

First Sunday of Christmas
Lessons and Carols



Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ

December 26, 2021

9:30 am

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

20300 Hilliard Boulevard
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YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

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.

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. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

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.

*Please Note: In an effort to protect the most vulnerable among us, **masks are required in the building**. Masking of young children is up to the discretion of parents. Council continues to monitor the situation.*

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Today is the first Sunday of the Season of Christmas. All of earth praises God, recognizing what God is doing in the person of Jesus. Today we follow a “Lessons and Carols” service format alternating between scriptures and beloved hymns. May the Word of God made flesh dwell within our hearts, minds, and voices!

Gathering

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

Prelude

Welcome and Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle

This Christmas Call to Worship features alternating scripture verses from Isaiah chapter 9 and John chapter 1.

† Call to Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

We have seen his glory, the glory of God's only son.

His ruling authority shall grow continually, and there
will be no limits to the wholeness he brings.

From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

He will establish and uphold God's kingdom with justice
and with righteousness, from this time on and forever
more.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us. Come, let
us worship him!**

**Gathering 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.

	<p>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!</p> <p>Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc.</p>
<p><i>The presiding minister greets the assembly with the words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, and a shared hope in God.</i></p>	<p>† Greeting</p> <p>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.</p>
<p><i>The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.</i></p>	<p>† Prayer of the Day</p> <p>Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Word</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.</i></p>

First Reading: John 1:1-5, 14



¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him,

and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

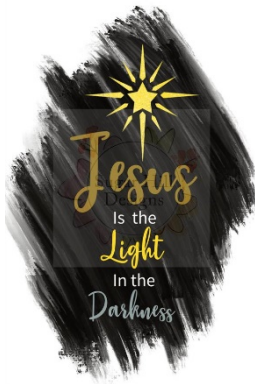
**Hymn: Word of God, Come Down on Earth
ELW 510 vs 1 & 3**

- 1 Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

- 3 Word that speaks God's tender love,
one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919

Second Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7



²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hymn: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
ELW 270 vs 1 & 3

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,

ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-33



²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory
ELW 275 vs 1 & 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.

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

Fourth Reading: Luke 2:1, 3-7



¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn: Away in the Manger
ELW 277 vs 1 & 3

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

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-12



⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Hymn: The First Noel ELW 300 v 1 & 2

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

Text: English traditional

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

† Responsive Prayers

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with
truth and justice.


Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
**Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer
this day.**

Today we especially pray for . . . and those we name
aloud or in our hearts at this time.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the
Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we
may bear your light to all the world. Amen.**

<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.</i></p>	<p>† Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always And also with you.</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>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Meal</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Offering</p> <p>God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support. This QR code will take you directly to Good Soil's online giving page.</p> 
	<p>Offertory</p>
	<p>† Offering Prayer</p> <p>Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table,</p>

	<p>and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.</p>
	<p>† Great Thanksgiving</p> <p>The Lord be with you. And also with you.</p> <p>Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.</p> <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>
	<p>† Words of Institution</p>
<p><i>The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i></p>	<p>† Lord's Prayer (prayed by all)</p> <p>Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.</p> <p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.</p>

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. Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. Receive the elements and then return to your seat before partaking of them.

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear ELW 282

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way

with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

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

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

The Sending

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

† Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the
obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness
of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the
peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, † Son,
and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
Amen.

<p><i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i></p>	<p>† Sending Hymn: Go Tell It on the Mountain ELW 290</p> <p><i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!</p> <p>1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p><small>Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.</small></p>
<p><i>The dismissal sends us out into the world as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!</i></p>	<p>† Dismissal</p> <p>Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. Thanks be to God.</p>
	<p>Postlude</p>

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Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, Dec 26, 2021

For those in need of healing, comfort or strength: Linda Beebe, Diane Bennett, Gary Dennison, Evatt Family, Barry Hollowell, Char Mattson, Joyce Miller, Mitterholzer family, Ann Norman, Jerry and Marie Sternad, Tony Sykaluk, Gloria Syverson, Jeanette Weidlich

For those celebrating birthdays: Else Rolland (Dec 26), Madeline Sburlea (Dec 28)

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Abby Alusheff (Jan 1)

The 2022 Flower Chart has been posted on the bulletin board outside the Lounge. If you'd like to adorn the altar with a gift of flowers in honor or memory of someone or a special occasion, sign up for a date and please indicate your dedication and whether you want one vase or two. The cost of each vase remains at \$20 for 2022 unless special flowers are requested. You can take your flowers home at the end of the worship service.

Contemplative Christmas Bird Walk, Wednesday, December 29 at 9 a.m. bundle up, grab your binoculars, and head to the Beaver Marsh Trail in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This is a very "birdy" location, with a smooth straight trail and ample parking (look for the Ira Trailhead on Riverview Road just south of Peninsula, Ohio). We'll be guided by avid birder Donna Wanamaker Fagerhaug. The organizers will try to have some "loaner" binoculars on hand if you don't have your own, and will provide a quick tutorial in using them effectively. "Tailgate" with warm beverages and snacks afterward, if weather permits. Contact Pastor Marilyn Matevia (pastor@celebration-lutheran.org) for more information.



Help U.S. Tornado victims through Lutheran Disaster Response

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to respond to the hurting world around us. To support disaster relief, scan the QR code to the left. 100% of your donation will go straight to helping disaster victims through Lutheran Disaster Response. Please report your donation to Good Soil for our records as well.

Trials for Hope is in need of the following items for their new community “Hope Box” on Bridge Ave. Please place items in the bin outside the front doors of Good Soil and Bill Fink will deliver the items to Trials for Hope. Thanks for your support of those in need in our community!

Emergency Blankets
Socks
Toiletries
Handwipes

Hand and foot warmers
Gloves
Tampons/pads
Books

Questions? Contact Bill Fink at bfink06@yahoo.com or Trials for Hope directly at trialsforhopecle@gmail.com or 216-920-2205

Updated Good Soil Directory coming soon. If you’ve had any changes to your personal info (address, phone, email address, etc.) please let the office know as soon as possible.



Last Month for 1:1 Matching Campaign for Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries’ Breaking New Ground initiative:

Good Soil established an Endowment Fund, and the Council voted to designate \$10,000 as an initial contribution. Good Soil now has the opportunity to expand its impact. The Endowment Fund will match individual contributions

dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000 from now through the end of 2021. This means members and friends of Good Soil can pool our collective resources to contribute as much as \$30,000 to Breaking New Ground! Use the QR code to learn more. **UPDATE: If you have contributed directly to LMM during this calendar year, please report that to the church office or Barbara Munch (bwmunch@aol.com). We will also be matching those donations for the 2021 year as well.**

Year-End Giving to Good Soil For those considering an extra year-end gift to Good Soil, we want to let you know our plans for what we will do if revenue ends up exceeding expenses this year. With excess funding, we will:

- 1) Set aside funds for the expansion of our Open Doors creative outreach initiative with the front lawn

- 2) Get an earlier start on some of our Phase 2 dreams for our livestream upgrade (updated Bluetooth projector, enhanced lighting, increased sound options, etc.)

Additionally, there is a special tax advantage this year to encourage giving to charitable organizations. The CARES Act will allow those who do not itemize on their taxes to take an “above-the-line” deduction up to \$300 (single) or \$600 (filing jointly) for gifts made to charitable organizations like Good Soil. The deduction is only for gifts of cash made in calendar year 2021.

Many of you have already given more than \$300 and for that we are immensely grateful. Every gift and every giver strengthens our ministries to nurture faith, care for our community, and share God’s Good News throughout the world. Thank you for your giving!

Calendar of Upcoming Events		
Day	Event	Time
Wed, Dec 29	Contemplative Bird Walk with Pastor Marilyn Matevia – Beaver Marsh Trail in Cuyahoga Valley Natl. Park	9:00 a.m.
Sun, Jan 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 	9:30 a.m.