

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



Epiphany of Our Lord Sunday
January 5th, 2024
9:30 am



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

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

Church Administrator
Sean Kennedy, admin@goodsoillutheran.org

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

Communications and Community Life Coordinator,
Cara Rovella, CCLC@goodsoillutheran.org

Facebook/Instagram: 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 "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.

Epiphany of Our Lord

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

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: Angels from the Realms of Glory (ELW 275)**

v. 1, 3, 4

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

*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.

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

† **Prayer of the Day**

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading
of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and
bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus
Christ our 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 60:1-6

To put this reading into context:

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

Hear now the reading.

- ¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

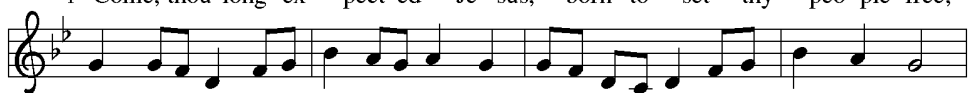
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14



- ¹ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
- ² that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
- ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
- ⁷ In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be
no more.
- ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.
- ¹¹ May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.
- ¹² For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.
- ¹³ He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.
- ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.

*We welcome
the gospel by
singing the
Gospel
Acclamation.
We rise, if able,
in anticipation
of Christ being
revealed to us
through the*

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



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

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: Matthew 2:1-12**

To put this reading into context:

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure

	<p>chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.</p> <p>The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.</p>
	<p>Children's Sermon</p>
	<p>Sermon: The Rev. David Connor <i>Silence for Reflection.</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: As with Gladness the Men of Old (ELW 302) v. 1, 2, 5</p> <p>1 As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.</p> <p>2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.</p> <p>5 In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light; thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down; there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.</p> <p>Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.</p>
<p><i>As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the</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>Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue</p>

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*

with people of other traditions and faiths. Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Restore the glory of creation. Send rain to water-parched lands. Revive ecosystems & habitats threatened by a changing climate, & protect the peoples & creatures who live in them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give the rulers your justice and reveal your righteousness to those who govern. Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice. We pray especially for Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Haiti, India, Syria, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. 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.**

Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past that forgets the future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for your holy ones who now rest in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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.**

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

† **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: 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

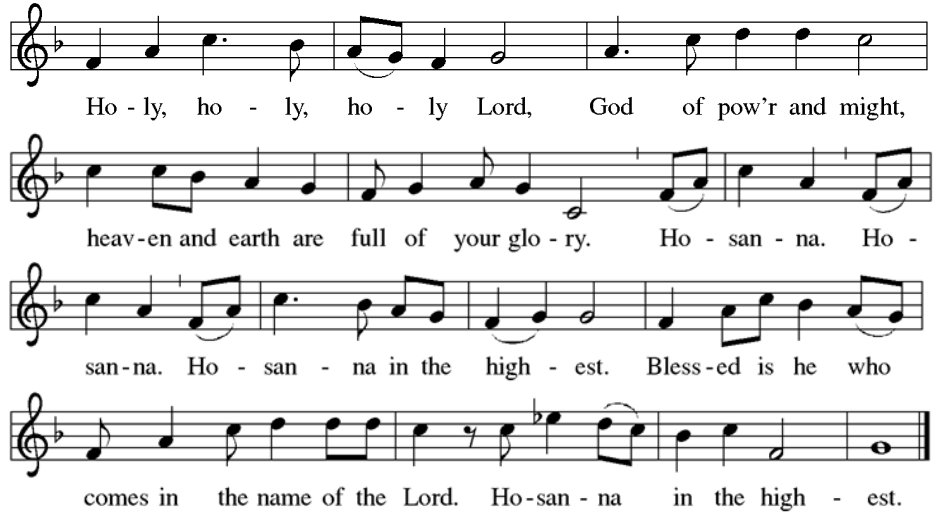
God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

† 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 in a single line. We will be observing standing processional communion today.

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: What Feast of Love (ELW 487)

- 1 What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!
- 2 What light of truth is offered here,
what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!
- 3 What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, OSB. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland OR 97213. All rights reserved.

Communion Hymn: Love has Come (ELW 292)

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.
- 3 Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text Ken Bible b1950 ©1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music ASCAP Integrity Media Inc 1000 Cody Rd Mobile AL 36695

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Blessing of the Advent Giving Tree Items for Trials for Hope

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: Let All Together Praise our God (ELW 287) v. 1-4

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 4 Your mother feeds you tenderly,
sings you a lullaby,
while angels, hailing David's heir,
your glory magnify,
your glory magnify.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561; tr. hymnal version Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

*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

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. Worship texts are from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright 2024. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SA5020986 Music reprinted under One License #A-719034 or CCLI license #3013830. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Darlene Wahl & Larry Jacobson	Livestream: Joe Lanter
Reader: Ellen Young	Acolyte: Edith Young
Counters: Joe Lanter & Ellen Young	Altar Care: Anne Paine
Online Usher: Kim Wylie	Communion Bread: Anne Paine
Cantor: Brenna Connor	

Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Jan 5, 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, 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.



Help make 2025 ministry dreams a reality! Submit your Intent Card for 2025- Join the 44 households who've submitted intents for our Generosity Emphasis, "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"! Scan the QR code to access the digital intent form.

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!



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 right to view the approved Ministry Funding Plan for 2025!



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

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
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
Sun, Jan 26	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am