Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Ash Wednesday February 14th, 2024 6:30 pm



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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.

Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday we begin our 40-day journey to Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we've already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean as we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

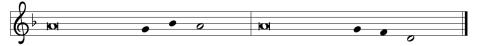
Gathering

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

Prelude and Welcome

Silence for reflection.

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-3, 6-12



¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹ steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out ¹ my offenses.

²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness, and cleanse me | from my sin.

³For I know | my offenses, and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me, and would have me know wisdom | deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸Let me hear | joy and gladness; that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face | from my sins, and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean | heart, O God, and renew a right spir- | it within me.

The assembly	11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spir- it from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your boun- tiful Spirit. † Greeting
and presiding minister greet one another.	The Lord be with you. And also with you.
The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.	† Prayer of the Day Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, 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 58:6-12
	To put this reading into context:
	Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. Sincere repentance will lead to a dramatic improvement of their condition.
	Hear now the reading. 61s not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt: you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God. Before and after † Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 the reading of the Gospel, we To put this gospel reading into context: give thanks and In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, praise to Jesus and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done Christ, who is for show. revealed to us

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

through the

Gospel reading.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

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

Children's Sermon

Homily: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for Reflection.

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

	What aspect of God's love do you need in this season of life (grace, forgiveness, generosity, solidarity, comfort, peace, abundance, provision, wisdom, etc.)? You are invited to write that on the heart-shaped post-it as a focus word for your Lenten journey this year. Please post the heart on the board right outside of the sanctuary doors on your way out of worship.
	† Hymn of the Day: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross - ELW 335
	1 Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain; free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.
	Refrain: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.
	2 Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me; there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. <i>Refrain</i>
	3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. <i>Refrain</i>
	4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever, till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. <i>Refrain</i>
	Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915
Ash Wednesday	Invitation to Lent
marks the beginning of the	† Call to Confession
Lenten Season and "returning	Siblings in Christ, God in Christ comes among sinners to call them to

repent and to gather them into God's loving embrace. Through

and "returning to God" with all

our heart.

Christ, the entire	forgiveness of our sin	is accomplished	l and our
acceptance as Go	d's beloved is assured	l. Thanks be to $\mathfrak G$	Sod.

† Confession of Sin

Most holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God,		
for your mercy is great		

Imposition of Ashes

Making the sign of the cross with ashes upon the forehead is an ancient tradition of the Church. It is derived from the practice of penitents throwing ashes over their heads when they had finished their confession and prayers. The imposition of ashes is a voluntary act of Christian devotion; neither an act of pride nor shame, but meant to be an aid in "returning to God."

Those who desire to receive ashes in the spirit of humility and repentance may come forward at this time. If you desire to have ashes placed on your hand instead of your forehead, please extend your hand as you approach the pastor. May this spiritual experience be one of renewal, cleansing, and closeness with God.

Hymn During Imposition of Ashes: Abide with Me – ELW 629

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.
- 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away; change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 3 I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r? Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.
- 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me!
- 5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,

shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies; heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

Hymn During Imposition of Ashes: Love Your Neighbor and Forgive

- 1 "Love your neighbor and forgive" Words so simple yet so hard We have wounds because we've lived Calluses enfold our hearts Jesus reaches out to touch Wounds and hearts that hold too much
- 2 Sounds of bombs and bullets ring War is all we've ever known Pacifists are framed as weak We rely on might alone Jesus paves the paths of peace Even as the threats increase
- 3 Love is risky, peace is faint And forgiveness feels naïve All are sinners, all are saints And we all God's grace receive So we follow mercy's way Softening our hearts to grace

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Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

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
- + This faith community
- + The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with

God

† Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply all that is needful for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats. Teach us to live lightly upon the earth and to honor it as our home. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Rebuild cities and homelands devastated by war. Provide welcome, help, and safety to refugees. Prosper negotiations that lead to lasting peace, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Palestine. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

You care for all people, loving God. Heal any who are scarred by violence, addiction, or trauma of any kind. Comfort those who grieve and bring relief to any in pain. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

You gather this assembly, abiding God. Unite us in serving our neighbors and working for justice. We pray especially for, Diane, Helen, Carl, Pam, Tanya, Joe, Frank & Vicki, Willie, Bill, Char, Rich, Jeanette, Archer, Ruth, Steve, Dick, Sandy, Jeanette, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India... and all those we name aloud or in our hearts. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

You redeem us from death, faithful God. We give thanks for those who served you in the church. Bring us with all the saints into everlasting joy. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

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 by using the QR code to the right or at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support



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: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, ELW 587

For the love of God is greater than the measures of our mind And the heart of the eternal is more wonderfully kind Make our love, O God, more faithful, let us take you by your word And our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

† Offering Prayer

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

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.

	† Words of Institution	
The Lord's	† Lord's Prayer	
Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.	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	
	Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come to the table, Jesus meets us here.	
ļ	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. We will be observing standing, processional communion this evening.	
	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 Hymn: Just as I am, Without One Plea - ELW 592	
	 Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come. 	

- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 because thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come,
- 4 Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down; now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

Communion Hymn: Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling – ELW 608

 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
 See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain: "Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

- Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
 Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*
- 3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
 Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

† 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
	Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage,
	and ⊕ give you peace. Amen.
Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.	† Sending Hymn: O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days- ELW 319 (v. 1, 3, & 4)
	1 O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast; inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.
	3 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above; so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.
	4 Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.
	Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930 Text © 1978 <i>Lutheran Book of Worship</i> , admin. Augsburg Fortress.
The dismissal sends us out as Christ's	† Dismissal
Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve.	Go in peace. Share your bread. Thanks be to God.

Worship has	
ended, and our	
service begins! The	
dismissal is based	
on Good Soil's	
Purpose Statement.	
	Postlude

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Please post your heart-shaped post-it with your focus word on the board outside of the sanctuary. Blessings on your Lenten spiritual journey.

Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Joe Lanter	Reader: Barbara Munch
Ushers: Bill Fink & Stan Zeager	Counters: Stan Zeager & Joe Lanter
Online Usher: Ellen Young	Acolyte: Sean Lanter
Cantor: Bryan McGucken	



Announcements from Good Soil for Wednesday, Feb 14, 2024

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Diane Alusheff, Helen Andrews, Carl Bruns, Pam Bruns, Tanya Calcote, Joe Gray, Frank and Vicki, Willie Lee, Bill Leek, Char Mattson, Archer Oster, Ruth Patrick, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Dick Schluep, Sandy Towberman, Jeanette Weidlich, Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India, and the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Palestine.

For those celebrating their birthdays: Anne Paine (2/15) and Char Mattson (2/17).

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Anne Paine (2/15).

Lent devotional options- Lent is a time of the church year when we are invited to go deeper spiritually and grow intentionally in our relationship with God. We will have a variety of opportunities to engage the Lenten season at Good Soil. One of those opportunities is an offering of three different Lenten devotionals:

1) The <u>Gathered into One</u> devotional from Augsburg Fortress: 75 regular copies and 10 large print copies will be available in-person or by request from the church office.

2) Kate Bowler's Lenten devotional, "Bless the Lent we Actually Have," which can be used on its own, or alongside her book, "Bless the Lives we Actually Have." This is an online devotional resource, which is available through the e-news or upon request.

3) Lenten Daily Calendar with spiritual practices for every day in the season of Lent, available in the entranceway.

Lenten Sermon Series: "The ReLENTless Love of God"

Ash Wednesday: Relentless Love

Lent 1: Adoptive Love

Lent 2: Sacrificial Love (Agape Love)

Lent 3: Justice-Seeking Love

Lent 4: Expansive Love

Lent 5: Eternal Love

Palm/Passion Sunday: Saving Love Maundy Thursday: Servant Love

Easter Sunday: Living Love

Altar Care Rotations- We are working to set up two altar care rotations: 1) to prepare/provide communion bread (monthly), and 2) to set up the communion elements before worship each Sunday (weekly). Serving on the altar care team is a great way to serve God and help people encounter a tangible experience of God's love during worship through communion. If you'd like to participate, email admin@goodsoillutheran.org.

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 list 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 to reschedule.

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 QR code to the right or this URL: https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp



Save the Date: Centering Prayer Training, 2/17 9am-12pm at Good Soil: Centering prayer is a method of silent prayer in which we experience the gift of God's presence with us. It's a method of prayer that reaches back to the early days of Christianity. Centering prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with him. Dee Willis will lead a six-week introduction to this kind of prayer starting with a three-hour training on February 17, 9am-noon, followed by practice sessions on Wednesday evenings leading up to Easter week. This is an excellent opportunity to go deeper spiritually, further develop your spiritual practice of prayer, and grow in your relationship with Christ this Lenten season. RSVP to admin@goodsoillutheran.org.

Good Soil's RIC Team Invites you to Celebrate Black History Month: Our second special Lunch & Learn Movie and Discussion on Sunday, February 25 will be **The Butler**: After leaving the South as a young man and finding employment at an elite hotel in Washington, D.C., Cecil Gaines (Forest Whitaker) gets the opportunity of a lifetime when he is hired as a butler at the White House. Over the course of three decades, Cecil has a front-row seat to history and the inner workings of the Oval Office.

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Wed, Feb 14	Ash Wednesday Worship	6:30 pm
Sat, Feb 17	Centering Prayer Training	9:00 am
Sun, Feb 18	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Mon, Feb 19	Presidents' Day (Church Office Closed)	
Wed, Feb 21	Centering Prayer Practice in Sanctuary	6:30 pm
Sun, Feb 25	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
	Lunch and Movie Discussion: Movie "The Butler"	11:00 am
Sat, Mar 2	Ladies Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun, Mar 3	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Wed, Mar 6	Centering Prayer Practice in Sanctuary	6:30 pm
Thurs, Mar 7	Confirmation Class @ Bethesda	5:45 pm
Sun, Mar 10	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am