

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ

Dec 19, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

20300 Hilliard Boulevard
Rocky River, OH 44116
440-331-1773



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

Office Administrator Deborah Dzurilla
deborah@goodsoillutheran.org

Worship & Music Coordinator Julia Alexander
julia.alexander@oberlin.edu

Website: GoodSoilLutheran.org
Facebook: [goodsoillutheranministries](https://www.facebook.com/goodsoillutheranministries)
Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
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. Those who choose not to commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

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.*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

In our readings we encounter a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise. We hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things. As we near ever closer to Christmas Eve, we get a foretaste of the Christmas Story with the Children's Christmas Pageant in worship.

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell and Silent Reflection

Welcome to Worship

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Candle Lighting Hymn: Light One Candle to Watch for
Messiah ELW 240 vs 1 - 4**

1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.

3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.

4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† 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 from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Word

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5

To put this reading into context:

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

Hear now a reading from the book of Micah.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength
of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel reading is announced by the pastor. We rise to our feet, if able, as a sign of respect for the Gospel that reveals Jesus Christ to us. Following 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 1:39-55)

To put this reading into context:

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their
hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their
thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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

Children’s Christmas Pageant

† Hymn of the Day: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly ELW 276

1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.

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

† Prayers of the Church

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need especially . . . and we also for those we lift up in our hearts aloud or silently. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians, especially Julia. Join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† Passing of the Peace

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

The Meal

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

Offering

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.



“Faith at Work” Interview with Scott Wylie

† Offering Prayer

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

	<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>
	<p>Communion</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.</p> <p>The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.</p>

**Communion Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven
Came ELW 265**

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever
say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

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

† Blessing and Dedication of the Little Library

<p><i>With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Sending</u></p> <p>† Blessing</p> <p>The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. Amen.</p>
<p><i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i></p>	<p>† Sending Hymn: All Earth is Hopeful ELW 266</p> <p>1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.</p> <p>2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell: "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel"; she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth restores hope and courage to children of this earth.</p> <p>3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!</p> <p>4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.</p> <p><small>Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Spanish text © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.</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. Christ is near. Thanks be to God.</p>
	<p>Postlude</p>

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Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, Dec 19, 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: Vern Mattson (Dec 19), Jean Groscost (Dec 22), Mark Johnson (Dec 25)

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Vern Mattson (Dec 19)

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the glory of God by Sharon Hollowell in memory of her father, Albert Petrusky, and her brothers, Michael and Sy Petruskey.

Thanks go out to the children, Chris Jacobson, Julia Alexander and all others involved who put in the work for the lovely Children's Christmas Pageant this year! The cast:

Narrators	Amelia Forshey, Aaron Krankowski, Isaac Krankowski, Sean Lanter
Mary	Alexandra Inman
Joseph	Luke Williamson
Gabriel	Vivienne Smith
Donkey	Evan Lanter
Innkeeper	Edward Inman
Shepherds	Evan Lanter, TJ Lanter, Jack Smith
Angels	Samantha Forshey, Ryan Williamson, Edith Young
Wisemen	Edward Inman, TJ Lanter, Ryan Williamson

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, 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.

On Wednesday, December 29 at 9 a.m. you're invited to bundle up, grab your binoculars, and join a Contemplative Christmas Bird Walk on 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](#)). With several birdwatching pastors offering a short blessing at the beginning and end of the walk, we'll be capably guided by avid birder and Lights Out Cleveland volunteer 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. (Some hints [here](#) and [here](#)) "Tailgate" with warm beverages and snacks afterward, if weather permits. Contact Pastor Marilyn Matevia (pastor@celebration-lutheran.org) for more information.



Disaster and Humanitarian Relief Efforts: As disciples of Jesus, we are called to respond to the hurting world around us. To support disaster relief for the recent catastrophic tornados in our nation, scan the QR code to the left. 100% of your donation will go straight to helping disaster victims through Lutheran Disaster Response.

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

We would like to update the Good Soil Directory 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.

The Livestream Team is seeking feedback through Thursday, Dec 23rd. How can we continue to craft our online worship experience so that it is meaningful, user-friendly, and creates an intentional space for connecting with Christ and this faith community? Find the feedback form link in the newsletter, email us at GoodSoilAV@gmail.com or use the QR code to submit your feedback now!



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
Sun, Dec 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Children’s Christmas Pageant During the Service (no Sunday School) • Fellowship after Worship 	9:30 a.m.
Tues, Dec 21	The Longest Night Service (in-person and livestreamed) *	7:00 p.m.
Fri, Dec 24	CHRISTMAS EVE Worship (in-person and livestreamed)	7:00 p.m.
Sun, Dec 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons and Carols Worship (in-person and livestreamed) • NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 	9:30 a.m.
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.

*** The Longest Night Service:**

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels like celebrating. Grief, illness, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Longest Night service provides a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing in the midst of grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays. This worship service features candlelight, scriptures, prayers, and a few soft hymns.

2021/2022 Church Council

Alex Alusheff	440-465-7752	alusheff@gmail.com
Dave Blocksom	440-356-1728	dblocksom@yahoo.com
Eric Carlson	330-883-0625	ecarlson.ou@gmail.com
Sharon Hollowell	216-538-1282	hollowells99@gmail.com
Amanda Inman	216-318-4275	amelliott123@gmail.com
Joe Lanter	216-469-0269	joe.lanter@gmail.com
Barbara Munch	440-465-4937	bwmunch@aol.com
Tom Smith	330-715-0369	tomgsmith07@gmail.com

To Whom Shall We Go?

Building a Culture of Generosity and Stewardship	Eric Carlson
Dandelion Project	Sharon Hollowell
Endowment Fund	Tom Smith
Gathering Again Task Force	Alex Alusheff
LMM Breaking New Ground	Barbara Munch
Open Doors Grant	Amanda Inman
Property	Larry Jacobson
Renters/Rental Contracts	Joe Lanter

Abby Alusheff	Social Media Outreach Dir.	welsh.abby@gmail.com
Julia Alexander	Worship and Music Coord.	julia.alexander@oberlin.edu
Jessica B	YouTube Channel Mgr.	See church directory for contact info.