Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Second Sunday after Epiphany January 19th, 2025 9:30 am



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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.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.				
	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, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. Amen. Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. Silence is kept for reflection. Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen. God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.			

I have called you by name. You are mine."
In + Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

† Gathering Hymn: Now We Join in Celebration (ELW 462)

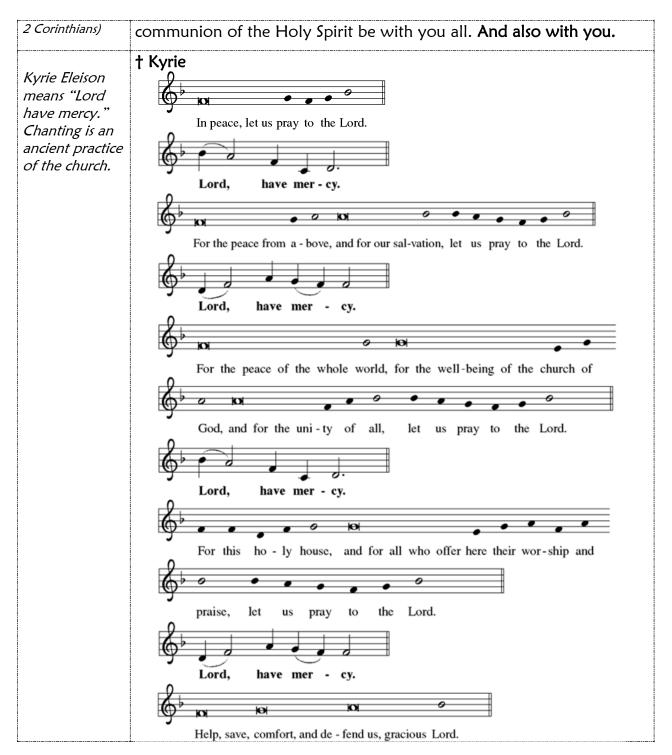
- 1 Now we join in celebration at our Savior's invitation, dressed no more in spirit somber, clothed instead in joy and wonder; for the Lord of all existence, putting off divine transcendence, stoops again in love to meet us, with his very life to feed us.
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gather, fill our hearts with holy rapture! For this bread and cup of blessing are for us the sure possessing of your loving deed on Calv'ry, of your living self, our vict'ry, pledge of your unfailing presence, foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.
- 3 Lord, we share in this communion as one fam'ly of God's children, reconciled through you, our brother, one in you with God our Father. Give us grace to live for others, serving all, both friends and strangers, seeking justice, love, and mercy till you come in final glory.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The assembly and presiding minister greet each other (scripture ref.

† Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the





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

† Prayer of the Day

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Word

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

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1, 4-9

To put this reading into context:

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

Hear now the reading.

¹O Lord, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things,

plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,

a refuge to the needy in their distress,

a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,

you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;

the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,

of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain

the shroud that is cast over all peoples,

the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,

"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that God might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 36:5-10

⁵ Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, and your faithfulness to the clouds.

⁶ Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep;

you save humankind and animals, O LORD.

⁷ How priceless is your love, O God!

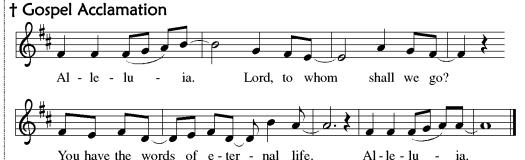
All people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

⁸ They feast upon the abundance of your house; you give them drink from the river of your delights.

⁹ For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light.

¹⁰ Continue your lovingkindness to those who know you, and your favor to those who are true of heart.

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.



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: John 2:1-11

To put this reading into context:

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

The holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. 9 When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for Reflection.

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You're invited to reflect on the following question:

How do you imagine hope? What does it look like? How does hope break forth in the world? How will you embody that hope this week?

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

† Hymn of the Day: Will You Come and Follow Me? (ELW 798) v. 1, 2, 4

- "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
 Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
 Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
- 2 "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?
- 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949 Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

† Prayers of the Church

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. A brief silence.

Giver of gifts, you form each member of the church to serve. Inspire us to boldly use gifts of welcome and healing, service and teaching, leading and preaching, for the sake of your work in the world. God of grace, receive our prayer.

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

- Refuge of creatures, you place all the living under the shadow of your wings. Lead us in ways that tend to the needs of wild and domestic animals, creatures threatened by extinction and natural disaster, and the environment we share. God of grace, receive our prayer.
- Voice of the oppressed, you call prophets throughout time. We remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a voice for racial and economic justice and for peace. Guide our nation in continuing to heed your prophetic call. God of grace, receive our prayer.

God of steadfast love, as Jesus celebrated at Cana, nurture marriages and relationships in mutual care; in times of separation or divorce, hold tenderly broken hearts and broken dreams. Be present to all who are sick, grieving or in any need. 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, all those affected by the wildfires, ... and those we name aloud or in our hearts. God of grace, receive our prayer.

Spirit of peace, celebrating this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for neighboring congregations and ministry sites. Nurture our shared commitment to embody Jesus' love, justice, and healing. God of grace, receive our prayer.

Wellspring of life, in living and dying we trust in you. We give thanks for the saints. Guide us in our living until, at last, we rest in you. 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.

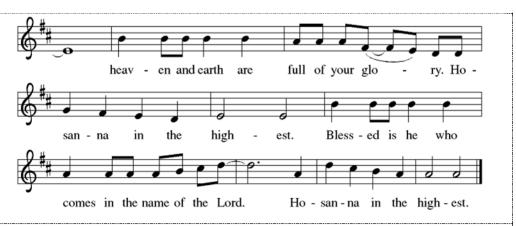
It is right to give our thanks and praise

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Preface

† Sanctus





† 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: I Love to Tell the Story (ELW 661)

1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story;

'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

- 2 I love to tell the story:
 how pleasant to repeat
 what seems, each time I tell it,
 more wonderfully sweet!
 I love to tell the story,
 for some have never heard
 the message of salvation
 from God's own holy word. Refrain
- 3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
 And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. Refrain

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

Communion Hymn: I Come with Joy (ELW 482)

1 I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me.

in love laid down for me.

- I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread. in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share. each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one. and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.
- Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one. the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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† 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 Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

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

† Sending Hymn: We All Are One in Mission (ELW 576)

- We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
 A single great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.
- 2 We all are called for service, to witness in God's name. Our ministries are diff'rent; our purpose is the same: to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace, so ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.
- 3 Now let us be united, and let our song be heard. Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word. We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

† Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Chris Jacobson & Anne Paine	Livestream: Jessica Berkshire		
Reader: Paula Maeder Connor	Acolyte: Edward Inman		
Counters: Jessica Berkshire & Kirsten Reading	Altar Care: Paula Maeder Connor		
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Communion Bread: Anne Paine		
Cantor: Brenna Connor			

Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Jan 19, 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, and those affected by wildfires.

For those celebrating birthdays between Jan 1 and Jan 25: Eric Carlson (Jan 3), Henry Smith (Jan 4) Evan Paine (Jan 6), Jane Beese (Jan 13), Carl Bruns (Jan 17), Jeanette Weidlich (Jan 20), Cadence Mattson (Jan 21), Matt Nichols (Jan 21), Ava Wahl (Jan 21), and Jerad Williamson (Jan 21).

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism between Jan 1 and Jan 25: Abby Alusheff (Jan 1), Aaron Krankowski (Jan 11), and Alin Sburlea (Jan 24).

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God by Amy Elliott.

Annual Commemoration Harambee Service for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 3:00pm at First Lutheran in Strongsville- This year's theme is "No Lie Can Live Forever" with Guest Facilitator: The Reverend Kenneth Wheeler. Wheeler is a retired ELCA pastor and the author of "US: The Resurrection of American Terror." Rev. Wheeler will highlight key themes such as the historical and ongoing struggle against racial injustice and the resilience of marginalized communities. The book serves as a backdrop to understand the historical context and the urgency of Dr. King's message. Rev. Wheeler will also introduce the theme of the Harambee, emphasizing the importance of unity, collective action, and the enduring impact of Dr. King's message.

California Wildfires Lutheran Disaster Response- As we witness the devastating impact of the fires in California, our hearts go out to all those affected. We hold them in our prayers, asking for strength, comfort, and safety in the days to come. If you feel called to support

those impacted, we invite you to make a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Your generosity enables Lutheran Disaster Response to provide immediate relief to those in need, both in the aftermath of wildfires and throughout ongoing disaster responses. To donate online, please visit: https://pushpay.com/g/goodsoillutheran and select "Lutheran Disaster Response / Wild Fires" under Fund. You can also write a check with "Wildfires" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

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 for further info.

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.

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.

<u>Learn & Grow time during the worship service:</u> 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.

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

Calendar of Events			
Date	Event	Time	
Sun, Jan 19	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am	
Sun, Jan 19	MLK Commemoration Service @ First Lutheran in Strongsville	3:00 pm	
Sun, Jan 26	In-Person & Livestream Worship, Baptism of Lucy Johnson	9:30 am	
Sat, Feb 1	Ladies' Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am	
Sun, Feb 2	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am	