

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 19th, 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

Worship & Music Coordinator Brynna Bailer Mango
brynnabailermango@gmail.com

Website: GoodSoilLutheran.org
Facebook: [goodsoillutheranministries](https://www.facebook.com/goodsoillutheranministries)
Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

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. 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.

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

Gathering

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

Prelude

Welcome

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,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.
Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God’s children,

and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

**† Gathering Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past- ELW 632
(v. 1, 3, 4, & 6)**

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:
- 3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2 Corinth. to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

† Hymn of Praise: Glory Be to God in Heaven, v. 1

1 Glo-ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The Word

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

First Reading: Psalm 90:1-6,12

Hear now the reading.

¹ Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

² Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.

³ You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Turn back, O children of earth.”

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is
past
and like a watch in the night;
⁵ you sweep them away like a dream,

they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
12 So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

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

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: Celtic Alleluia – ELW 174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

To put this gospel reading into context:

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return are called to make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless servant, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

Children's Sermon

Children grade 1 and younger are invited to step out with one of our Sunday School teachers to join the "learn and grow in faith" class during the sermon. They will return during the Passing of the Peace. Sunday School classes for all children (nursery school – grade 6) meet after worship.

**Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Laura Barbins,
Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA**

Silence for Reflection.

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

*When has God used your talents and skills to bless someone else?
When has God used someone else's talents and skills to bless you?
What difference did that make in your life?*

† Hymn of the Day: Lord of Light- ELW 688

1 Lord of light, your name outshining
all the stars and suns of space,
use our talents in your kingdom
as the servants of your grace;
use us to fulfill your purpose
in the gift of Christ your Son:

Refrain: Father, as in highest heaven,
so on earth your will be done.

2 By the toil of faithful workers
in some far outlying field,
by the courage where the radiance
of the cross is still revealed,
by the victories of meekness,
through reproach and suffering won: *Refrain*

3 Grant that knowledge, still increasing,
at your feet may lowly kneel;
with your grace our triumphs hallow,
with your charity our zeal;
lift the nations from the shadows
to the gladness of the sun: *Refrain*

4 By the prayers of faithful watchers,
never silent day or night;

by the cross of Jesus, bringing
peace to all and healing light;
by the love that passes knowledge,
making all your children one: *Refrain*

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt. Text © Union of Welsh Independents

*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

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you. Receive our prayer, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice and war. We especially pray for the people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, and Russia. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You teach us to count our days with gratitude. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you especially Peter, Helen, Jane, Carl, Tanya, Phyllis, Betty, Joe, Willie, Pat, Char, Rich, Anna, Jeanette, Archer, Steve, Dick, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India, Family and friends of Floyd Nelson, Family and friends of Connie Bilski ... and all those we name aloud or in our hearts. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the synodical and churchwide expressions of the ELCA and the ministry we do together for the sake of the world. Bless and

strengthen Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Bishop Laura Barbins. Shape us to be a church united by your love and your call to care for our neighbors. We pray that this mission support check offered today helps to make your Spirit-filled dreams and visions a reality in our synod. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of eternal life and rest, we praise your goodness. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **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.

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 the QR code to the right.



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: Let the Vineyards be Fruitful Lord - ELW 184

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.

Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

† Offering Prayer

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, 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.

† 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.

† 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

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

There is a place for you at the banquet.

Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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 Hymns

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us- ELW 707

- 1 Lord of glory, you have bought us
with your lifeblood as the price,
never grudging for the lost ones
that tremendous sacrifice;
and with that have freely given
blessings countless as the sand
to the unthankful and the evil
with your own unsparing hand.
- 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you
gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness
melt our thankless hearts of stone
till our cold and selfish natures,
warmed by you, at length believe
that more happy and more blessed
'tis to give than to receive.
- 3 Wondrous honor you have given
to our humblest charity
in your own mysterious sentence,
"You have done it all to me."
Naked, sick, in prison, hungry—
in the least, your face we view,
saying by your poor and needy,
"Give as I have giv'n to you."
- 4 Lord of glory, you have bought us
with your lifeblood as the price,
never grudging for the lost ones
that tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly,
hope, to stay our souls on you:
but, oh, best of all your graces,
with your love our love renew.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-1889, alt.

You Never Let Go- Matt Redman

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear
And even when I'm caught in the middle of the storms of this life
I won't turn back I know You are near

And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear?
Whom then shall I fear?

Oh no, You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no, You never let go
In every high and every low
Oh no, You never let go
Lord, You never let go of me

And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
We'll live to know You here on the earth

And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear?
Whom then shall I fear?

Oh no, You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no, You never let go
In every high and every low
Oh no, You never let go
Lord, You never let go of me

Yes, I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on
And there will be an end to these troubles

But until that day comes
Still I will praise You, still I will praise You

Oh no, You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no, You never let go
In every high and every low
Oh no, You never let go
Lord, You never let go of me
Oh, You never let go, You never let go

Oh no, You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no, You never let go
In every high and every low
Oh no, You never let go
Lord, You never let go of me
You never let, You never let go
You never let go of me

Songwriters: Beth Redman / Matt Redman You Never Let Go Lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group,
Capitol CMG Publishing, PFIVE Entertainment Mexico

† 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 NEO Synod

The Sending

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

† Blessing

The God of glory,
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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

† Sending Hymn: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light- ELW 815

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Text © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins! The dismissal is based on Good Soil's Purpose Statement.

† Dismissal

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for coffee fellowship and time with Bishop Barbins following worship.

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Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Trey Harrison	Reader: JoAnne Wancata
Ushers: Amanda Inman & Sharon Hollowell	Counters: Kim Wylie and Barbara Munch
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Acolyte: Alexandra Inman



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Nov 19th, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Jane Beese, Carl Bruns, Tanya Calcote, Phyllis Clapper, Betty Holcomb, Willie Lee, Pat Lukas, Char Mattson, Archer Oster, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Dick Schlupe, Anna Sykaluk, Jeanette Weidlich, Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India, family and friends of Floyd Nelson, and family and friends of Connie Bilski.

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Denise Johnson (11/20) and Mark Johnson (11/20).

For those celebrating their birthday: William Eversole (11/22).

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God in honor of Sunny and Marlys Christensen by their daughter Joy Christensen.

Flower Sign-Up- Interested in signing up to adorn Christ's altar with flowers for worship? You can sign up with the flower list on the bulletin board in the hallway or online using this QR code. Please note: The physical flower sign-up sheet on the bulletin board has first priority. 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.



Multiplying Ministry Tithes Giveaway to Northeastern Ohio Synod TODAY! Bishop Laura Barbins, is with Good Soil to accept the "multiplying ministry" tithe designated for the Northeastern Ohio ELCA Synod in the amount of \$18,000--thanks be to God! Bishop Barbins will be leading an adult forum after worship to share more about the Synod and its mission. Hope to see you there!

Good Soil is having an Advent Fair! – Do you love Advent/Christmas? Do you enjoy making crafts and/or sharing about God’s love and the spirit of Christmas? Then join us after worship on **12/3** in the fellowship hall for Good Soil’s Advent Fair! **So that we can provide enough craft supplies and food, please RSVP by 11/26 here or by calling/emailing the church office.**



Coffee Fellowship Volunteers Needed! - Please consider volunteering to host and/or provide healthy snacks or baked goods. Volunteers can sign-up using the Ministry Scheduler Pro platform, the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside of the Lounge, or by contacting the church office. 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 the QR code to the left.



Generosity Emphasis: “More Than We Imagine”- As we approach 2024, we can see that God has done so much more than any of us could have imagined in this place. Good Soil has grown in many ways— in our vision, in numbers, and in our depth of relationships. We have so much to look forward to for ministry initiatives in 2024 and the generosity of the congregation makes that meaningful ministry possible. Thank you to all who submitted Intent Cards for 2024. You can fill out the physical intent card or use the QR code. Here are some statistics from our generosity emphasis. Thank you for helping to share God’s abundance!



1. 46 intents have been received as of 11/15/23
2. 9 are pledging for the first time at Good Soil
3. 32 are growing in their generosity for next year
4. 9 intents are beginning their new level of generosity PRIOR to Jan 2024

Plan your funeral (so your family doesn’t have to). In the past around this time of year, Pastor Marissa has offered an adult forum inviting people to plan their own funeral services now so their family members don't have to. (Involves filling out a planning sheet that the church will make a copy of and keep on file for you). If you are interested in that planning material or setting up a planning meeting with Pastor Marissa, please reach out to her at pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org.

Good Soil Sunday School

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

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



Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
Sun, Nov 19	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Bishop Laura Barbins Multiplying Ministry Tithe and Adult Forum	9:30 am 10:30 am
Thurs, Nov 23	Thanksgiving Day – Church Office Closed	
Fri, Nov 24	Day After Thanksgiving – Church Office Closed	
Sun, Nov 26	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Reign of Christ Sunday/A Journey Through the Liturgical Year	9:30 am
Sat, Dec 2	Ladies Breakfast @ Gene’s Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun, Dec 3	In-Person and Livestream Worship Advent Fair Zoom Q&A mtng re: proposed 2024 Ministry Funding Plan (budget). Please RSVP to Council President Ellen Young at eebeese@hotmail.com	9:30 am 11:00 am 2:00 pm
Sat, Dec 9	ELCA Anti-Racist Zoom Meeting	10:30 am
Sun, Dec 10	In-Person and Livestream Worship Congregation Meeting to Approve 2024 Budget Ecumenical Christmas Caroling with Lakewood Ministerium (Meet at Lakewood Baptism Church)	9:30 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm
Sun, Dec 17	In-Person and Livestream Worship AND Children’s Christmas Pageant	9:30 am