

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



**Baptism of Our Lord Sunday**  
**January 12th, 2024**  
**9:30 am**



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

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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.

## Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall & celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, & the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, & we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread & wine.

### Gathering

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

#### Prelude and Welcome

#### † Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed are you, holy and living God,  
the source of all life and the fountain of salvation.

From the chaos of the formless deep,  
your voice called light and order.

From the waters of the flood, you brought your people into safety,  
sealing your promise in the arc of your rainbow.

Through the sea, you quenched the fire of Pharaoh's wrath,  
leading your people into freedom.

In this fragile earth, groaning with flames and smoke,  
you remain our refuge.

As wildfires roar across hills and valleys,  
threatening homes, lives, and the land itself,  
your very presence flows with the promise of life.

Let streams cool the scorched earth, rain fall to calm the burning,  
and rivers carve paths of safety through the ash.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of baptism.  
Enfolding us in love's flood. Smoldering our embers of despair  
Quenching our thirst by hope's renewing stream.

Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon this water,  
a well of deliverance for the weary, a font of grace for the grieving,  
a river of life for a land in need of healing.

To you, O God, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

† Gathering Hymn: Shall We Gather at the River (ELW 423) v. 1, 2, 3

1 Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever  
flowing by the throne of God?

*Refrain:* 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. *Refrain*

3 Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we ev'ry burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain*

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

*The assembly and  
presiding minister  
greet each other  
(scripture ref.  
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  
ancient practice  
of the church.*

† Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of  
 God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
 Lord, have mer - cy.  
 For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and  
 praise, let us pray to the Lord.  
 Lord, have mer - cy.  
 Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.  
 A - men.

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

### † Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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.*

**First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7**

To put this reading into context:

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the*



<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,  
 ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.  
<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;  
 worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.  
<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;  
 the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.  
<sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;  
 the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.  
<sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;  
 the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.  
<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength | to your people;  
 give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

*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**

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

*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 3:15-16, 21-22**

To put this reading into context:

*The reading opens with questions on the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptizer insists that he isn't the Messiah; instead, he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.*

The holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

<sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy

	<p>Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”</p> <p>The gospel of the Lord. <b>Praise to you, O Christ.</b></p>
	<p><b>Children’s Sermon</b></p>
	<p><b>Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison</b></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>What special memories have you had with, on, or by the water? Have any of those experiences felt “spiritual?” What was the setting? Who was there? What difference did it make in your life?</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><b>† Hymn of the Day: Christ, When for Us You were Baptized</b> (ELW 304) v. 1, 2, 4</p> <p>1 Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's Spirit on you came, as peaceful as a dove, and yet as urgent as a flame, as urgent as a flame.</p> <p>2 God called you, "My beloved Son"; you are God's servant true, sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n, God's holy will to do, God's holy will to do.</p> <p>4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord; your cross on us be signed, that likewise in God's service we may perfect freedom find, may perfect freedom find.</p> <p><small>Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt. Text © 1985 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved.</small></p>
<p><i>As the church, we pray for those in our community and</i></p>	<p><b>† Prayers of the Church</b></p> <p>With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. <i>A brief silence.</i></p>



*around the world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our own participation.*

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

- + The Church*
- + Creation*
- + Nations and leaders*
- + Those in need*
- + This faith community*
- + The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God*

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and all the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. Be especially with those experiencing war, violence, and oppression around the world and at home. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. We especially pray for Helen, Fred, Mildred, Gail, Carl, Pam, Mary Lou, Bruce, Frank, Sara, Donna, Madeline, Kate, Stan & 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.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

*A practice of the ancient church, we share in Christ's peace & recognize it in each other.*

### **† Passing of the Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.*

*God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.*

## The Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*



### Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, & your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil keep making an impact by giving today 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: One Bread, One Body (ELW 496) Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;  
one cup of blessing which we bless,  
and we, though many throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939 Text © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

### † Offering Prayer

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **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

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

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

† 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

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

**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: Baptized and Set Free (ELW 453)**

1 We are people created, chosen by God.  
Then we're washed, ever gently,  
in mercy and love.

Sin has power no more.  
Jesus opened the door  
to a fountain bringing healing,  
and wholeness and more.

- 2 We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.  
Then our hunger returns and  
again we are blessed.  
For whatever the need,  
God is greater indeed:  
endless ocean, always deeper  
than all of our need.
- 3 We are nourished by water, all living things,  
and by life that the Spirit  
abundantly brings.  
As we journey toward home,  
may your presence be known:  
precious river, ever-flowing,  
now carry us home.
- 4 Now with praise and thanksgiving,  
we join the song.  
All are welcome! We gather  
to sing loud and strong.  
Not enslaved, but set free!  
From now on, all will be  
one in Jesus, one in water,  
baptized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

### **Communion Hymn: O Living Breath of God (ELW 407)**

- 1 O living Breath of God, wind at the beginning upon the waters;  
O living Breath of God, bearing the creation to wondrous birth;

#### *Refrain*

Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant.  
O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.

- 2 O living Breath of God,

	<p>by whose pow'r the Son came to birth among us;  O living Breath of God, who to the creation gives life anew; <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>3 O living Breath of God, bearing us to life through baptismal waters;  O living Breath of God, sighing with creation for freedom's birth  <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923 Tr. © 1998 Augsburg Fortress</p>
	<p><b>† Post-Communion Table Blessing</b></p> <p>Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. <b>Amen.</b></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Sending</u></b>  <i>God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.</i></p> <p><b>† Blessing</b></p> <p>The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy,  anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. <b>Amen.</b></p>
<p><i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i></p>	<p><b>† Sending Hymn: Go, my Children, with my Blessing (ELW 543)</b></p> <p>1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  In my love’s baptismal river  I have made you mine forever.  Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”</p> <p>2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  Here you heard my dear Son’s story,  here you touched him, saw his glory.  Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”</p> <p>3 “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  Here my Spirit’s power filled you,  here my tender comfort stilled you.  Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”</p> <p>Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House</p>
<p><i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ’s Body:</i></p>	<p><b>† Dismissal</b></p> <p>Go in peace. Live in hope. <b>Thanks be to God.</b></p>

*nourished, fed, &  
ready to serve.  
Worship has  
ended, & our  
service begins!*

## Postlude

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### Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Stan Zeager & Bill Wahl	Livestream: Isaac Krankowski
Reader: Jennifer Krankowski	Acolyte: Amelia Forshey
Counters: Stan Zeager & Barbara Munch	Altar Care: Darlene Wahl
Online Usher: Kathy Berkshire	Communion Bread: Anne Paine
Cantor: Erik Bogen	



### Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Jan 12, 2025

**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, Stan & 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.

**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](mailto:rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org) for further info.



**Summer 2026 Pastoral/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 Planning Team needs your input! Please fill out this 5-question survey using the QR code to the left.

**Introducing PushPay-** Good Soil has transitioned to a new contribution & accounting software called PushPay, replacing Vanco. Scan the QR code to the right or in the *Offering* section to visit our new PushPay giving page to give electronically or set up automatic giving. Thank you for your generosity!



**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](mailto:executiveboard@westshoremow.org).

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
Sun, Jan 12	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship: Baptism of our Lord</b>	9:30 am
Sun, Jan 19	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship</b>	9:30 am
Sun, Jan 26	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship</b>	9:30 am
Sat, Feb 1	Ladies' Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun, Feb 2	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship</b>	9:30 am