Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022 9:30 a.m.



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<u>Welcome</u>

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. Sunday School for Pre-K-3rd grade takes place during the sermon and then again after the service. Sunday School for 4th-6th grade takes place after the service. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful 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. 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 those who are immunocompromised and their families, <u>masks continue to be required in worship through the end of March</u>. Masking of young children is up to the discretion of parents. Our masking policy will adjust from "required" to "strongly recommended" beginning Sunday, April 3rd.

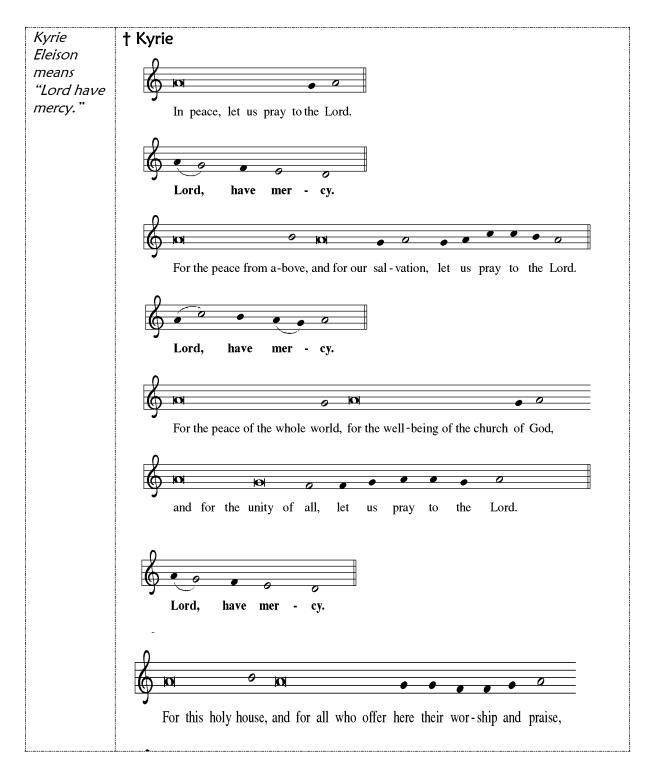
Fourth Sunday in Lent

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

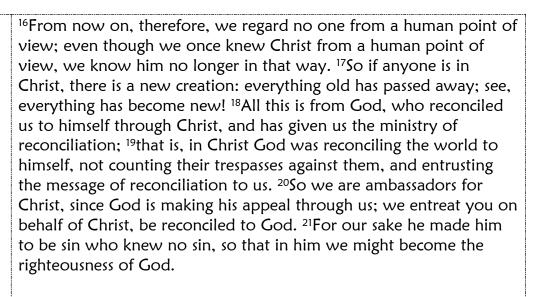
	<u>Gathering</u> The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
	Prelude
	Welcome to Worship
In the Confession and Forgiveness we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament.	 † Confession and Forgiveness In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. Amen. Silence is kept for reflection.

1, 1	
It may be	Holy One,
seen as a return to	we confess that we have wandered far from you:
the gift of	we have not trusted your promises,
Baptism	we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
through	we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
repentance.	we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
	Have mercy on us!
	Forgive us and turn us again to you.
	Teach us to follow in your ways,
	assure us again of your love,
	and help us to love our neighbor.
	Amen.
	Amen.
	Beloved in Christ,
	the Word draws near to you,
	and all who call out to God shall be saved.
	In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
	and gathers you under wings of love.
	In 🕂 Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
	God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.
	Amen.
	Gathering Hymn: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
	ELW 807 vs 1 & 3
	1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
	tune my heart to sing thy grace;
	streams of mercy, never ceasing,
	call for songs of loudest praise.
	While the hope of endless glory
	fills my heart with joy and love,
	teach me ever to adore thee;
	may I still thy goodness prove.
	3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
	daily I'm constrained to be;
	let that grace now like a fetter
L	

	bind my wand'ring heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above. Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.
The presiding minister greets the assembly with the words used by Paul in 2 nd 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.	t 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.



	let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.
	Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.
The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.	† Prayer of the Day God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
	<u>The Word</u> God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song. First Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
	To put this reading into context: <i>One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ</i> <i>everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate</i> <i>sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is</i> <i>Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.</i> Hear now a reading from the book of Second Corinthians.



Word of God. Word of life. Thanks be to God.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year* C \otimes 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

¹Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,

and whose sin is | put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt, and in whose spirit there | is no guile!

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in ¹ time of trouble;

when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

	 ⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. ¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.
The Gospel reading is announced by the	† Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 To put this reading into context:
pastor. We rise to our feet, if able, as a sign of respect and	Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.
anticipation for the Gospel that reveals	The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.
<i>Jesus Christ</i> <i>to us.</i>	¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.", ²⁰ So

he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

Children's Sermon

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

	Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison During the season of Lent, we engage in a time of reflection and
	sharing after the sermon.
•	† Hymn of the Day: Our Father, We Have Wandered ELW 606
	 Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face; in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace. But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame, as, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.
	2 And now at length discerning the evil that we do, behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you. In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring, in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
	3 O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored, compassionate, forgiving, and ever-caring Lord, grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease. Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.
1	Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006 Text from <i>Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy</i> © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

Welcome of New Members

Dear friends,

We give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Introductions

David and Paula Connor Adam and Elijah Pate Sherman Bishop and Deb Yandala

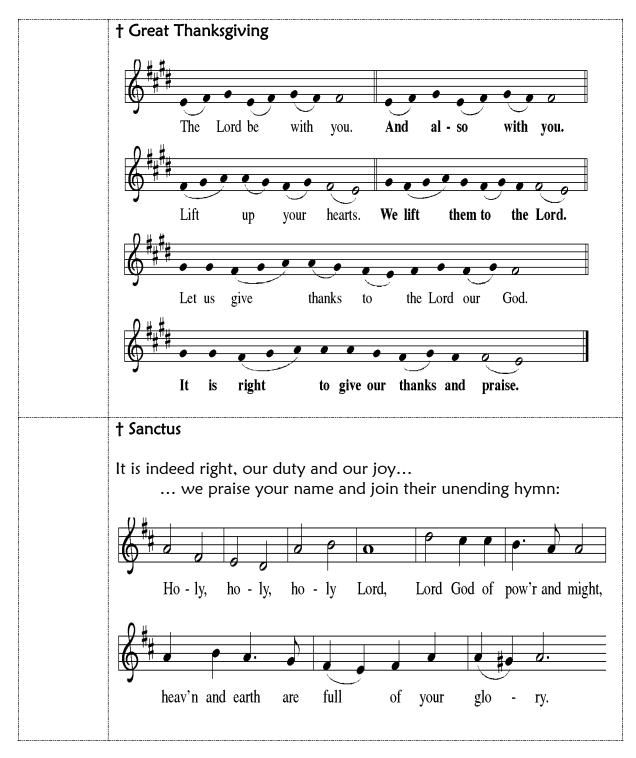
With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the Apostle's Creed:

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

	New Members: Siblings in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place? We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.
	Congregation: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ? We do, and we ask God to help and guide us. Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to this community of faith!
As the	Prayers of Intercession
<i>church, we</i> <i>pray for</i> <i>those in our</i> <i>community</i> <i>and around</i>	Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.
the world. The prayers	A brief silence.
are also responsive, emphasizing our participation	Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God, receive our prayer.
	You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God, receive our prayer.
	Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict especially Russia and Ukraine. Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God, receive our prayer .

	Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving especially Jane, Pastor Sherman, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Char, the Mitterholzer family, Jerry, Marie, Tony, Mary, Jeanette and those whom we lift up in our heart either silently or aloud. Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God, receive our prayer . We give you thanks for Good Soil's new members officially welcomed todayAdam, Elijah, David, Paula, Deb, and Sherman 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 the prayers, and in service to others. Merciful God, receive our prayer . The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God, receive our prayer . Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need,
	for the sake of Jesus Christ. 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 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.

	The Meal
	God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.
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 at <u>www.goodsoillutheran.org/support</u> or by using this QR code below.
	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:
	† Offering Prayer
	Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



	Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
	† 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 (prayed aloud 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. <u>You are invited to kneel as you are able at the communion rail</u> to receive the elements. Please maintain appropriate distance from others beside you when kneeling. Once you receive the elements, please return to your seat to partake of them.
	The body of Christ, given for you. Amen. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

 Communion Hymn: Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling ELW 608
 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.
Refrain "Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!) You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"
2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? <i>Refrain</i>
3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. <i>Refrain</i>
 Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
† 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
	God blesses us and send us in mission to the world.
With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.	† Blessing You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, .+ bless you this day and always. Amen.
Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.	 † Sending Hymn: What Wondrous Love is This ELW 666 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
	2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
	 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,

Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!
out into the world as Christ's
The dismissal sends us

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Today's Worship Servants:

Presiding: Pastor Marissa Harrison	Reader: JoAnne Wancata	
Ushers: Sharon Hollowell	Counters: Joe Lanter	
Stan Zeager	Barbara Munch	
Online Usher: Dave Blocksom	Acolyte: Isaac Krankowski	

Good Soil's New Members Welcomed Today:

Sherman Bishop and Deb Yandala

Sherman Bishop and Deb Yandala met when he was in Detroit serving his first congregation, and she was in graduate school at the University of Michigan. Deb worked part time as a youth director and together they staffed a youth leadership development program. They were married in Ann Arbor in 1983 and moved to SW Ohio where Sherman served in an urban parish and Deb led a Lutheran camping program.

Sherman and Deb moved to NE Ohio when he became an Assistant to the Bishop in 1988. He later served for 22 years as pastor of Prince of Peace in Westlake and 2 years as interim pastor at Trinity in Vermilion. Deb is the CEO of the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. She also is currently serving part time as a loaned executive to the National Park Foundation.

They have three adult children who live in Denver and Seattle. They enjoy hiking, biking, and canoeing. Sherman sings in the BW Men's Chorus and Deb plays the viola with the Cleveland Philharmonic and Hermit Club orchestras. Deb is on the boards of LMM and the Near West Theatre. They live in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood in Cleveland with their beloved dog, Winston.

Adam and Elijah Pate

Adam and Elijah Pate met 9 years ago when Elijah was born. They live in Lakewood. They are both artists but only Adam does it professionally. He makes a living as a caricature artist and is interested in finding ways to bring people together and to be more involved in the church through art. He was raised across the road from a Lutheran church in Rowsburg, OH until he moved away to go to the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. He attended Camp Mowana in Mansfield, OH as a camper, counselor and a volunteer for many years and he and E will attend camp again this summer at Luther in Geneva, OH. Adam and Elijah have been looking for a church where they felt comfortable and there were kids for Elijah to play with and someone suggested Good Soil so they checked it out online in 2021, really liked the atmosphere and decided to try coming in person.

Paula Maeder Connor

Serving the community and advocating for acceptance of all people have been my life's vocation. From welcoming an immigrant family (at age 7), to teen years of YWCA anti-racism training and college emphases with Campus Council and studies (hablo español), to Peace Corps (Thailand), through seminary, and years of parish and university ministries, and peace education emphases, God has used me in opening doors of many hearts and institutions. It's been a Spirited ride so far.

Lily Connor

An active and cheerful 5 and 1/2 year old. I will start Kindergarten in the fall. I'm an amazing girl because I'm full of stars. I like to play indoors and outdoors. My favorite things to eat are yogurt and hot dogs and I sometimes like pizza. I like to learn and I also love to go home. I love to learn about Jesus. (Verbatim from Lily).

Dave Connor

I'm Dave Connor. I'm married to Paula, and am proud to be Lily's "Pops." I have two adult daughters, Brenna, here in Lakewood, and Greer, who lives and works in the Atlanta area. We've lived in Lakewood since 1990, where Paula served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran for 25 years. I served in three Ohio congregations, then as an interim pastor in 28 congregations in 5 synods, including Our Savior in the early 2000's and retired in 2019. I'm a fledgling novelist and bad poker player, and regular watcher of even bad-science fiction series. I am enjoying the relaxed atmosphere at Good Soil and the emphasis on faith in daily life. Glad to be here.



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, March 27, 2022

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Jane Beese; Pastor Sherman Bishop; Jae, Jeff, and Oakley, Char Mattson; Mitterholzer family; Jerry and Marie Sternad; Tony Sykaluk; Mary Wahl; Jeanette Weidlich

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Samantha Forshey (Mar 27), Carl Bruns (Mar 29), Verna Fink (Mar 29)

The flowers adorning the altar today are placed by Karen Sperli to the glory of God in memory of her mom, Verna Olson.

Easter Sunday is the most celebratory day in the church year and flowers help us celebrate! For those who would like to help adorn the altar with lilies and hyacinths for Easter, the plants are \$8 each and orders need to be placed by Sun, Apr 3. An order form is included with the bulletin or you can call/email the office letting us know how many and what kind of plant you want. You can take your plant home after Easter or leave it to be planted in Good Soil's yard.

The Christ in Our Home devotional booklets are here for April/May/June. Grow in faith with these free daily devotionals. They are at the top of the stairs of the parking lot entrance.

Congregational meeting today: There will be two important topics on the agenda: (1) appointing a Nominating Committee that will propose candidates for the council positions that will be expiring and voted on at the June meeting, and (2) funding for the roof replacement. Please plan on staying after worship to participate.

Lutheran Disaster Response for those suffering in Ukraine: 100% of Good Soil's Ash Wednesday offering has been designated for relief efforts in Ukraine through Lutheran Disaster Response. If you would still like to contribute, please write a check or give online at <u>www.goodsoillutheran/support</u> and put "Ukraine" in the memo line. If you'd like to know more about what Lutheran Disaster Response is doing to help relieve suffering in the Ukraine during this difficult time, use this QR code below:



If you happen to make a donation directly to Lutheran Disaster Response, please share the amount you choose to give with Good Soil so that we can include it in our annual report for to the ELCA next year. You can send an email to <u>deborah@goodsoillutheran.org</u>. Thank you for your support of our siblings in need!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
DAY	EVENT	TIME	
Sun, Mar 27	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 a.m.	
	Sunday School	10:30 a.m.	
	Congregational Meeting	10:30 a.m.	
	Adult Forum "Gift Planning"	11:00 a.m.	
Tues, Mar 29	Lenten Small Group Noontime Zoom		
Wed, Mar 30	Lenten Small Group Evening Zoom		
Thurs, Mar 31	Lenten Small Group Morning In-Person		
Sat, Apr 2	Ladies' Breakfast at Gene's Place	9:00 a.m.	
Sun, Apr 3	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 a.m.	
	Sunday School	10:30 a.m.	
	Coffee Hour	10:30 a.m.	
Tues, Apr 5	Lenten Small Group Noontime Zoom		
Wed, Apr 6	Lenten Small Group Evening Zoom		
Thurs, Apr 7	Lenten Small Group Morning In-Person		