# Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



2nd Sunday in Advent December 10th, 2023 9:30 am



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

# The Rev. Marissa Harrison pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org

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Website: GoodSoilLutheran.org Facebook: goodsoillutheranministries

Instagram: goodsoilchurch

YouTube: Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

### 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 are available upon request.

### **Bulletin 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.

### 2nd Sunday in Advent

"Rejoice always!" Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

gather for a foretaste of God's party.			
	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, 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 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: People Look East- ELW 248 (v. 1, 3, & 4)

- People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

  Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.

  People, look east, and sing today—
  Love, the Guest, is on the way.
- 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.

  People, look east, and sing today—
  Love, the Star, is on the way.
- Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.

  Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.

  People, look east, and sing today—
  Love, the Lord, is on the way.

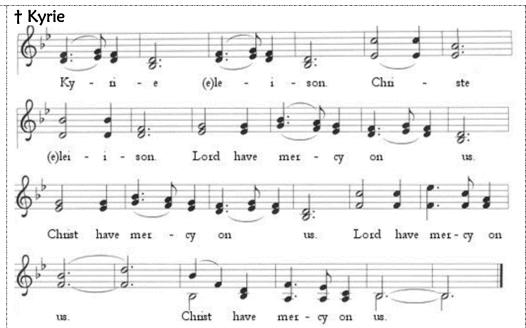
Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

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.
This Kyrie was arranged by The Rev. Sarah
Taylor, ELCA.
Used with permission.



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

### † Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

### The Word

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

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 9-11

To put this reading into context:

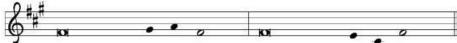
Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

Hear now the reading.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me: he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

# Psalm 126



<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,

then were we like I those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great | things for them."

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great | things for us, and we are | glad indeed.

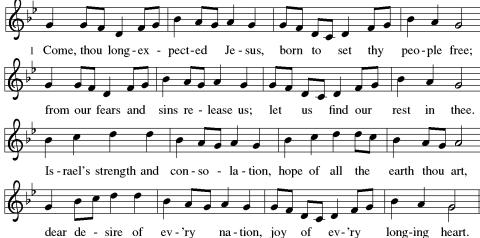
<sup>4</sup>Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD, like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup>Those who | sowed with tears will reap with | songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed, will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

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: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus- ELW 254



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

† Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

To put this gospel reading into context:

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

through the Gospel reading.					
	<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.				
	<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jewish authorities sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup> He said,				
	"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.				
	<sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup> John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.				
	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 & 2)				

- Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
  let the light banish darkness.
  He shall bring salvation to Israel,
  God fulfills the promise.
- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

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

### Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison,

Silence for Reflection.

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

Where do you see "The Spirit of the Lord" bringing good news to the oppressed? Binding up the brokenhearted? Proclaiming freedom to captives and release to prisoners? Comforting those who mourn? Repairing what is ruined? Providing hope in the midst of disaster? What examples of these actions have you experienced from God in your own life? In the lives of others and in the wider world?

### † Hymn of the Day: My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness - ELW 251

- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise! You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace. Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age this blessing shall proclaim—great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.
- 2 To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows.With mighty arm you dash the proud, their scheming hearts expose.

The ruthless you have cast aside, the lowly throned instead; the hungry filled with all good things, the rich sent off unfed.

To Israel, your servant blest, your help is ever sure; the promise to our parents made their children will secure. Sing glory to the Holy One, give honor to the Word, and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all adored.

Text: With One Voice, 1995, based on the Magnificat Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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

community

- +Those in need + This faith

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and compel us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need, especially Helen, Jane, Carl, Pam, Tanya, Betty, Joe, Willie, Char, Rich,

# † Prayers of Intercession

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's restoration. A brief silence.

Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as

we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God, receive our prayer. Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards,

rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation.

Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter.

You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away.

God
A practice of the ancient church, where we
recognize Christ's peace in one another and
share it together.

+ The great

witnesses/those

now resting with

cloud of

Jeanette, Archer, Steve, family and friends of Alfred, Jo-Anna, Kyle, and baby Julian, Dick, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India, ... and all those we name aloud or in our hearts. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God, receive our prayer. Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and

in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in

all circumstances, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. 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.

# rist's her.

God entrusts us

ministry of the

church.

# † 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.

### with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the

# 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: O Come O Come Emmanuel- ELW 257

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.

### Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

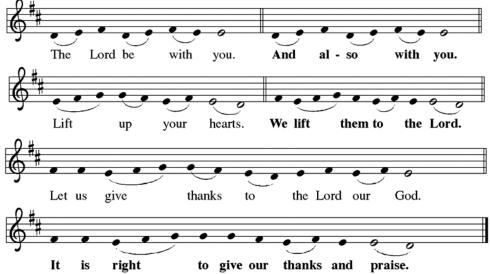
### † Offering Prayer

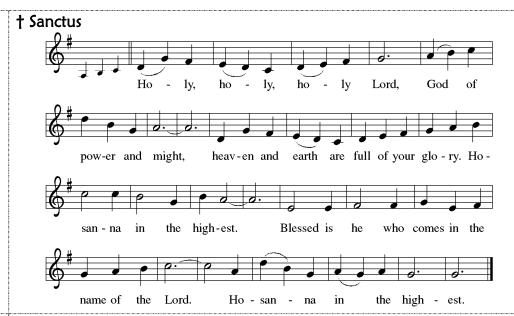
God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people,

through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**.



† Preface





#### † 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

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.

Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

### Communion Hymns

### Awake Awake and Greet the New Morn- ELW 242

- 1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
  Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
  Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.
- 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing, his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing; music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness, the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.
- 3 In darkest night his coming shall be,

when all the world is despairing, as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring. Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.

Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story; may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### All Earth is Hopeful - ELW 266

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell: "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel"; she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
  This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see

	our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.
	Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
	† 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: He Came Down - ELW 253
sending hymn we are sent out	1 He came down that we may have love;
into the world to	he came down that we may have love;
follow Jesus.	he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.
	2 He came down that we may have light;
	he came down that we may have light;
	he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.
	3 He came down that we may have peace;
	he came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
	hallelujah forevermore.
	4 He came down that we may have joy;
	he came down that we may have joy:
	he came down that we may have joy;

	hallelujah forevermore.
	Text: Cameroon traditional
The dismissal sends us out as Christ's	† Dismissal
Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins! The	Go in peace. Keep awake.  Thanks be to God.
dismissal is based on Good Soil's Purpose Statement.	
	Postlude

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You are warmly invited to take a 5 min break and then gather back in the sanctuary for our congregation meeting to approve the 2024 Ministry Funding Plan (Budget) and elect the 2024 Nominating Committee.

## Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Joe Lanter	Reader: William Eversole
Ushers: Chris & Larry Jacobson	Counters: Larry Jacobson & Joe Lanter
Online Usher: Kathy Berkshire	Acolyte: Jack Johnson
Cantor: William Eversole	



## Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Dec 10th, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Helen Andrews, Jane Beese, Carl Bruns, Pam Bruns, Tanya Calcote, Joe Gray, Betty Holcomb, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Archer Oster, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, family and friends of Alfred Kanagaraj, Jo-Anna, Kyle, and baby Julian Regan, Dick Schluep, Jeanette Weidlich, and Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India.

For those celebrating their birthday: Sharon Hollowell (12/15).

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Stan Zeager (12/11) & Madeline Sburlea (12/12).

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.

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, TODAY- Following worship, Good Soil will have our congregation meeting to approve the Ministry Funding Plan for next year (2024 budget).

Advent Giving Tree- Please join in decorating our Advent Giving Tree with gifts of comfort and joy for those served by Trials for Hope, 11/26-12/31 in the upstairs coffee kitchen across from the Lounge. SUGGESTED GIFTS: Warm Socks, USB Charaina 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, 20's and 30's young adult group, will be hosting a Christmas party December 17<sup>th</sup>, 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. We'll also use this as an opportunity to collect items for the NE 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.

**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: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp">https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp</a> or the QR code to the right.



Calendar of Events				
Date	Event	Time		
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		
	Live Nativity at Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran	5pm –7pm		
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		
Thurs, Jan 4	Confirmation Class @ Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran	5:45 pm		
Sat, Jan 6	Ladies' Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am		
Sun, Jan 7	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Baptism of Our Lord	9:30 am		
	Sunday			

Who could you invite to come with you and share the joy of the season with Good Soil? Pray for them and pick up some invitations this Sunday through December.

