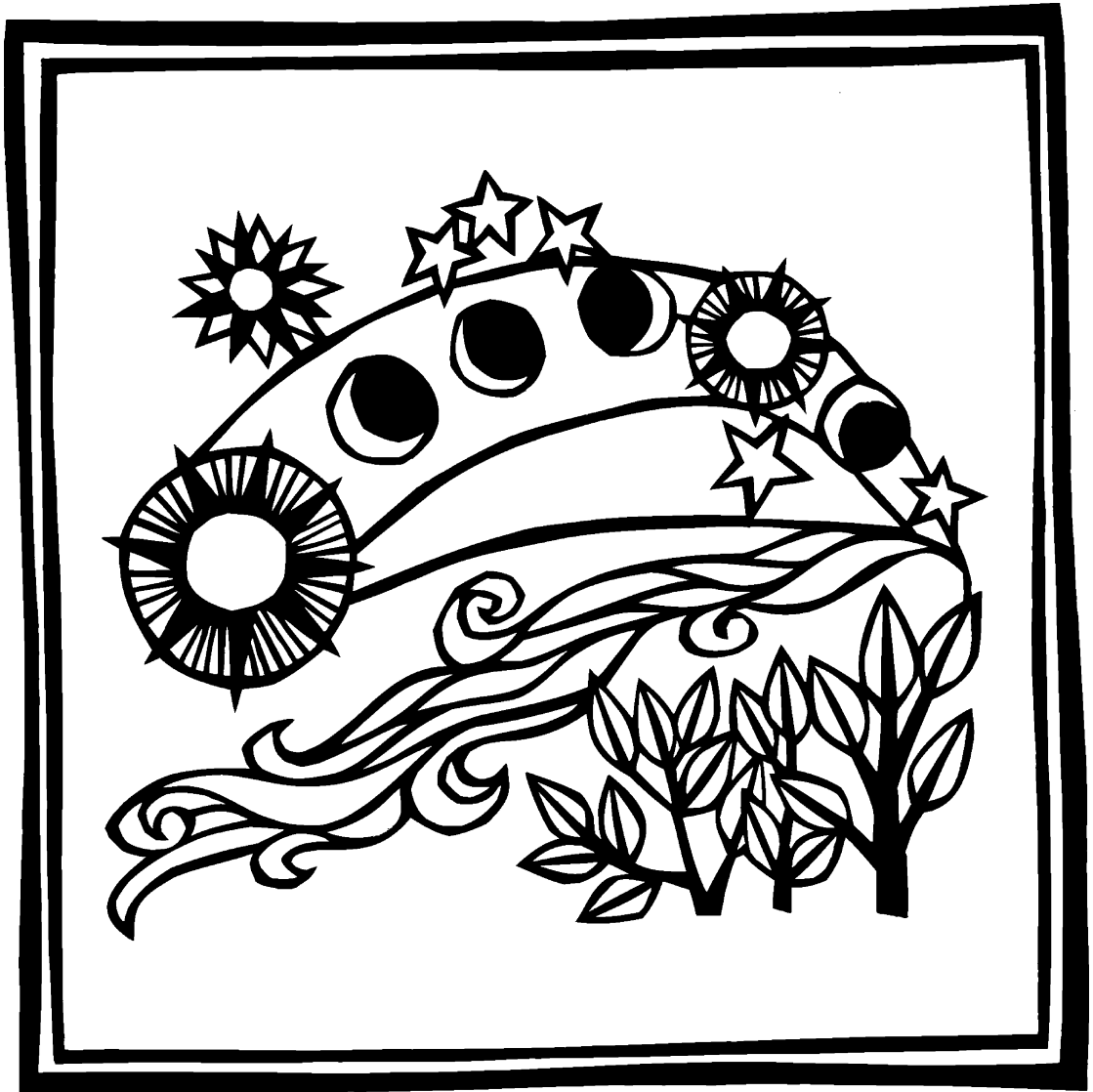


Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation: “Wilderness Sunday”
September 24th, 2023
9:30 am



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

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

Church Administrator Cara Rovella
admin@goodsoillutheran.org

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/UCqKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKj)

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 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. We pray that worshiping 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. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice 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.

Fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation: “Wilderness Sunday”

Romans 8 may be seen as a call for Christians and others to live into their role as Children of God, so longed for by Creation. Indeed, our work to resist and protest those powers and principalities that violate Creation and God’s Children has never been more needed and urgent than this time on Earth. On this wilderness Sunday, we are reminded of this call to action, and that in times of trouble or uncertainty, God dwells near to us.

Gathering

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

Prelude

Welcome

† Call to Worship

Come, worship the God of all Creation.

We praise the Creator, the continuous source of all living things.

Come, worship our God who breathes life into being.

We praise the Creator who fashions the forests, whose trees clean the air of this world,

Come, worship our God who forms life out of soil.

We praise the Creator whose land brings nourishment.

Come, worship our God who receives our lament in the wilderness.

We praise the Creator whose Son brings healing to all Creation.

Come, worship our God who sends waters flowing with life.

We praise the Creator whose baptism unites us as one Body of Christ in solidarity with all Creation.

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who so loves the world and all who live in it. Amen.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who so loves the world and all who live in it. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, Creation, and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
we expect nature to serve our needs, and we have damaged it in the process. We trample every wild place and pollute your waters. We abuse your good Earth until it cries out in pain. Forgive us, loving God. Remind us of the covenant you made with the whole Earth. Nourish us so we can restore your awe-inspiring Creation. **Amen.**

Christ, the one who was buried into the heart of the Earth and then raised up to new life, forgives you all your sin. Freed from your burdens, receive this forgiveness and be led by the Spirit to do God's healing work in the world. **Amen.**

† Gathering Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth - ELW 879

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain:

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain*

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

5 For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain*

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that

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.

signifies trust, love, mutual service, and shared hope in God.

† Hymn of Praise: All things Bright and Beautiful - WOV 767 (v. 1, 4)

Refrain

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,
all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.
1 Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

The Prayer of the Day gathers all our praise into one and highlights themes from scripture that we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, you made the wilderness teeming with living creatures, thriving plants, and spacious habitats. Free us from our destructive ambitions. Stir us to respect and protect your wild places, caring for all that you have made, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

*The response
“Word of
God, Word of
life,”
acknowledges
the power of
God’s Word to
shape our
lives. “Thanks
be to God” is a
historic
response which
acknowledges
that we have
heard what
was said.*

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Romans 8:18-27

To put this reading into context:

Creation and humanity each experience suffering as a result of sin. Yet, Paul proclaims, each wait with hope for a day of renewal and harmony with each other.

Hear now the reading.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Jim Kulma

Silence for Reflection.

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.

You're invited to reflect on the following question:

Think of a time when you were driven into the "Wilds" or "Wilderness". What kind of angel came to minister to you, or sustain you in that place?

**† Hymn of the Day: All People that on Earth Do Dwell - ELW 883
(v. 1, 4, 5)**

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.

4 For why? The Lord our God is good:
His mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heav'n and earth adore,
from us and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

† Ionian Creed

We pray together the Ionian Creed:

We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon,
of water and earth, of all of creation.

We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.

A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,
he died alone and forsaken.

He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.

He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present throughout all ages,
and His kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of all resurrection and of eternal life.

Amen.

Ionian Creed, also known as the “Celtic Creed.” The Iona Community was founded in Glasgow and Iona in 1938 by George MacLeod, minister, visionary and prophetic witness for peace, in the context of the poverty and despair of the Depression. More here: <https://iona.org.uk> Creed accessed from: <https://modernliturgist.org/project/a-celtic-creed-2/>

As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our own participation. Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith community
+ The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God*

† Prayers of Intercession

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.


God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every creature by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures, especially the wilderness and wild places. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of equity and justice, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sanctifying Spirit, make our souls sensitive to the call of our kin, species in pain calling from land, sea, and air, as well as our fellow human beings in need, including on this day: Peter, Helen, Carl, Phyllis, Andrew, Joe, Willie, Pat, Char, Keyla, Marlon, Rich, Marie, Anna, Jeanette, Archer, Steve, Dick, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India, ... and all those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

	<p>God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints. United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. Merciful God, receive our prayer.</p> <p>Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. Amen.</p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.</i></p>	<p>† Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always And also with you.</p> <p><i>The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.</i></p>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Meal</u> <i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Offering</p> <p>God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code.</p> <p><i>Aim your phone camera at the QR code above, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to take you to our support page.</i></p> 
<p><i>The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.</i></p>	<p>† Offering Hymn: This is My Father's World - ELW 824 (v. 1 & 3)</p> <p>1 This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.</p>

This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

3 This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901

† Offering Prayer

Loving Creator, all Creation comes from you – forests, lands and prairies, wild places, rivers and streams. As we bring our offerings to you, we ask that you bless them so that your kingdom comes on Earth as it is in heaven; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

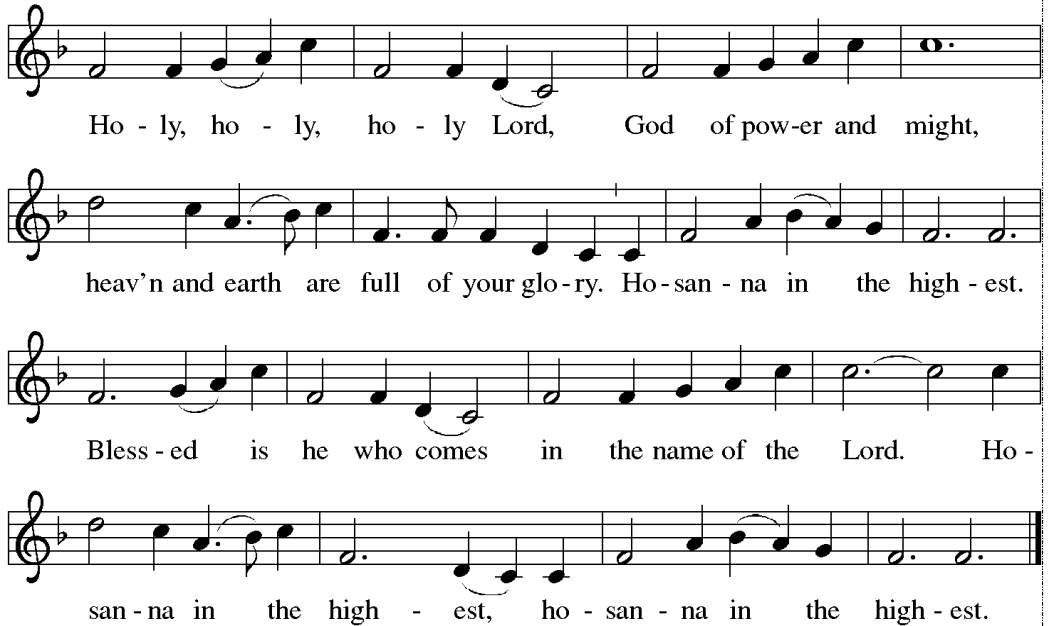
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

† Preface

† Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

...With this bread and cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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

† Lord's Prayer

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 to the table to eat of the bread of the Earth and drink of the fruit of the vine—Christ’s very body and blood—given for the whole cosmos.

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. Children are welcome to come to the Lord’s table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian’s preference.

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. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Music: Medley on Viola - Deb Yandala, Ellen Murphy, and Brad Holtman

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

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

Amen.

† Presentation of Multiplying Ministry Check to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries

The Sending

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

† Blessing

Almighty God, who breathes life into you and all living things, who heals all the world, and who sustains all Creation, give you peace and purpose, in the name of the Father, and the † Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.

† Sending Hymn: Let The Whole Creation Cry - ELW 876

- 1 Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above,
ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice;
night and stars, in God rejoice.
- 2 Servants striving for the Lord,
prophets burning with the word,
those to whom the arts belong
add their voices to the song.
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,
to the glorious circle draw;
all who work and all who wait,
sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
- 3 Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts
in this worship take their parts;
from the north to southern pole

let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;
glory be to God alone!"

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. Composite Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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

† Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for Creation.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Coffee Fellowship is currently paused for the summer, returning Oct 1st

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Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Michael Wancata	Reader: Bill Fink
Ushers: Kim Wylie & Sharon Hollowell	Counters: Bill Fink & Ellen Young
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Acolyte: George Young



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, September 24, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Carl Bruns, Phyllis Clapper, Andrew Evatt, Willie Lee, Pat Lukas, Char Mattson, Keyla Mercado, Marlon Naylor, Archer Oster, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Dick Schluep, Marie Sternad, Anna Sykaluk, Jeanette Weidlich, Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India.

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Amelia Forshey (9/26).

For those celebrating their birthday: JoAnne Wancata (9/26), Bill Wahl (9/28), Luke Williamson (9/28), and Ryan Williamson (9/28).

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God In honor of the birthdays of Luke and Ryan Williamson.

The Season of Creation Has Begun! - The Season of Creation is an annual global movement where Christian communities pray and act to care for God's creation. During September, each Sunday will be themed around an aspect of nature. See calendar below for themes and dates!

Beyond Chit-Chat Discussion Groups- Starting the week of September 24th, two small groups (one in-person and one on zoom) will begin meeting to discuss the book *Beyond Chit-Chat*. The first 10 people to sign up will receive a free copy of the book! If you miss that window, you will be notified with options regarding purchasing a book for \$10. If you're interested, please sign up using the QR code to the right, where you will find the sign-up sheet and summary of the book!



In-person small group: Tues at 7 pm at Good Soil, 9/26, 10/10, and 10/24.

Zoom small group: Wed at 7 pm, 9/27, 10/11, and 10/25.

Food ministry volunteer opportunities to help feed our neighbors:

Trinity Lutheran at Lakewood Congregational Church (1375 W Clifton Blvd, Lakewood) - on the third Saturday from 9am-12pm on October 21 and November 18. *Please bring in extra plastic bags to help support this ministry or place in the bin in the upstairs hallway.*

Online Flower Sign-Up- Interested in signing up to adorn Christ's altar with flowers for worship? Now you can sign up online! Scan the QR code to the right to access the sign-up sheet! **Please note:** The physical flower sign-up sheet is still in effect on the bulletin board at the church and outranks the digital one. Best efforts will be made to ensure the digital calendar reflects the physical one, but if you happen to digitally sign up for a date that is already taken on the physical sheet, you will be contacted about rescheduling. A digital calendar may be viewed via a link in the sign-up sheet.



Growing in Faith - Beginning this Fall the Northeastern Ohio Synod will be offering courses for lay people who want to be more deeply rooted and grounded in love. These courses (such as worship, Old and New Testament, Lutheran theology, etc.) will be taught by pastors and offered online throughout the Fall. You can read more about the classes and register for them by using the QR code to the right.



Newsletter- Want to keep up with the latest Good Soil news? Sign up for our newsletter *Seeds* with this URL: <https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp> or the QR code to the left.

Coffee Fellowship Returns October 1 - Fellowship over coffee returns to the first-floor kitchenette space with seating in the lounge following worship on October 1, 2023. Please consider volunteering to host and/or provide healthy snacks or baked goods. Volunteers can sign-up using Ministry Scheduler Pro *OR* the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside of the Lounge.

Coffee Volunteers will...

- Make coffee/hot water and set out sugar, creamer, cups, napkins prior to service.
- Attend and enjoy Coffee Fellowship.
- Clear off and stow supplies, rinse pots, return/share any excess snacks or baked goods and ensure coffee maker is properly shut down.

Coffee volunteers aren't expected to provide snacks or baked goods – but can if they would like.

Anyone can donate ready to serve healthy snacks or baked goods. Please use the sign-up sheet in the hallway or <https://tinyurl.com/gslmc> to let others know your plans.

Questions about hosting/volunteering? Stop in for Fellowship October 1 to see our new Coffeemaker system (thank you Tom Molnar!) and ask any questions.

Update for Families: Good Soil Sunday School to begin Oct 1st

DURING WORSHIP

Pray Ground

A special place to worship in the sanctuary- while being a kid! In addition to books, crayons, small toys etc., a “casually intentional” group activity will be available.

“Learn and Grow” time for children Gr. 1 and younger during the sermon

Children move down the hall to a classroom after the Children’s Sermon. They return to the Sanctuary during the Passing of the Peace or Offering collection at the latest.

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Sunday School for Grades 1 – 6 in Room 1

Junior Sunday School for Preschool/Kindergarten in Room 2

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Sept 24	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Season of Creation– Wilderness Sunday & Tithe Giveaway to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries	9:30 am
Sun, Oct 1	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sat, Oct 7	Ladies Breakfast @ Gene’s Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun, Oct 8	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Mon, Oct 9	Indigenous Peoples’ Day – Church Office Closed	
Sat, Oct 14	ELCA Anti-Racist Zoom Mtg	10:30 am
Sun, Oct 15	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am