



Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

New Members

January 28, 2024





Kathy Aloï

I am a cradle Catholic who recognized about a dozen years ago (give or take a couple) that Roman Catholicism was no longer a good fit. My husband has already done some "wandering" and I initially followed him. My journey led me to ELCA Lutheranism and eventually to Trinity where I found a loving community which I called home for as long as I could. However, as you know, our time was limited and so my journey brought me here to Good Soil. This place and this community feels right. It is a community committing to the RIC process which is important to me as a mother whose daughters are both identify in the LGBT community. I feel I can make a home here and can find a way to share my gifts. I look forward to becoming more a part of this community.



Matthew, Sarah, & Luke Badgett

The Badgett family had been attending Trinity Lutheran since 2018, and Matthew had been on church council when they closed last year. Over the summer, the family started attending Good Soil. The family includes Matthew, Sarah, their young son Luke, and their dog Roxi! Matthew is a primary care doc and Sarah does ultrasounds, both for the Cleveland Clinic. In their spare time, they enjoy running, rock climbing, gardening, and cooking.



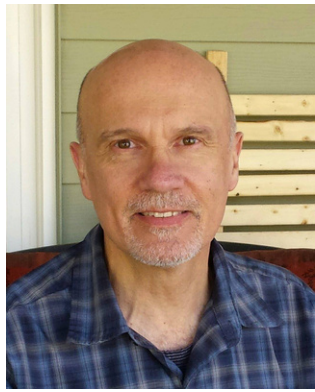
Cindy Beavin

I came to Good Soil after the closing of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lakewood, I like who Good Soil is and their beliefs. I am very happy to be here and feel so welcome. I was married for 44 years when my husband, Dale, passed away in 2020. I was his constant and loving companion for 14 years after being diagnosed with chronic illness. The most important thing for me is my family, sons Matthew & Alex, daughter-in-law Andrea and granddaughter Abby. My family is my happiness.



Donna Handy

I was born and raised in the western New York area (Kenmore and Elma-near Buffalo). After high school graduation, I attended the University of Rochester, in Rochester New York, where I earned a B.S. degree in nursing. My first job was at Roswell Park Memorial Institute (a cancer research hospital in Buffalo) until September 1961 when I married my high school sweetheart, George, and we moved to Lakewood. I worked at Lakewood Hospital for ten years, after which I went to work for an OB-GYN physician in his office. I remained with that practice until I retired in 2000. After retirement I worked at the Lakewood YMCA for 20 years, sharing a job with my friend, Cindy Beavin, leading an Arthritis Foundation certified water exercise class. COVID ended that for us. I have one loving son, David, who lives with his husband, John, in Canal Springs, Florida.



Jim Kulma

I grew up in a small town, Fairport Harbor, Ohio just east of Cleveland. I have been ordained as a pastor for 39 years, and served one congregation for a short term, All Saints in Olmsted Falls. I've spent 33 years as a healthcare chaplain in hospitals, hospice, nursing home and trauma center. I play and teach Tai Chi (33 years) and have travelled to China for further my studies. I am a member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers and perform throughout the region. Having retired 3 years ago, my main focus now is rehabbing my house, providing pulpit supply in various congregations and enjoying my 2 grandchildren (5 years and 20 months).

I am a retired elementary school teacher. I am also an artist. I paint rain barrels, windows, and garden poles. I also like to paint on canvas. I have several young grandchildren who bring me joy. During spring, summer and fall I like hunting in the nearby forests for mushrooms.



Toni Kulma

Mary Kay and Mark Liston retired in 2020 after spending many years in franchising, both serving as presidents of their companies (Mary Kay also spent half of her career in television). They are snowbirds: summers in Concord, OH and winters in New Port Richey, FL. They have several grandchildren in Ohio and a great grandson in Florida. In Florida, they became members of Pastor Marissa's mom's church – just a couple miles from their home. When Mark and Mary Kay mentioned they were building a house east of Cleveland, Pastor Rita told them they might try and visit their daughter's church. After just one visit they knew that this would be their church home all summer! Mary Kay was a Navy brat who grew up in several Catholic congregations on the West Coast and Japan. Mark attended Lutheran grade school in Rockford, IL and has always been active in the Lutheran church. When Mark was diagnosed with lung cancer in November, 2022, and found out 40 days later that he did not have cancer, the couple wrote a book entitled, Diagnosed: Inspirational Stories After An Alarming Medical Diagnosis. Interviews with 25 survivors of alarming diagnoses comprise the bulk of this faith-based book (Diagnosedbook.com).



Mark & Mary Kay Liston

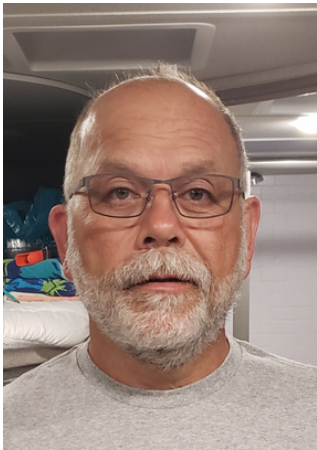
Bryan McGucken was born in New Haven, Connecticut and married Elisabeth in 2005. They have two children, Kerry and Susan. Bryan works at the IRS. He came as a transfer from Trinity Lutheran Church in Lakewood. The hymns, the pastor, and the many opportunities for servant leadership are the biggest draws for Bryan at Good Soil. He likes to sing, participate in music opportunities, and serve as a reader. Bryan is also blind. As a way to be especially welcoming to him (as well as Allan Wylie, and Laura and Shawn O'Neil) please say your name whenever you begin talking with him so he knows who you are.



I am joining Good Soil Lutheran Ministries after being a lifelong Catholic. I was born in Cleveland, Ohio to Hungarian immigrant parents and attended Catholic elementary school at St. James Parish. As a child, I was active in many Hungarian activities. I have one sister three years younger than me, however, we are not close. After graduating from Lakewood High School, I attended the Fairview School of Nursing. After completing half of the program, I switched to CSU and worked toward an Early Childhood Education degree. I married my husband Tom, and because I needed money to live off of, I quit school despite being just 4 classes short of graduation. I left to teach preschool at St. Paul's Episcopal School. I also taught Sunday School at St. Paul's and later at our former home parish, St. Brendan Church. During my schooling I worked as a nursing assistant for 3 years as well as Lakewood Meals on Wheels for several years. In 2000, I was approached by the chairperson of the Rocky River Meals on Wheels to be a substitute for their regular cook. That temporary job became permanent, and I have been there ever since. My husband Tom and I have an adopted son Matthew, and he is the one who led us to Good Soil, after feeling the Catholic Church was not a place he could grow spiritually. We both felt the comfort and community here, and have been uplifted at Good Soil, so we decided to join as well.

Andrea Dora-Molnar

I was born and grew up in Nyirbator, Hungary while Hungary was a Socialist country. As a child, I legally emigrated to the US in 1974 after the passing of my mother, in order to reunite with my father who fled Communist Hungary earlier in 1968. I was baptized and Confirmed Byzantine Catholic (Greek Catholic) in Hungary. I seldom attended church there because my mother was chronically ill and could not care for herself or her children. (Church attendance was not legally forbidden in Hungary) After the death of my mother, I eventually was declared an orphan and years later I was allowed to join my only parent here in the US. I grew up in North Olmsted as Roman Catholic since my stepmother's family were of the Roman rite. Not until 1989, was that an issue for me (or the Church), until I wanted to get married in a Roman Catholic Church and my fiancé was of the Roman Rite (and I wasn't). When my son a few years ago started questioning the Church's rules and teachings, he asked for guidance from Father T. and got no help, then he turned to Pastor Marissa at Good Soil Ministries, and she answered all his questions, and she even gave him books he could further read to learn. I started to bring him to Good Soil for the Sunday worship, and he (and I) enjoyed each worship from Pastor Marissa more and more. Initially I was just the chauffeur for my son, but then I enjoyed coming to Sunday worship here at Good Soil with him and enjoyed the sermon from Pastor Marissa. So, my wife Andrea and I decided to join the Good Soil Congregation as members along with my son Matthew.



Tom Molnar

My background is in residential/commercial design and construction. I have just completed a multi-year assignment renovating the NEO Synod Lutheran Center building. Along with supervising contractors, I also provided several paintings depicting the Holy Spirit and Diversity subjects. I've been a Lutheran since childhood and have been active in several local ELCA Northwest Conference churches. While on NEO Synod Council, I was elected twice to attend our Churchwide Assemblies as a voting member. I am excited to participate on Good Soil's team exploring the value of becoming a Reconciling in Christ church and sharing that information with our congregation.



Chuck Mosberger



Anne Paine

I was born and raised in Staten Island, New York, in a wonderful Irish, Roman Catholic family. I graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in newspaper journalism, and I moved to Ohio when I married Dave. I worked most of my career, two decades, as a writer and editor in the public relations office at Oberlin College. I became a Lutheran in my 40s. Personal experiences made me realize that because people with disabilities often are not accepted in society, they truly need to know the love of God, and I wanted to be an agent of that love. This impelled me to become a deaconess, and I was consecrated by the Lutheran Diaconal Association (Valparaiso, Indiana) on January 29, 2012. I worked for another decade at an agency that assisted people with disabilities, as an information and referral specialist, answering a hotline, and as a benefits specialist, helping people obtain government benefits. I now volunteer with the food pantry in Avon Lake and have become an expert at moving cans from boxes to shelves to bins! I am also an expert knitter and a decent baker. I feel connected to Good Soil because of the progressive Christianity practiced here, because I have been so welcomed here, and because the congregation welcomes children so wholeheartedly.



David Paine

Hello I'm Dave Paine and I've been coming to Good Soil now for about a year. I retired from my career as a financial manager in mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures with Eaton Corporation in 2018 after working for the company for 31 years. In retirement I've been pursuing my long-time passions of playing trombone (jazz and classical), bicycling (I love rail trails, old converted railroad beds), volunteering as the finance director for the non-profit organization CRS in Avon Lake, and most of all spending time and travel with Anne and our goofy dog Yaz. Anne and I also spend as much time as possible with our son Evan and his wife Natalie (who are now also members at Good Soil). My music has always been my connection with faith, beginning with memories of my mother and grandmother singing hymns at home, and in adult life by arranging music and playing for church services over the years. I began attending church at Good Soil in January, 2023 when Anne and I decided to move away from Trinity Church in Lakewood since that church was going to close mid-2023 and I wanted to get started with our new church home as soon as possible after playing for Trinity's Christmas services in 2022. I found Good Soil to be such a warm and welcoming community from the very beginning, and greatly enjoyed Pastor Marissa's sermons and generally upbeat attitude towards the entire church. All of that in the subsequent year has kept me returning.



Martha Panek

I grew up in Parma at a time when my siblings and I freely played outside in neighborhoods full of large families. (12 kids in ours. Obviously, Catholic.) We walked or biked everywhere. I met my husband in junior high school. We settled in North Olmsted 37 years ago where we raised our two kids. Our daughter, Emily, is the most amazing mom to two of our grandkids. She and her husband teach and coach in Muskingum county. Our son, Zach, stayed closer to home. He and his wife are lovingly raising two little girls. I love spending time with my grandkids. I am truly blessed to be able to watch them grow! I am also blessed to be able to enjoy retirement after teaching for twenty-seven years. When I am not busy with family, I like to read, play a little golf, and attend to my yard. Sunday services at Good Soil have been revitalizing in a peaceful, welcoming and relaxed way.



Evan Paine & Natalie Tasseff

Evan:

I work in accounting and finance for a manufacturing company. I grew up in Avon Lake and returned to the Cleveland area after attending Miami University. I enjoy biking and hiking, as well as trying to cook and bake new recipes. My parents and I attended a Catholic church until I was 10, then we switched to a Lutheran church. I find community to be where I experience God. I was drawn to Good Soil for this reason and enjoy coming back to see how the church gives back to the surrounding community.

Natalie:

I work as a pharmacist in a family medicine clinic helping to manage chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart failure, and high blood pressure. I grew up in Mansfield, OH and moved to the Cleveland area with my lovely husband Evan Paine. My parents and I attended a congregational church in Mansfield, OH. Where I experience God is at my place of work when patients actually start feeling better and also being a part of a health team who is dedicated to improving patient care. For a similar reason, I am drawn to Good Soil as this is an organization that works together to meet the needs of others.



Kirsten Reading

I am happy to join the Good Soil community. Fifty years after memorizing - and immediately forgetting - various parts of Luther's small catechism, I've recognized that the Apostle's Creed and Luther's explanations are the root of my Lutheran faith. I look forward to participating in the congregation's priorities, especially faith formation and inclusion. A bit about me and my family - I recently retired. My husband and I enjoy traveling and visiting the national parks. We have two wonderful daughters; they both got engaged in September so there will be weddings in our future.



Kaitlyn Regan and Beau Reddington live in Cleveland Hts., Ohio with their two cats Nala and Fiyero. They got married in September 2023 and share a love of music, gaming, and theatre. Kaitlyn works for the Cuyahoga County Public Library system and Beau is a consultant for Salesforce Inc. They met doing the musical Beauty and the Beast at Near West Theatre in 2017 and continue to do shows around Cleveland. They love to see familiar faces in the audience! They were members at Trinity Lutheran Church before coming to Good Soil and have been enjoying meeting everyone and singing loudly during communion. They hope to become more involved in Good Soil's community and outreach programming.

Kaitlyn Regan & Beau Reddington



Steve is a hospice nurse and Sharon is a reading teacher at the elementary level. We will be married 35 years in June and have raised 4 children who are now all married. We enjoy spending time with our family including three grandsons and another grandchild to arrive in February. Family time also includes attending local theatre productions for enjoyment and supporting family cast members. We also enjoy traveling to visit and explore National Parks. Our most recent visit was to Mt. St. Helens and the Lewis and Clark National Park in Washington State. Steve is an avid hockey fan and also tinkers with home projects. Sharon enjoys reading a good book and cooking a variety of recipes.

Sharon & Steve Regan



Dee Willis and Nancy Welliver recently moved to Cleveland from Atlanta. Dee is a volunteer chaplain, ministering in hospice houses and senior care homes. Nancy is a retired environmental scientist. They have two children, a son who is a consultant in Virginia and a daughter who is pastor of a church in Hawai'i. They have two grandchildren in Hawai'i that they often visit. The photo was taken at their daughter's church. Aloha to all.

Dee Willis & Nancy Welliver

