, that you love one another as I have loved you.	

	By this shall people know you are my disciples, if you have love one for another; by this shall people know you are my disciples: if you have love one for another. Text: John 13:34-35
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

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. Worship texts are from <u>sundaysandseasons.com</u>. Copyright 2024. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS020986 Music reprinted under One License #A-719034 or CCLI license #3013830. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Coffee hour is on summer break!

Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Joe Lanter	Reader: Abbie Blocksom
Ushers: Dave Blocksom & Bill Fink	Counters: Dave Blocksom & Bill Fink
Online Usher: Eliored Romero Alvarado	Acolyte: Luke Williamson
Cantor: David Paine	Altar Care: Evan Paine



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, September 8, 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, family & friends of Evelyn Gorczynskier, Jonathan Gray, Madeline Kelly, Kate Labuda, Ann Layman, Alis Morris, Susan Omerod, Shawn O'Neil, Archer Oster, Ruth Patrick, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Rowen, Dick Schluep, Mindy S., Kristina Seeley, Jeanette Weidlich, Scott Wylie, Khams Zotal & his family & people of Manipur, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Haiti, India and places in Africa, and all those affected by the school shooting in Georgia.

Flowers in loving memory of Mildred Wancata (Mike's Mom) and Herman Mahnke (JoAnne 's Dad) on their birthdays.

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. <u>Please note</u>: 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. You may also bring your own flowers instead of buying them through Good Soil, but please do still sign up to do so.

God's Work Our Hands, TODAY and Saturday Today after church, join us for refreshments and 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. If you have any questions, 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. On 9/15, Good Soil will celebrate service outdoors under the big cottonwood tree in the parking lot (in the Sanctuary if weather doesn't permit). Please bring a lawn chair! *We welcome you to 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.* Also, check out the photo collage outside the sanctuary doors 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. Thank you for your photos!

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: <u>https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp</u> 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 <u>suburbancoop@gmail.com</u>, or visit <u>www.suburbancooperative.com</u>

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
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
Sun, Sept 25	In-Person and Livestream Worship- Mountain Sunday	9:30 am
Sun, Sept 29	In-Person and Livestream Worship- Season of Creation	9:30 am
	Hymn-Sing	