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

1st Sunday in Advent December 3rd, 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 Instagram: goodsoilchurch YouTube: Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

<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. 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.

1st Sunday in Advent

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle and will reveal the glory of the Lord. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Gathering The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.PreludeWelcomeIn the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Gacis performent. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.† Confession and Forgiveness Blessed be the holy Trinity, \oplus one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. Amen.God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.Silence is kept for reflection. Everlasting God, you love justice and you despise wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We are careless with creation's bounty. Lendward complexes			
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.Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. Amen.God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.Silence is kept for reflection.Everlasting God, you love justice and you despise wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We are careless with creation's bounty.		The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. Prelude	
LOOK upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you.	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	 Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. Amen. God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin. Silence is kept for reflection. Everlasting God, you despise wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. 	

	 Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen. Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. Amen. 			
	† Gathering Hymn: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You- ELW 241 (v. 1, 3, & 4)			
	1	O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight! Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.		
	3	Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me. Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty. Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.		
	4	Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom, who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom. All hail the Lord's appearing!		

	O glorious Sun, now come, send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home. Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite			
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.			
Kyrie Eleison means "Lord have mercy." Chanting is an ancient practice of the church.	t Kyrie Figure Ky - n - e (e)le - i - son (e)lei - i - son Lord have mer - cy on US. Lord have mer - cy on US. Lord have mer - cy on US.			
The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.	† Prayer of the Day Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you and seek you; 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: Isaiah 40:1-11

To put this reading into context:

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

Hear now the reading.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him. and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God. Psalm: 85:1-2, 8-13 'You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD; you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people and blotted out | all their sins.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who love you, that your glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;

righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,

and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

	¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,							
	and our land will yield its increase.							
	¹³ Righteousness shall go be- fore the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.							
	and shall prepare for God a pathway.							
We welcome the	† Gospel Acclamation: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus- ELW 254							
gospel by singing the Gospel								
Acclamation. We rise, if able, in	1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;							
anticipation of	1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;							
Christ being								
revealed to us through the Living	from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.							
Word of the Gospel.								
Cospei.	Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,							
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth the								
	dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.							
Before and after the reading of	† Gospel: Mark 1:1-8							
the Gospel, we	To put this gospel reading into context:							
give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us of the Lord.								
					through the			
					<i>Gospel reading.</i> The holy Gospel according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.			
	¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.							
	² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,							
	who will prepare your way;							
	³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:							
	'Prepare the way of the Lord,							
	make his paths straight,' " ⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a							
	baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from							
	the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were							

going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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.

† Advent Wreath Hymn: Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, ELW 240 (v.1)

 Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

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

Sermon: The Rev. Jim Kulma, The Rev. Marissa Harrison, and the people of Good Soil

Silence for Reflection.

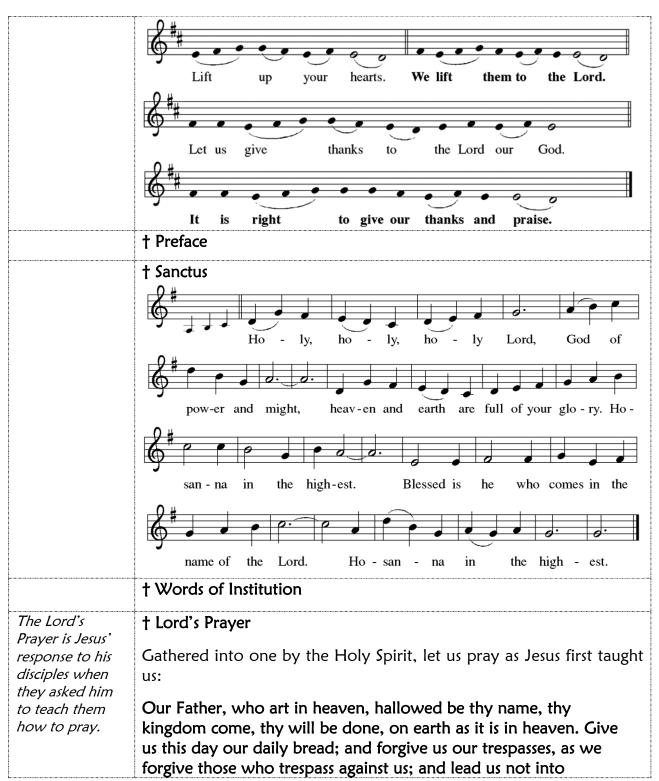
Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You're invited to reflect on the following question:

How have you seen glimpses of God's glory revealed in your own life? How have you been comforted by God? How have you seen or experienced the Holy Spirit bringing forth new life in "wilderness" places?

	† Hymn of the Day: Comfort, Comfort Now My People- ELW 256
	 "Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.
	 2 For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.
	 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken. Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
As the church, we pray for	† Prayers of Intercession
those in our community and around the	With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's restoration.
world. The prayers are also	A brief silence.
responsive, emphasizing our	Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God, receive our prayer .

own	Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and
participation.	blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for
Each petition addresses a	renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God, receive our prayer.
<i>different topic, often in the same pattern:</i>	Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice. Direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. We especially pray for war-torn places, especially Ukraine,
+ The Church + Creation	Russia, Palestine, and Israel. Merciful God, receive our prayer.
+ Nations and leaders +Those in need + This faith	Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God, receive our prayer .
community + The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God	Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence, especially for Helen, Jane, Carl, Tanya, Betty, Joe, Willie, Char, Rich, Jeanette, Archer, Steve, Dick, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India, and all those we name aloud or in our hearts. Merciful God, receive our prayer.
	With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God, receive our prayer.
	Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. Amen.
A practice of the	† Passing of the Peace
ancient church, where we recognize Christ's	The Peace of Christ be with you always And also with you.
peace in one another and share it together.	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.

F		
God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one	<u>The Meal</u> God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ. Offering	
way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.	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	† Offering Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel- ELW 257	
brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.	1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.	
	<i>Refrain</i> Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.	
	Text: <i>Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum</i> , Köln, 1710; tr. Composite Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.	
	† Offering Prayer	
	God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.	
	† Great Thanksgiving The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.	



r	r
	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
	In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.
	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.
	<i>Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.</i>
	Communion Hymns
	Prepare the Royal Highway ELW- 264
	 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear! Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
	<i>Refrain</i> Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

2	God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king! Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing! God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! <i>Refrain</i>
3	Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king! Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring. All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: <i>Refrain</i>
4	His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above. His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love. So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: <i>Refrain</i>
	rt: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. <i>Lutheran Book of Worship</i> rt © 1978 <i>Lutheran Book of Worship</i> , admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Ha	ark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding- ELW 246
1	Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say. "Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!"
2	Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.
3	See the Lamb, so long expected, come with pardon down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiv'n;

	4 So, when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.		
	5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son with the everlasting Spirit while unending ages run!		
	Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878		
	† 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 sends us in mission to the world			
† Blessing			
	The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit & remain upon you now and forever. Amen.		
Through the	† Sending Hymn: Hark! The Glad Sound (ELW 239)		
sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.	 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long; let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song. 		
	2 He comes the pris'ners to release,		
	in Satan's bondage held.		
	The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.		
	3 He comes the broken heart to bind,		

	the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.
	4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim, and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.
	Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
The dismissal sends us out as Christ's	† Dismissal
Body—fed,	Go in peace. Keep awake.
nourished, and ready to serve.	Thanks be to God.
Worship has	
ended, and our service begins! The	
dismissal is based	
on Good Soil's	
Purpose Statement.	Postlude
	rostiuue

You are warmly invited to gather downstairs in the fellowship hall for the Advent Fair—food, crafts, faith, fellowship, and fun!

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. Worship texts are from <u>sundaysandseasons.com</u>. Copyright 2023. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS020986 Music reprinted under One License #A-719034 or CCLI license #3013830. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Jessica Berkshire	Reader: Jennifer Krankowski
Ushers: Bill & Darlene Wahl	Counters: Becky Williamson & Jessica
	Berkshire
Online Usher: Kim Wylie	Acolyte: Isaac Krankowski
Cantor: Kaitlyn Regan	



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Dec 3rd, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Helen Andrews, Jane Beese, Carl Bruns, Tanya Calcote, Betty Holcomb, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Archer Oster, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Dick Schluep, Jeanette Weidlich, and Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India.

For those celebrating their birthday: Joe Lanter (12/3), Sean Lanter (12/3) Aaron Krankowski (12/8), and Alin Sburlea (12/9).

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God in honor of the birthdays of Joe and Sean Lanter.

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. <u>Please note</u>: 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.



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 **TODAY** in the fellowship hall for Good Soil's Advent Fair!

The Longest Night: A Service of Candlelight, Prayer, and Hope, 12/21 at 6:30 pm- The Longest Night is a quiet, meditative service with candlelight for those who are experiencing grief around the holidays or simply need a quiet place to rest and renew spiritually.

Children's Christmas Pageant, 12/17 During Worship- Come support the kids of Good Soil as they put on a Christmas Pageant! See their hard work and telling of the nativity story during worship on Sunday, 12/17.

Congregation Meeting, 12/10- Following worship on December 10th, Good Soil will have our congregation meeting to approve the Ministry Funding Plan for next year (2024 budget). On December 3rd at 2 pm there will be a Zoom Q&A meeting for anyone who has questions regarding the proposed Ministry Funding Plan (budget). If you would like to attend this meeting, please RSVP to Council President Ellen Young at <u>eebeese@homail.com</u>

Copies of the Narrative Budget were shared with the congregation via email and the e-news. If you would like to request a detailed line-by-line budget, please email the church office at admin@goodsoillutheran.org.

Advent Giving Tree- Please join in decorating our Advent Giving Tree with gifts of comfort and joy for those served by Trials for Hope, Sunday 11/26 thru Sunday 12/31 in the upstairs coffee kitchen across from the Lounge.

SUGGESTED GIFTS: Warm Socks - USB Charging Blocks - Multi-charging Power Cords - Individual Packets of Starkist Tuna Creations and/or Spam Single Classics.

Ongoing items requested by Trials for Hope (e.g., Diapers size 6, canned meats, personal hygiene products, etc.) can be placed in the box beneath the tree.

Gather Together 20's and 30's Group Christmas Party- Gather Together, our 20s and 30s young adult group, will be hosting a Christmas party December 17th from 4-7PM at the Washburn home. Please drop in for holiday music, hot chocolate, and treats! Parents are welcome to bring kids along. We invite you to bring an appetizer, snack or dessert to share. With winter upon us, we will also use this as an opportunity to collect items for the Northeast Ohio's Coalition for the Homeless, including hoodies, hats, gloves, sleeping bags and warm blankets. In lieu of a gift exchange, please consider bringing an item to donate if you are able. Contact Mary Washburn (210-241-8455 / mary.washburn@outlook.com) for address and more details.

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. 50 intents have been received as of 11/26/23
- 2. 11 are pledging for the first time at Good Soil
- 3. 34 are growing in their generosity for next year
- 4. 11 intents are beginning their new level of generosity PRIOR to Jan 2024

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



Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Dec 3	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
	Advent Fair	11:00 am
	Zoom Q&A mtng re: proposed 2024 Ministry Funding	2:00 pm
	Plan (budget). Please RSVP to Council President Ellen	
	Young at <u>eebeese@hotmail.com</u>	
Sat, Dec 9	ELCA Anti-Racist Zoom Meeting	10:30 am
Sun, Dec 10	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
	Congregation Meeting to Approve 2024 Budget	10:30 am
Sun, Dec 17	In-Person and Livestream Worship AND Children's	9:30 am
	Christmas Pageant	
	Gather Together 20's and 30's Group Christmas Party	4:00 pm
Thurs, Dec 21	The Longest Night In-Person and Livestream Worship	6:30 pm
	Service	
Sun, Dec 24	Lessons and Carols In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
	Candlelight Christmas Eve In-Person and Livestream	6:30 pm
	Worship	
Sun, Dec 31	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am