

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



Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve
December 24th, 2024
6:30 pm



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116
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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.

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Gathering

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

Prelude and Welcome

† Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 9 and John 1)

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.
He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.

For the Word became flesh and lives among us.
We have seen his glory. O come, let us adore him!

† Gathering Hymn: Oh, Come All Ye Faithful - ELW 283 v. 1, 2, 3

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father

	<p>now in flesh appearing! <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880</p>
<p><i>The assembly and presiding minister greet one another. (scripture reference: 2 Corinthians)</i></p>	<p>† Greeting</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><i>The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.</i></p>	<p>† Prayer of the Day</p> <p>Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</p>
	<p>Children's Sermon</p>
	<p>Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Christ Candle</p> <p>Christ Candle Hymn: Go Tell It On the Mountain- ELW 290 (x2)</p> <p>Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! <i>Repeat</i></p> <p>Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925</p>
<p><i>The Gospel of Luke is the only gospel to feature the beloved infancy narrative of Jesus.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Word</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.</i></p> <p>Gospel Part 1: Luke 2:1-7 (Common English Bible Version)</p> <p>¹In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in tax lists. ²This first</p>

enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. ³ Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. ⁴ Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. ⁵ He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Hymn: Away in the Manger- ELW 277 v 1

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Gospel Part 2: Luke 2:8-14 (Common English Bible Version)

⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹ Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly host was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing- ELW 270 v 1

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,

	<p>"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"</p> <p>Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.</p>
<p><i>The Gospel is announced. Following the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.</i></p>	<p>† Gospel Part 3: Luke 2:15-20 (Common English Bible Version)</p> <p>The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.</p> <p>¹⁵ When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." ¹⁶ They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. ²⁰ The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.</p> <p>The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.</p>
	<p>Christmas Eve Homily – The Rev. Marissa Harrison</p> <p><i>Silence for reflection</i></p> <p><i>Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You're invited to reflect on the following question:</i></p> <p><i>Who has helped you experience the Good News of Christmas ("the Word made flesh") in tangible ways? When have you been on the receiving end of "Christmas kindness"? How will you pass that on this season and into the New Year?</i></p>
	<p>† Hymn of the Day: O Little Town of Bethlehem- ELW 279 (v. 1, 3, 4)</p> <p>1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!</p>

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

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

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


† Prayers of the Church

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the Earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

The angels sing and the shepherds run with haste. As we glorify you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the Good News you have revealed this night. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creation resounds with praise. Inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

<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>The nations declare your glory. Uphold leaders with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. We pray especially for the many places and people experiencing violence around the world. God of grace, receive our prayer.</p> <p>The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to those experiencing homelessness, those who are grieving or alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children with your love and mercy. We especially pray for those we name aloud or in our hearts tonight. <i>A brief silence.</i> God of grace, receive our prayer.</p> <p>The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Shape us into people who continue to share your love and mercy with all. God of grace, receive our prayer.</p> <p>We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.</p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another 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. <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>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Meal</u> <i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Offering</p> <p>God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and 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 <i>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.</i></p> 

<p><i>The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.</i></p>	<p>† Offering Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High- ELW 289 v. 1</p> <p>1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.</p> <p><small>Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, <i>The Crown of Jesus Music</i>, 1864</small></p>
	<p>† Offering Prayer</p> <p>God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your Good News each day. Amen.</p>
	<p>† Great Thanksgiving</p> <p>The Lord be with you. And also with you.</p> <p>Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.</p> <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>
	<p>† Words of Institution</p>
<p><i>The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i></p>	<p>† Lord's Prayer</p> <p>Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:</p> <p>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.</p>

† Invitation to Communion

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

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 in **a single line**. We will be observing standing processional communion this evening.*

Gluten-free bread is available upon 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 Special Music: Melodies on Viola and Violin by mother-son musicians, Deb Yandala and Matt Bishop

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

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

Amen.

† Candlelight Hymn: Silent Night- ELW 281

*Please tip the **unlit** candle to receive the flame.*

1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

- 2 Silent night, holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight;
 glories stream from heaven afar,
 heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light
 radiant beams from your holy face,
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

*With the blessing
 of God, we go out
 to live as Christ's
 body in the
 world.*

Sending

God blesses us and send us in mission to the world.

† Blessing

The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
 lavish you with grace,
 illumine your path,
 and increase your joy,
 today and always.

Amen.

Please extinguish your candle.

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

† Sending Hymn: Joy to the World- ELW 267 vs 1, 2, & 4

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her king;
 let ev'ry heart prepare him room
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
 Let all their songs employ,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

	<p>repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> <p>4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.</p> <p>Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748</p>
<p><i>The dismissal sends us out into the world as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!</i></p>	<p>† Dismissal</p> <p>Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you. Thanks be to God.</p>
	<p>Postlude</p>

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Merry Christmas!

Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Stan Zeager, Kim Wylie, and Chris & Larry Jacobson	Livestream: Sean Lanter
Readers: Bill Fink & Brenna Connor	Acolyte: Evan Lanter
Counters: Bill Fink & Larry Jacobson	Altar Care: Evan Paine
Online Usher: Ellen Young	Communion Bread: Darlene Wahl
Cantor: Kaitlyn Regan	Musicians: Deb Yandala, Matt Bishop, Dave Paine, William Eversole, & Erik Bogen



Announcements from Good Soil for Tuesday, Dec 24, 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 members of the Good Soil faith community to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

The Connor Family
Barbara Demko-Werner
Bill Fink
Sharon Hollowell
Larry & Chris Jacobson
The Molnar Family
Maureen Murman

Evan Paine & Natalie Tasseff
Lisa & Dave Sierk
John Shumaker
Nancie Smith
Kim Wylie
Stan Zeager
Two Anonymous Members



Help make 2025 ministry dreams a reality! Submit your Intent Card for 2025- Join the 44 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.



Summer 2026 Pastoral Renewal/Congregational Renewal- We're in the early stages of crafting a renewal experience (sabbatical) in summer 2026 for Pastor Marissa and the congregation. The experience is designed to be a time of intentional renewal for *both* the pastor and congregation. The Renewal Planning Team needs your input! Please fill out this 5-question survey using the QR code to the left.

Introducing PushPay- Interested in signing up for electronic and/or automatic giving? Scan the QR code to the right or in the *Offering* section of the bulletin to visit our new PushPay giving page!



Socks “Plus” Giving Tree for Trials for Hope through 1/5! 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- Weekly Sunday faith formation for kids includes 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.

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.



Meet Good Soil's new members! Scan the QR code to the left to learn more about Good Soil's new members!



Ministry Funding Plan- Scan the QR code to the left to view the approved Ministry Funding Plan for 2025!

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Tue, Dec 24	In-Person & Livestream Worship: Christmas Eve	6:30 pm
Sun, Dec 29	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sun, Jan 5	In-Person & Livestream Worship: Epiphany of our Lord	9:30 am
Thurs, Jan 9	Confirmation Class @ Bethesda on the Bay	6:00 pm
Sun, Jan 12	In-Person & Livestream Worship: Baptism of our Lord	9:30 am

