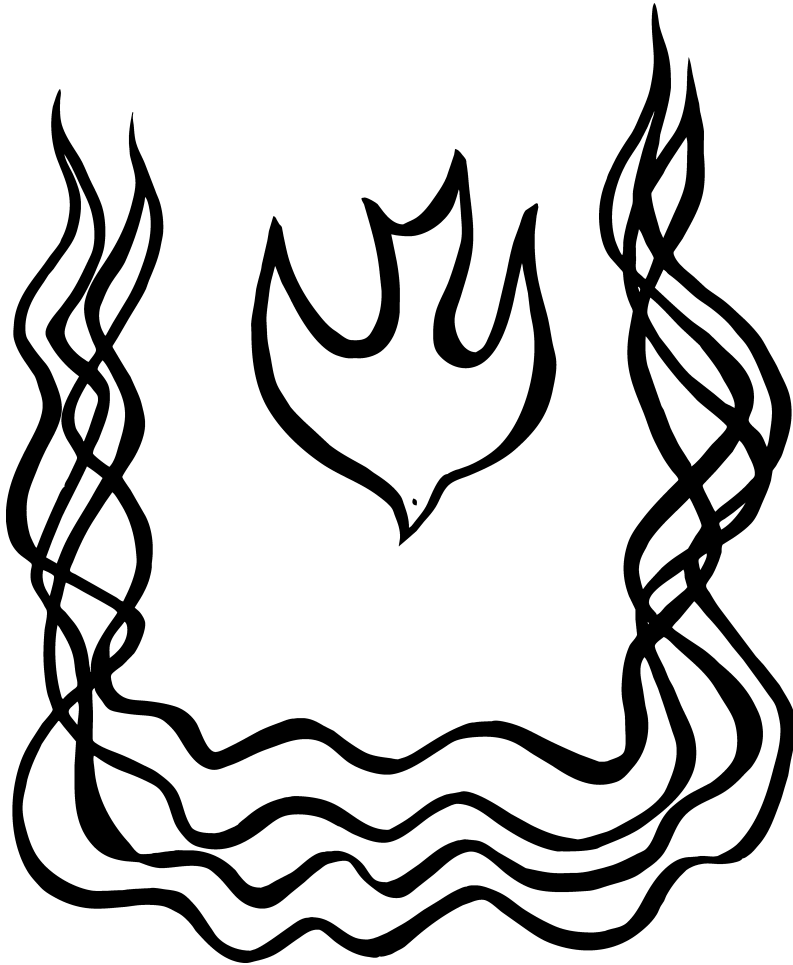


**Third Sunday of Advent
Baptism of Madeline Sburlea and
Welcome of New Members**



Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ

Dec 12, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

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



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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. 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.*

**Third Sunday of Advent
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Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell and Silent Reflection

Welcome to Worship

Children's Sermon & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Candle Lighting Hymn: Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah
ELW 240 vs 1 - 3**

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.

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

† 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.

† Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Word

First Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

To put this reading into context:

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

Hear now a reading from the book of Philippians.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Word of God. Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

† **Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-18**

To put this reading into context:

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign involves bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity, and clearing out all that stands in the way of being the people God has created us to be.

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

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Children aged Pre-K through 3rd grade are invited to leave the service at this time and attend the first part of Sunday School instruction (2nd part to resume in classes after worship.)

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for reflection.

† Hymn of the Day: Borning Cry ELW 732

- 1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."
- 2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."
- 3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."

4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

Baptism of Madeline Sburlea

Presentation

God, who is rich in mercy and love . . .
. . . Tom and Alise, who do you present for baptism today?
Sponsors respond: We present Madeline for baptism.

Alin and Sarah, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of
God, do you desire to have your child, Madeline, baptized into Christ?
Parents respond: We do.

As you bring Madeline to receive the gift of baptism,
you are entrusted with responsibilities:

- † to live with her among God's faithful people;
- † bring her to the word of God and the holy supper;
- † teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments;
- † place in her hands the holy scriptures; and
- † nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the
world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Alin and Sarah, do you promise to help Madeline grow in the Christian
faith and life?
Parents respond: We do.

Tom and Alise, do you promise to nurture Madeline in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors respond: We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Madeline and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

Assembly responds: We do.

† Profession of Faith

Parents and sponsors, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce evil and all the forces that defy God?

Parents and Sponsors respond: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Parents and Sponsors respond: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Parents and Sponsors respond: I renounce them.

People of God:

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was

crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

† Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning . . .
. . . To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Baptism

Madeline, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God . . .
. . . the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.
Amen.

Madeline, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Welcome of Newly Baptized

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized with our applause!

Welcome of New Members

Siblings in Christ – Alin, Sarah, Luca, Madeline, Darlene, and Bill – do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God’s people in this place? If so, answer “We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.”

Sburlea Family responds: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Wahl Family responds: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

People of God at Good Soil, do you promise to support and pray for the Sburlea family and the Wahl family in their life in Christ? If so, answer “We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.”

Assembly responds: We do and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to this community of faith with our applause!

† Passing of the Peace

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

† 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.

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets and leaders in our own day who warn against greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day especially . . . and those we lift up in our hearts aloud or silently. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Welcoming God, we give you thanks for our new members Bill, Darlene, Sarah, Alin, Luca, and Madeline, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and in service to others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. 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.**

The Meal

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 Joe Lanter

† 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.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Words of Institution

† Lord's Prayer (prayed by all)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.

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: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You ELW 241

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,
your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.
- 2 I lay in fetters, groaning;
you came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning;
you came to honor me.
A glorious crown you give me,
a treasure safe on high
that will not fail or leave me
as earthly riches fly.
- 3 Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling,
our lost and fallen race.
- 4 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed
and tremble at your doom.
All hail the Lord's appearing!
O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering
and guide us safely home.

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

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

Amen.

The Sending

† Blessing

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.**

† Sending Hymn: Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn ELW 242 vs 1, 2, & 4

- 1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.

- 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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† Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, Dec 12, 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: Sharon Hollowell (Dec 15)

The flowers adorning the altar today are a gift to the glory of God from an anonymous donor.

For Christmas this year we will decorate the sanctuary by placing creches on the window sills and various other locations. We have 4 of the 7 we need. If you'd like to loan a creche/nativity scene to be on display over Christmas, please bring it in to the church office by Friday, Dec 17. You can take it home again on or after the Dec 26 Lessons and Carols service.

The Little Library purchased was with some of the Open Door Grant money received by Good Soil and donated books that aid in faith formation will be blessed on Dec 19. If you have books that have touched you in your faith journey that you'd like to donate, please bring them in to the church office on Sunday or during the week. Books can be left outside the church office door. If you come outside office hours, leave your books in the mailbox outside the parking lot doors with a note that they are a donation for the Little Library.

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? Use this QR code to submit your feedback or email us at GoodSoilAV@gmail.com



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 trialsforhopecl@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.



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.



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 12	In-Person and Livestream Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptism of Madeline Sburlea • Welcome of New Members • Congregation Meeting • Sunday School • Confirmation Class 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Tues, Dec 14	Good Soil Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Sun, Dec 19	In-Person and Livestream Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	Lessons and Carols Worship (in-person and livestreamed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 	9:30 a.m.
Sun, Jan 2	In-Person and Livestream Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 	9:30 a.m.

Community Christmas Events:

1) The Oberlin Chamber Singers, including our very own Julia Alexander, will be performing a concert on Saturday, December 18 at 2:30pm at the Fairchild Chapel. Lots of renaissance music with some Christmas favorites sprinkled in!

2) The Rocky River Community Choir and Band invites you to a free Christmas Concert on Friday, December 17th at 7:30pm at the Rocky River Community Center (Jeanne Livingood and John Shumaker participate with this group).

3) Our siblings in Christ at Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church are hosting a Live Nativity Sunday, December 19 from 4pm-6pm. Free Admission plus cookies and cocoa for all! Facebook event here: <https://fb.me/e/1uJlq2sL7>