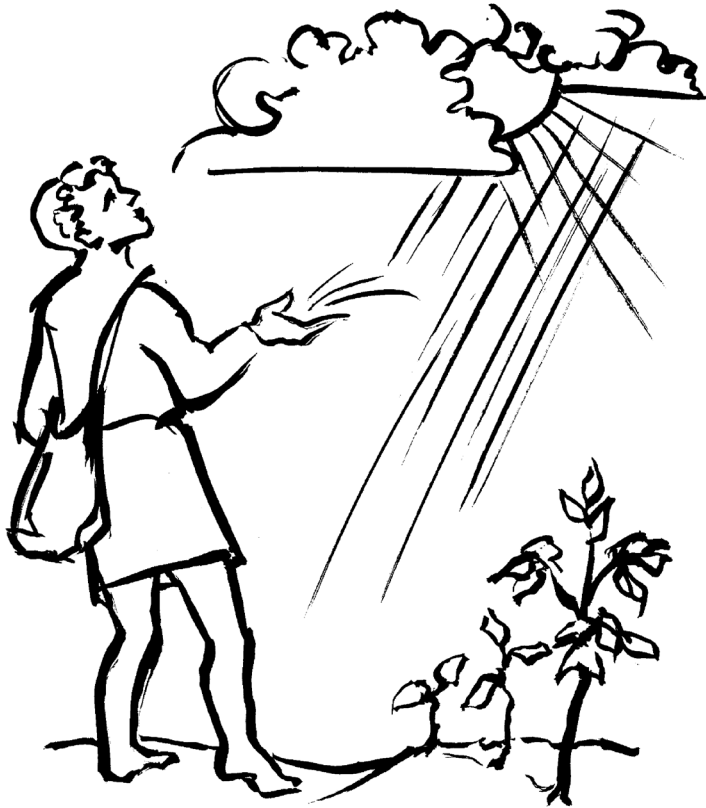


Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ



**Sixth Sunday After Epiphany,
Welcome of New Members &
5th Anniversary Celebration**

Feb 12, 2023

9:30 a.m.



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116
(440) 331-1773

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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.

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 worshipping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshipping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. 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 vulnerable, **masking is strongly recommended**. In addition, the first four rows of pews on the left side of the sanctuary are reserved as a “masking only” section (for those who wish to be in close proximity only with others who are masking).*

**Sixth Sunday After Epiphany,
Welcome of New Members and 5th Anniversary Celebration**

Paul writes we are all co-workers in God’s service. We each have gifts to offer that may serve as channels of love and strength to all of us who find ourselves in need of support across our community and world. We can trust that whatever we offer, God will use to bring a future with hope. As followers of Jesus, we plant seeds of faith and God gives the growth.

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

*This Call to
Worship is
based on our
scripture today
from 1 Cor. 3
and includes
Good Soil’s
new purpose
statement:*

*“Growing
Together in
Christ to Love
and Serve”*

† **Call to Worship**

Gardeners plant, not fully knowing if their gardens will grow. Yet, they kneel in the dirt, dig with their hands, and bury one seed at a time.

They plant and trust that a harvest will come, and God gives the growth.

God’s word tells us that we are to be co-workers in service to others. Yet many times, we don’t see how our meager support can help.

We plant and trust that a harvest will come, and God gives the growth.

For we are God's servants, working together.
One plants. Another waters. But God gives the growth.

We rejoice, trusting in God's goodness:
Growing together in Christ to love and serve. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling ELW 582

- 1 Holy Spirit, ever dwelling
in the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding
o'er a world of gloom and night;
Holy Spirit, ever raising
those of earth to thrones on high;
living, life-imparting Spirit,
you we praise and magnify.
- 2 Holy Spirit, ever living
as the church's very life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving
through us in a ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit, ever forming
in the church the mind of Christ:
you we praise with endless worship
for your gifts and fruits unpriced.
- 3 Holy Spirit, ever working
through the church's ministry;
quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving,
setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding
age to age and soul to soul
in communion never ending,
you we worship and extol.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874-1939, alt.

<p><i>The assembly is greeted with 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.</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>God of growth and abundance, everything we have comes from you. Prepare the soil of our hearts to receive your life-bearing call, that we would invest our time, energy, gifts, and our very selves with confidence and joy in the fruitful future you bring forth. We pray in the name of the One who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Lord.</p> <p>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> <p>New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9</p> <p>To put this reading into context:</p>

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are coworkers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

Hear now the reading:

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1-2, 6-9 (read responsively)

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble.

They cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress;

he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† **Gospel Acclamation:**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel is announced. 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 8:4-8**

To put this reading into context:

The Parable of the Sower is a story about the extravagant generosity and unconditional love of God told by Jesus in three different gospels. It is Good Soil's namesake gospel.

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

⁴While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. ⁶Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew

up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

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 1st part of Sunday School instruction.

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for reflection.

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

How have you grown in faith over the past 5 years?

† Hymn of the Day: Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil ELW 512

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

† 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.

Introduction of New Members: Erik Bogen, Brenna Connor, William Eversole, and Matthew Molnar.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**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.**

In baptism, we are joined into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus, and to work for justice and peace in all the earth.

Siblings in Christ—Erik, Brenna, William, and Matthew—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.”

New members respond: 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 Erik, Brenna, William, and Matthew in their life in Christ? If so answer, “We do and we ask God to help and guide us.”

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

Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to this community of faith:

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

The assembly applauds.

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.

*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 Intercession

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. Help us to grow in faith and shape our lives around you, that all may find abundant life in your ways. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope. Be with all who suffer in the wake of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria and aid relief efforts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nurture all in need especially Helen, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew, Jamie, Willie, Char, Jen; Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Jeanette, Andrew . . . and those whom we lift up in our hearts silently or aloud. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation, especially as we celebrate Good Soil's 5th anniversary and welcome new members Erik, Brenna, William,

and Matthew today. Empower us in our common purpose and newly updated guiding principles. Turn our hearts toward you and lead us toward the future you dream for us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.
Amen.

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

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

God’s ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code.

You can also use this same QR code to make a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response to help the people suffering in Turkey and Syria after the devastating earthquake. Please note “Earthquake” in the description field.

Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don’t take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil’s support page.



The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God’s blessings.

† **Offering Hymn: Rise, Shine, You People! ELW 665 v 1**

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered. He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Text © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

† Offering Prayer

Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, **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

*The Lord's
Prayer is Jesus'
response to his
disciples when
they asked him
to teach them
how to pray.*

† 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.

† Invitation to the Table

Come and taste the joy of God!

† 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. When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. We will observe processional (standing) communion today, rather than kneeling at the altar.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine is red; grape juice is white. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: All Are Welcome ELW 641

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek

to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain*

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain*

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain*

5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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† Post-Communion Table Blessing

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

<p><i>With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.</i></p>	<p>† Blessing</p> <p>The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod † bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. Amen.</p>
<p><i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i></p>	<p>† Sending Hymn: O Christ, Our Hope ELW 604 vs 1, 2, 4, & 5</p> <p>1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire, creation's mighty Lord, redeemer of the fallen world, by holy love outpoured, by holy love outpoured:</p> <p>2 How vast your mercy to accept the burden of our sin, and bow your head in cruel death to make us clean within, to make us clean within.</p> <p>4 Oh, let your mighty love prevail to purge us of our pride, that we may stand before your throne by mercy purified, by mercy purified.</p> <p>5 All praise to you, ascended Lord; all glory ever be to Father, Son, and Spirit blest through all eternity, through all eternity!</p> <p><small>Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.</small></p>

<i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!</i>	† Dismissal Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. Thanks be to God.
	Postlude

You are warmly invited to gather downstairs in the fellowship hall for a celebration reception immediately following worship.

**Coffee hour discussion question:
Share about a memorable birthday/anniversary celebration from your life.**

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Today's Worship Servants:

Presiding: The Rev. Marissa Harrison	Reader: Joan Zeager
Ushers: Kim Wylie Ellen Young	Counters: Jessica Berkshire Ellen Young
Online Usher: Kathy Berkshire	Acolyte: George Young
Livestream: Jessica Berkshire	Sunday School Teachers: Louise Debell (Early Learners), Pam Lanter (Primary), JoAnne Wancata (Middle Schoolers)

Meet Our New Members

Erik Bogen was born in Mt. Lebanon, PA, but has spent most of his life in the Greater Cleveland area. He has been a life-long Lutheran. Erik enjoys instrumental and vocal music, gaming, history, and traveling. He says he appreciates the existing and new personal connection he has made at Good Soil and looks forward to making new friends within the faith community.

Brenna Connor has very much enjoyed getting to know Good Soil. She is a life-long Lutheran, having been involved with many congregations, attending Lutheran college, and participating in music and youth ministry. These days she enjoys playing and doing art with her daughter, Lily. In a rare free moment, she enjoys table top gaming with friends. Thanks to Good Soil for welcoming Lily and I and our bright and unique perspectives! (Lily joined Good Soil in 2022 with her grandparents, Pr. Paula Maeder Connor and Pr. Dave Connor).

William Eversole: My name is William Eversole and I live in the West Park neighborhood of Cleveland. By day I am a Certified Public Accountant, and I am currently the Controller at Fine Arts Association in Willoughby. By night I play trombone with the Swing Time Big Band, an authentic 18-piece big band which performs in Northeast Ohio. Although my late wife Patricia and I had no children, I am the proud uncle to 24 nieces and nephews, 11 of whom are now married and starting families of their own. I was a life-long member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Highland Heights until it closed last October, shortly after celebrating its 100th anniversary. I visited a few churches in this area when looking for a new church home and decided on Good Soil because of the spirituality and faith I see in the congregation and ministry. I look forward to becoming more active in the Good Soil community.

Matthew Molnar: My name is Matthew Molnar. I am in 11th Grade, and I attend school at Perspectives Academy. In my free time, I enjoy walking my dogs, drawing, and building Legos. I was drawn to Good Soil because it is a very welcoming environment, and one that helps fill me up spiritually. My Mom works at Meals on Wheels in the Good Soil building, which is how I learned of this congregation. I would like to thank Pastor Marissa, and everyone at Good Soil, for welcoming me into this community!



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, Feb 12, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Helen Andrews, Family of Max Bechtel, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew Evatt, Jamie Lanter, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Jen Mitterholzer, Rich Petrusky, Dick and Joan Schlupe, Marie Sternad, Andrew Sykaluk, Jeanette Weidlich

For those celebrating their birthday:

Allan Wylie (Feb 13), Char Mattson (Feb 17), Vivienne Smith (Feb 18)

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the glory of God by the Wylies to celebrate Allan's birthday.



Hungry for deeper connection with God and your faith community? So are we! All members and friends of Good Soil are invited to participate in small groups for the duration of the Lenten season.

Each group will meet once a week for 5 weeks to check in with one another, deepen relationships, and grow in faith together. Each group will be led by a lay leader and meet at a different time of the week, so sign up using this QR code for the day of the week and time that works best for you!

Seeds is a weekly e-newsletter with updates and highlights about God's action among us! Use this QR code to sign up. You can also call the church office at 440-331-1773 for help signing up. It's a great way to stay in touch with all the exciting happenings at Good Soil!



Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Feb 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship – Celebrating Good Soil’s 5th Birthday and Welcome of New Members • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Tues, Feb 14	HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY! Good Soil Executive Team Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Sun, Feb 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship – Transfiguration Sunday, Baptism of Shawn O’Neil, and Saying “farewell” to the Alleluia • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Tues, Feb 21	Good Soil Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Wed, Feb 22	ASH WEDNESDAY In-Person and Livestream Worship	6:30 p.m.
Sun, Feb 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.