

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



1st Sunday of Advent
December 1st, 2024
9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116
(440) 331-1773 | GoodSoilLutheran.org

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Facebook/Instagram: [goodsoillutheranministries](https://www.facebook.com/goodsoillutheranministries)
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.

1st Sunday of Advent

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

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,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned.**
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned.**
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned.**
We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.

† **Gathering Hymn: My Lord, What a Morning (ELW 438)**

Refrain: My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.

- 1 You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 2 You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 3 You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

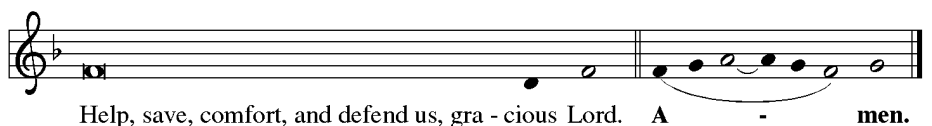
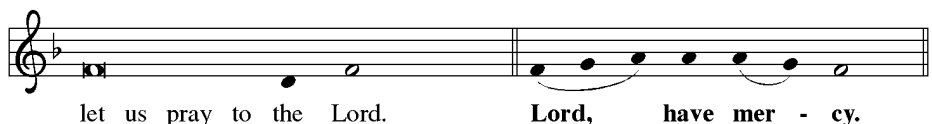
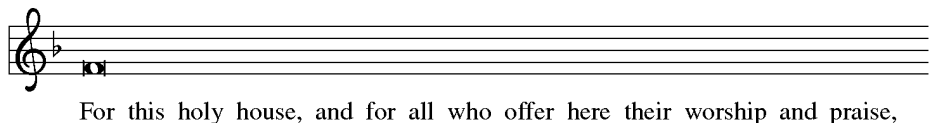
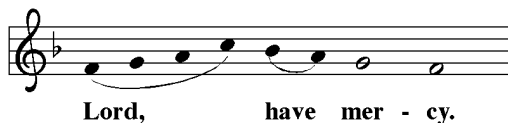
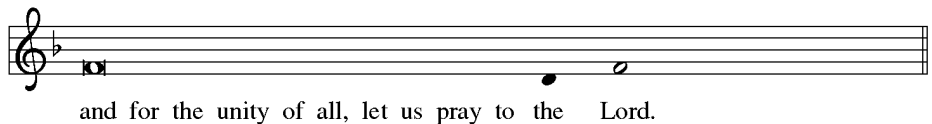
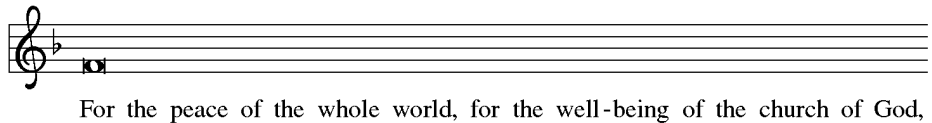
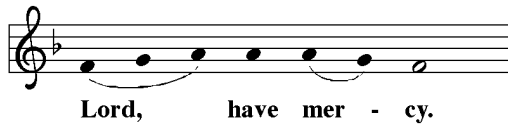
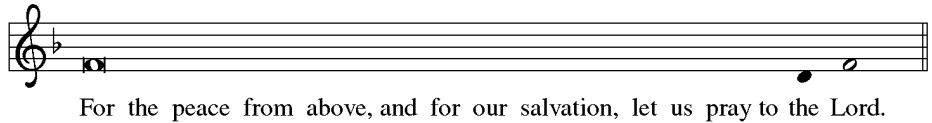
*The assembly and
presiding minister
greet one
another.
(scripture
reference:
2 Corinthians)*

† **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.

† Kyrie



The Prayer of the Day highlights themes in the scripture we will hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Word

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

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

To put this reading into context:

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

Hear now the reading.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1, 4-10



¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

⁴Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted
all | the day long.

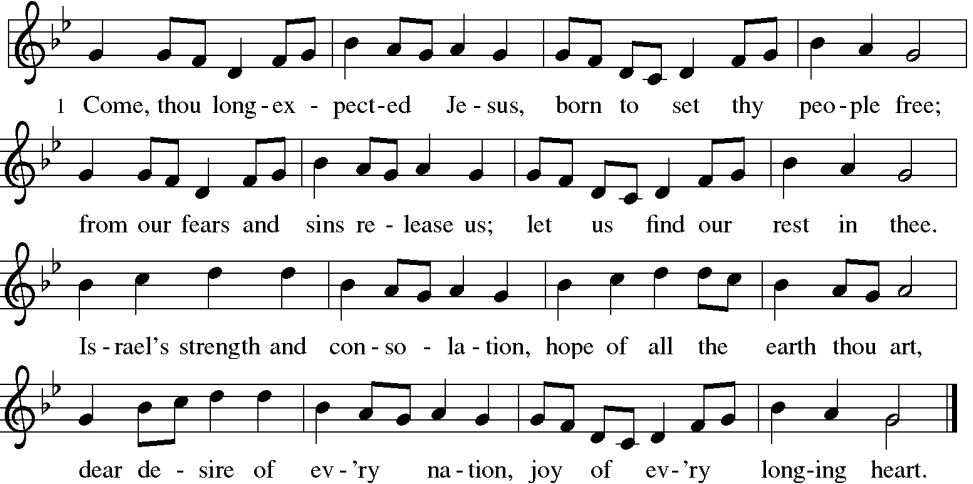
⁶Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake
of your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
 therefore you teach sinners | in your way.
⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
 and teach the low- | ly your way.
¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
 to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

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: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus- ELW 254**



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.

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: Luke 21:25-36

To put this reading into context:

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Children grade 4 and younger are invited to step out with our Sunday School teachers for a “Learn and Grow in Faith” class during the sermon. They will return during the Passing of the Peace.

† Advent Wreath Hymn: Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, ELW 240 (v.1)

1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Sermon: The Rev. Jim Kulma

Silence for Reflection.

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.

You’re invited to reflect on the following question (see sermon slide).

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

†Hymn of the Day: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (ELW 241)v 1, 3, 4

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,
your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.
- 3 Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling,
our lost and fallen race.
- 4 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed
and tremble at your doom.
All hail the Lord's appearing!
O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering
and guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite

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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. *A brief silence.*

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help

<p><i>Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:</i></p> <p><i>+ The Church</i> <i>+ Creation</i> <i>+ Nations and leaders</i> <i>+ Those in need</i> <i>+ This faith community</i> <i>+ The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God</i></p>	<p>us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. We pray especially for Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Haiti, India, Syria, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>God of change, you accompany us through life’s transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. We especially pray for Helen, Fred, Mildred, Gail, Carl, Pam, Mary Lou, Bruce, Frank, Sara, Donna, Madeline, Kate, Ann, Susan, Sally, Ruth, Rich, Mindy, Kristina, Jeanette, Khams and his community in Manipur... and all those we name aloud or in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.</p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, we recognize Christ’s peace in each other and share it together.</i></p>	<p>† Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>

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 using the QR code or at <https://pushpay.com/g/goodsoillutheran>

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: O Come O Come Emmanuel- ELW 257 v. 1

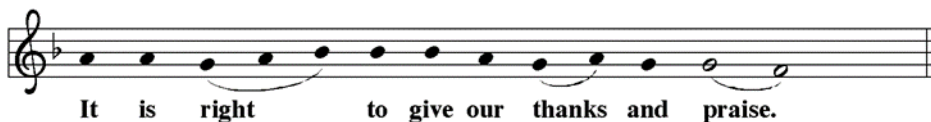
1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

† Offering Prayer

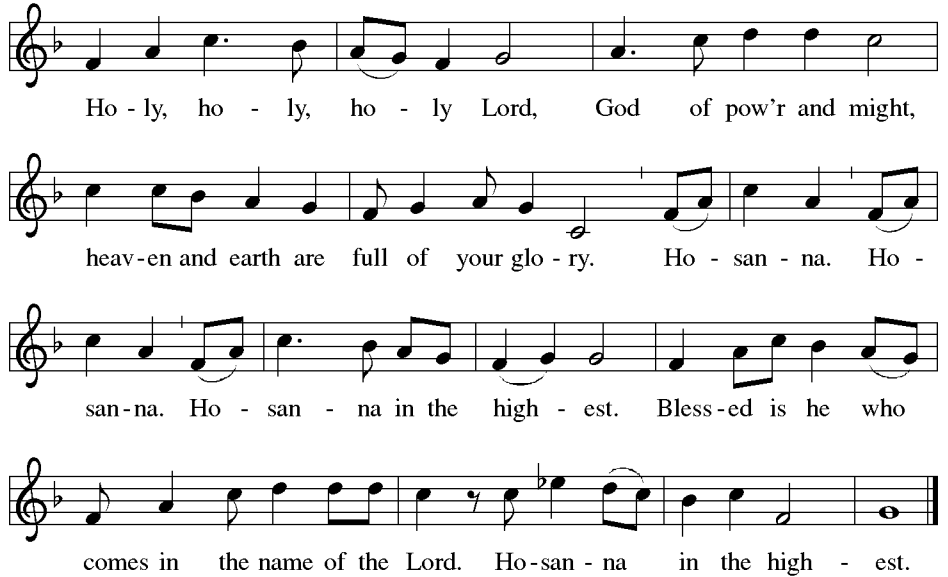
Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving



† Preface

† Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

† 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

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

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: Come Now, O Prince of Peace. (ELW 247)

- 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
- 4 Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Text: Geon-yong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope Text © Geonyong Lee.

Communion Hymn: People Look East (ELW 248)

- 1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
- 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,

shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.

4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

† 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

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
† bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

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

† Sending Hymn: The King Shall Come (ELW 260) v. 1, 3, 4, & 5

1 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes.

4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes,

and we shall see his face.

- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

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

† Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Stan Zeager & Dave Blocksom	Livestream: Isaac Krankowski
Reader: William Eversole	Acolyte: Amelia Foreshey
Counters: Stan Zeager & David Connor	Altar Care: Anne Paine
Online Usher:	Communion Bread: Sarah Sburlea
Cantor: Erik Bogen	

Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Dec 1, 2024

Especially in our prayers: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Barbins of the NEO Synod, Helen Andrews, Fred Ayers, Mildred Baehr, Gail Boggs, Carl Bruns, Pam Bruns, Mary Lou Busby, Bruce Crosby, Frank Dunaway, Sara Gresh, Donna Handy, Madeline Kelly, Kate Labuda, Ann Layman, Susan Omerod, Sally Pate, Ruth Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Mindy S., Kristina Seeley, Jeanette Weidlich, Khams Zotal & his people in Manipur, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Haiti, India, Syria, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the glory of God by William Eversole.



Help make 2025 ministry dreams a reality! Submit your Intent Card for 2025- Join the 42 households who have submitted their intents for our Generosity Emphasis, "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"! Scan the QR code to the left to access the digital intent form.

Interested in becoming an official member of Good Soil? The Welcome of New Members rite will take place during worship on Sunday, Dec 8th. Being there in-person is encouraged, but not required. All new members are asked to submit a new member form, a photo, and an introduction paragraph (your vocation, interests, family, how you experience God, what drew you to Good Soil and what keeps you coming back, etc.). Please email those forms, pics, and paragraphs to CCLC@goodsoillutheran.org by Friday, Nov 22nd. To receive the form, please contact the same email address, call 440-331-1773, or drop by the church office. All new members are invited to attend a new member orientation (adult forum) after worship on Sun, Dec 1st.

Coffee Hour Fellowship- We need volunteer hosts to set-up, brew, & clean-up the coffee/tea service &/or bring snacks/baked goods. The Coffee Hour volunteer sign-up is on the bulletin board by the lounge. Contact JoAnne Wancata (cell: 440-655-3674) with questions.

Introducing PushPay- Good Soil has transitioned to a new contribution & accounting software called PushPay, replacing Vanco. If you had an account through Vanco, you've received an email to set up an account on PushPay & migrate your recurring offering if you have one. Scan the QR code to the right or in the *Offering* section of the bulletin to visit our new PushPay giving page!



Christmas and the Children's Pageant are Coming! Good Soil's Children's Christmas Pageant is set for December 22nd during the weekly service. Please contact Director Pam Lanter by FRIDAY 11/22 to let her know if your child(ren) will or will not participate and whether they can have a speaking part. Please also let her know if your tweens/teens would like to assist as narrators, stagehands, costumers, etc. Rehearsals are tentatively scheduled as follows -- don't worry if kids can't make all sessions.

- Sunday 12/8 (Fellowship Hall) and 12/15 (Sanctuary) following worship (approximately 11:00 a.m. to Noon)
- Saturday 12/21 (approximate 9 or 9:30 a.m. start TBD)

Socks “Plus” Giving Tree for Trials for Hope! Please join in decorating our Advent Giving Tree with gifts of comfort and joy for those served by Trials for Hope.

Sunday 12/8 thru Sunday 12/29 in the upstairs coffee kitchen across from the Lounge. SUGGESTED GIFTS: Warm Socks - USB Charging Blocks - Multi-charging Power Cords - Hats-Gloves-Individual Packets of Starkist Tuna Creations and/or Spam Single Classics. *Ongoing items requested by Trials for Hope (e.g., Diapers size 6, canned meats, personal hygiene products, etc.) can be placed in the box beneath the tree.)*

MOW Volunteer Coordinator Opening- West Shore Meals On Wheels is looking for an enthusiastic person to support volunteer coordination efforts. The Coordinator is responsible for various related tasks that assist with the effective and efficient operation of the Rocky River-Lakewood Kitchen. This position interacts with Unit and Executive Board Members, recipients, volunteers, donors, staff and vendors. The Coordinator is also responsible for managing data, scheduling volunteers, assisting with fundraisers, and attending all Unit Board meetings. MOW’s current Coordinator will provide training. This paid position averages 16-24 hours per week. For more information please email executiveboard@westshoremow.org.

MOW looking for Drivers- West Shore Rocky River-Lakewood Meals on Wheels is in search of drivers to deliver meals to our recipients, especially Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please contact 440-333-6298 or rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org for further info.

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. You may also bring your own flowers instead of buying them through Good Soil, but please do still sign up.



Newsletter- Want to keep up with news at Good Soil or share the e-news with friends? Sign up or share our newsletter using the QR code or URL to the right: <https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp>



SUNDAY SCHOOL- We've returned to weekly Sunday faith formation for kids as we share Learn & Grow and Experience & Grow opportunities during Sunday services. Additionally, kids will participate in special activities during planned monthly congregational events after worship. (Event updates will be announced, ongoing.) Contact JoAnne Wancata (cell: 440-655-3674) with questions OR to join the weekly rotation of Learn & Grow teachers/helpers.

Learn & Grow time during the worship service: Coloring, crafts, Bible stories, sharing, light snack, etc., in the classrooms on the first floor during the sermon & reflection time for adults in the sanctuary. For children in Preschool/Kindergarten through 4th grade.

Experience & Grow time participating in the worship service: Participating in the worship experience, including sermon & reflection time. Access to special materials on the "Experience & Grow" stand in the Prayground. For Grade 5 through Confirmation.

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
Sun, Dec 1	In-Person & Livestream Worship: First Sunday of Advent	9:30 am
Sat, Dec 7	Ladies' Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun Dec 8	In-Person & Livestream Worship: Welcome of New Members	9:30 am
Sun, Dec 8	Congregational Meeting	10:30 am
Sun, Dec 15	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sun, Dec 22	In-Person & Livestream Worship <i>Children's Christmas Pageant during worship</i>	9:30 am

