

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



1st Sunday of Christmas
December 29th, 2024
9:30 am



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

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YouTube: Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "pryground" 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 Christmas

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

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,
whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

**God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. **Amen.****

Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God’s chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
† forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

† Gathering Hymn: Good Christian Friends Rejoice (ELW 288)

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

*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 Eleison
means "Lord
have mercy."
Chanting is an*

† Kyrie



Musical notation for the Kyrie Eleison chant, showing the melody and lyrics: Ky - ri - e (e)le - i - son. Chri - ste

ancient practice of the church. This Kyrie was arranged by The Rev. Sarah Taylor, ELCA. Used with permission.



(e)lei - i - son. Lord have mer - cy on us.
Christ have mer - cy on us. Lord have mer - cy on
us. Christ have mer - cy on us.

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

† Prayer of the Day

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Word

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

New Testament Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

To put this reading into context:

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

Hear now the reading.

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and

admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148:1-6, 13-14



¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.
² Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.
³ Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
⁴ Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.
⁵ Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,
⁶ who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.
¹³ Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and
heaven.
¹⁴ The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near
the LORD. | Hallelujah!

*We welcome
the gospel by
singing the
Gospel
Acclamation.*

*We rise, if able,
in anticipation
of Christ being
revealed to us*

† Gospel Acclamation: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus- ELW 254

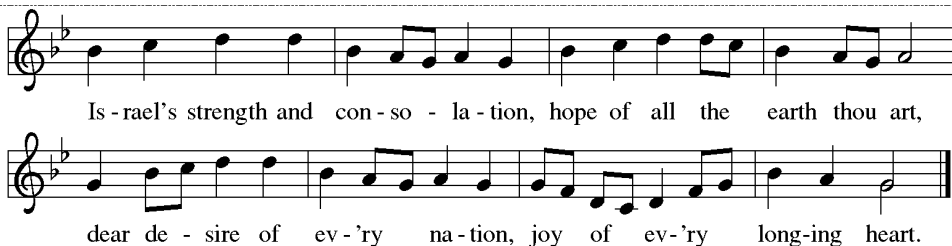


¹ Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.

*through the
Living Word of
the Gospel.*



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 2:41-52**

To put this reading into context:

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity & understanding of his identity & mission.

The holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴¹ Now every year [Jesus's] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

	<p>Children's Sermon</p>
	<p>Sermon: The Rev. Betti Hazelton</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>How do we see children of God in our teenagers and encourage them to see children of God in us?</i></p>
<p><i>The Hymn of the Day is the assembly's response to the sermon—making the sermon event a mutual faith conversation.</i></p>	<p>† Hymn of the Day: Let All Together Praise Our God (ELW 287) v 1-3, 5</p> <p>1 Let all together praise our God before the highest throne; today God opens heav'n again and sends the only Son, and sends the only Son.</p> <p>2 From God's right hand the Son descends, is born an infant small, and lies in poverty, his bed a manger in a stall, a manger in a stall.</p> <p>3 O tender Child, you veil in flesh the splendor of your might; a servant's garb now wraps the one who clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.</p> <p>5 A wonderful exchange you make: you take our flesh and blood, and in return give us to share the shining realm of God, the shining realm of God.</p> <p><small>Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561; tr. hymnal version Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.</small></p>
<p><i>As the church, we pray for those in our community and</i></p>	<p>† Prayers of the Church</p> <p>Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. <i>A brief silence.</i></p>

<p><i>around the world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our own participation.</i></p> <p><i>Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace, receive our prayer.</p> <p>For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace, receive our prayer.</p> <p>For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands. We pray especially for Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Haiti, India, Syria, Sudan, & the Democratic Republic of Congo. God of grace, receive our prayer.</p> <p>For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill. Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. 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. God of grace, receive our prayer.</p> <p>For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace, receive our prayer.</p> <p>We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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: Angels We Have Heard on High- ELW 289 v. 1

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

† Offering Prayer

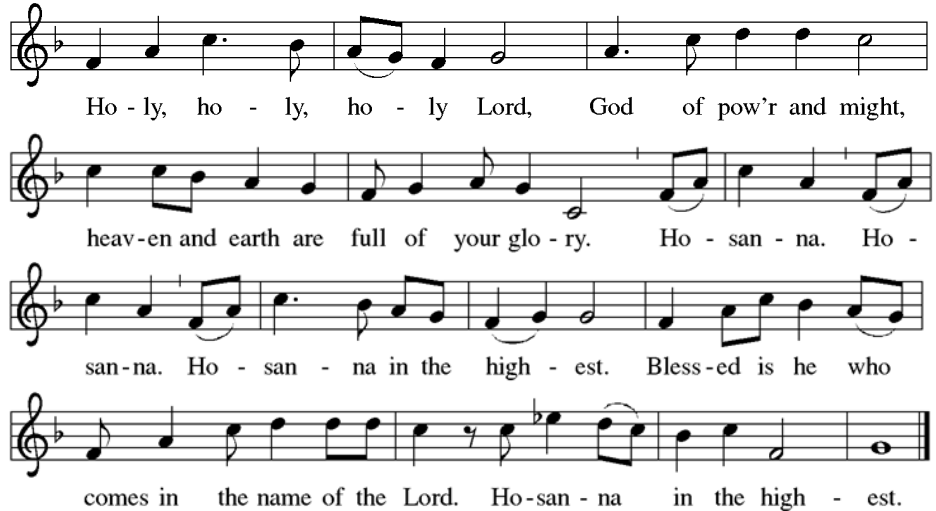
God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

† 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.

† Eucharistic Prayer and 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

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. 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 Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)

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
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Communion Hymn: God, the Sculptor of the Mountains (ELW 736)

1 God the sculptor of the mountains,
God the miller of the sand,

God the jeweler of the heavens,
God the potter of the land:
you are womb of all creation,
we are formless; shape us now.

2 God the nuisance to the Pharaoh,
God the cleaver of the sea,
God the pillar in the darkness,
God the beacon of the free:
you are fount of all deliv'rance,
we are sightless; lead us now.

3 God the dresser of the vineyard,
God the planter of the wheat,
God the reaper of the harvest,
God the source of all we eat:
you are host at ev'ry table,
we are hungry; feed us now.

4 God the unexpected infant,
God the calm, determined youth,
God the table-turning prophet,
God the resurrected truth:
you are present ev'ry moment,
we are searching; meet us now.

Text: John Thornburg, b. 1954 Text © 1993 John Thornburg, 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 God of love,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

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

† **Sending Hymn: Go Tell it on the Mountain (ELW 290)**

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

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

† **Dismissal**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Anne Paine & Stan Zeager	Livestream: Isaac Krankowski
Reader: Jennifer Krankowski	Acolyte: George Young
Counters: David Paine & Stan Zeager	Altar Care: Paula Maeder Connor
Cantor: Kaitlyn Regan	Communion Bread: Darlene Wahl



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Dec 29, 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.

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.



Summer 2026 Pastoral Renewal/Congregational Renewal: We are 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. More information about this opportunity will be shared at the 12/8/24 congregation meeting.

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!



LAST DAY: 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. We will bless these items in worship next week. Please drop them off 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 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.



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

Meet Good Soil's new members! Scan the QR code to the right to learn more about Good Soil's new members who joined 12/8/24.



Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
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
Sun, Jan 19	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am