Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Second Sunday in Lent February 25th, 2024 9:30 am



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

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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.

Second Sunday in Lent

God promises to make Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. They receive new names as a sign of the covenant, just as we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ. As followers of Jesus, we are also called to take up the cross. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love calls us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.				
	Gathering The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.			
	Prelude			
	Welcome			
In the	† Confession and Forgiveness			
Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by	Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, The source of all love, persisting and powerful,			
God's mercy to prepare to	drawing all people together in Christ. Amen.			
assemble around the	Held in the wideness God's mercy, let us confess our sin.			
Word and	Silence is kept for reflection.			
Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through	God whose love is relentless, You sent your Son Jesus into the world to show us what love looks like, and you call us to love one another as you love us. Yet, we confess we struggle to love you and each other.			
repentance.	We make your love too narrow and place false limits and conditions			
	upon it. We fail to recognize your image reflected in all people. We have difficulty loving those who are not like us and those who			
	challenge us. We resist speaking up for others and speaking out against injustice			
	and oppression. Forgive us, O God. Release us from our judgment and fear.			
	Open our hearts so we can experience your transforming love and share it with a hurting world. Amen.			

Dear children of God, There is nothing in all of creation that can separate us from the love of God in + Christ Jesus. You are forgiven. You are beloved. You are reconciled to God. Go and live in this promise of new life. Amen.	
 † Gathering Hymn: How Firm a Foundation- ELW 796	
1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word! What more can he say than to you he has said who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?	
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed, for I am your God and will still give you aid; I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."	

- 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply. The flames shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
- 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love; and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.

The assembly and presiding minister greet one another. (scriptural

reference:

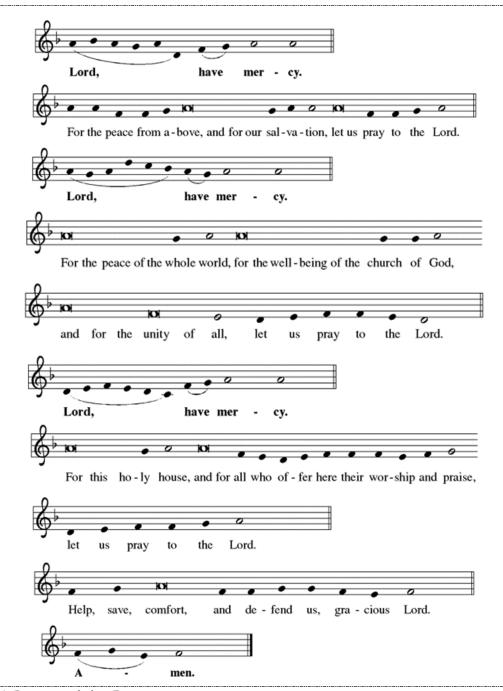
† Greeting

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."

2 Corinthians)





The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from

† Prayer of the Day

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory

the scripture			
readings we are			
about to hear.			
about to near.			

in the cross of Christ that we may courageously suffer shame and loss for the sake 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: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

To put this reading into context:

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

Hear now the reading.

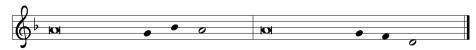
¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 22:23-31



²³You who love the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid- | den from them; but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who I love the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD, who rules o- | ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn, saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

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: I Love to Tell the Story- ELW 661, v. 1

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story;
I'll sing this theme in glory
and tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

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

revealed to us

Gospel reading.

through the

† Gospel: Mark 8:31-35

To put this gospel reading into context:

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his

disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

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

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

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

Children's Sermon

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

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison Silence for Reflection. Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You're invited to reflect on the following question: When have you been on the receiving end of sacrificial love? Who shared that love with you and what were the circumstances? Or, when have you sacrificed something in order to make someone else's life better or share God's love? † Hymn of the Day: My Song is Love Unknown ELW 343 v.1, 3, 4, 6 1 My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

3 Sometimes we strew his way and his sweet praises sing; resounding all the day hosannas to our king. Then "Crucify!" is all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.

6 Here might I stay and sing—

- 4 We cry out; we will have our dear Lord made away, a murderer to save, the prince of life to slay.

 Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.
- no story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King,
 never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
 I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624-1683, alt.

As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our own

Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:

participation.

+ The Church + Creation + Nations and leaders +Those in need + This faith community + The great cloud of

witnesses/those now resting

with God

† Prayers of Intercession

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.

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence, especially people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Palestine. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved. We pray especially for, Diane, Helen, Carl, Pam, Tanya, Joe, Frank & Vicki, Willie, Bill, Char, Susan, Rich, Gus & Michele, 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.

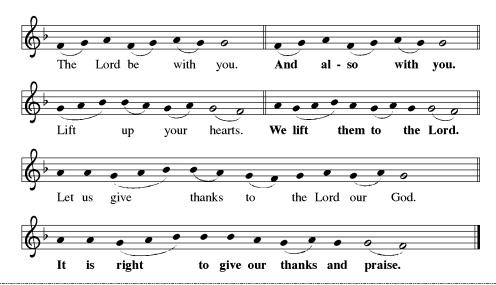
We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

	We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. 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.	
A practice of	† Passing of the Peace	
the ancient church, where we recognize	The Peace of Christ be with you always And also with you.	
Christ's 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.	
God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one	The Meal God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ. Offering	
way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the	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	
church.	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: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, ELW 587	
brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's	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	
blessings.	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.

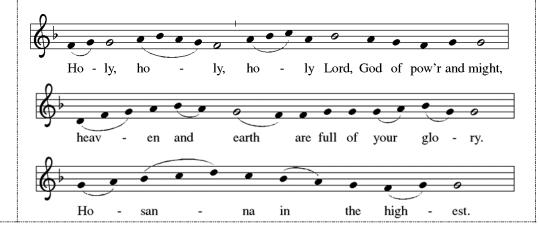
Amen.

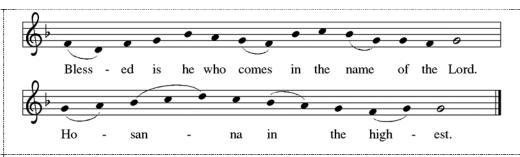
† Great Thanksgiving



† Preface

† Sanctus





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

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come to the table, Jesus meets us here.

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 Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus - ELW 742

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bearall because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
 Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged-take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
 Precious Savior, still our refuge-take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Do your friends despise, forsake you?
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886

Communion Hymn: How Deep the Father's Love for Us – Townsend

How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure, That He should give His only Son To make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss – The Father turns His face away, As wounds which mar the Chosen One Bring many sons to glory.

			
	Behold the man upon a cross,		
	My sin upon His shoulders;		
	Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice		
	Call out among the scoffers.		
	It was my sin that held Him there		
	Until it was accomplished;		
	His dying breath has brought me life –		
	I know that it is finished.		
	I will not boast in anything,		
	No gifts, no power, no wisdom;		
	But I will boast in Jesus Christ,		
	His death and resurrection.		
	Why should I gain from His reward?		
	I cannot give an answer;		
	But this I know with all my heart –		
	His wounds have paid my ransom.		
	Stuart Townend Copyright © 1995 Thankyou Music (Adm. by CapitolCMGPublishing.com excl. UK & Europe, adm. by Integrity Music, part of the David C Cook family, songs@integritymusic.com)		
	† 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: Christ, the Life of All the Living- ELW 339		
sending hymn	1 Christ, the life of all the living,		

we are sent out into the world	Christ, the death of death, our foe, Christ, yourself for me once giving
to follow Jesus.	to the darkest depths of woe: through your suffring, death, and merit
	life eternal I inherit.
	Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.
	2 You have suffered great affliction
	and have borne it patiently, even death by crucifixion,
	fully to atone for me;
	for you chose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.
	Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
	dearest Jesus, unto you.
	3 Then, for all that bought my pardon,
	for the sorrows deep and sore, for the anguish in the garden,
	I will thank you evermore;
	thank you for the groaning, sighing,
	for the bleeding and the dying, for that last triumphant cry,
	praise you evermore on high.
	Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
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.

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

Postlude

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You are warmly invited to gather downstairs in the fellowship hall for coffee fellowship and then for our "Lunch and Learn" Movie Discussion on The Butler

Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Trey Harrison	Reader: Brenna Connor	
Ushers: Bill & Darlene Wahl	Counters: Kirsten Reading & Becky	
	Williamson	
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Acolyte: Luke Williamson	
Cantor: Kaitlyn Regan		



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Feb 25, 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, Susan Omerod, Archer Oster, Ruth Patrick, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Gus and Michele Robles, 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: Abbie Blocksom (2/26).

For those celebrating their wedding anniversary: Matthew and Amanda Inman (2/26).

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

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



Centering Prayer Practice 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.

TODAY: 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		
Sun, Feb 25	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am		
	Lunch and Movie Discussion: 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	6:30 pm		
Thurs, Mar 7	Confirmation Class @ Bethesda	5:45 pm		
Sun, Mar 10	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am		
Wed, Mar 13	Centering Prayer Practice	6:30 pm		
Sun, Mar 17	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am		
Wed, Mar 20	Centering Prayer Practice	6:30 pm		
Sun, Mar 24	In-Person and Livestream Worship- Palm Sunday	9:30 am		