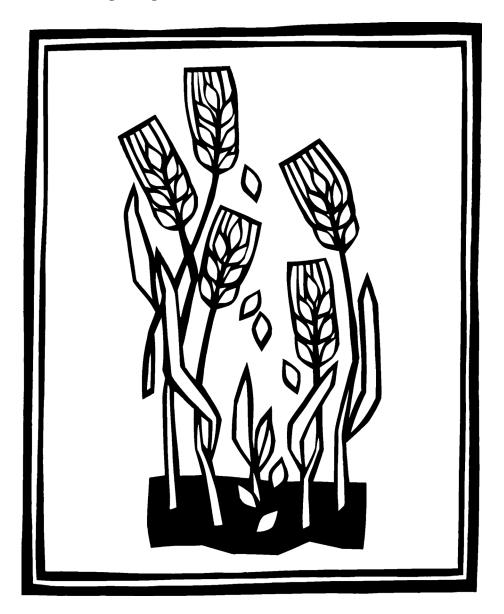
Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Fifth Sunday in Lent March 17th, 2024 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.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

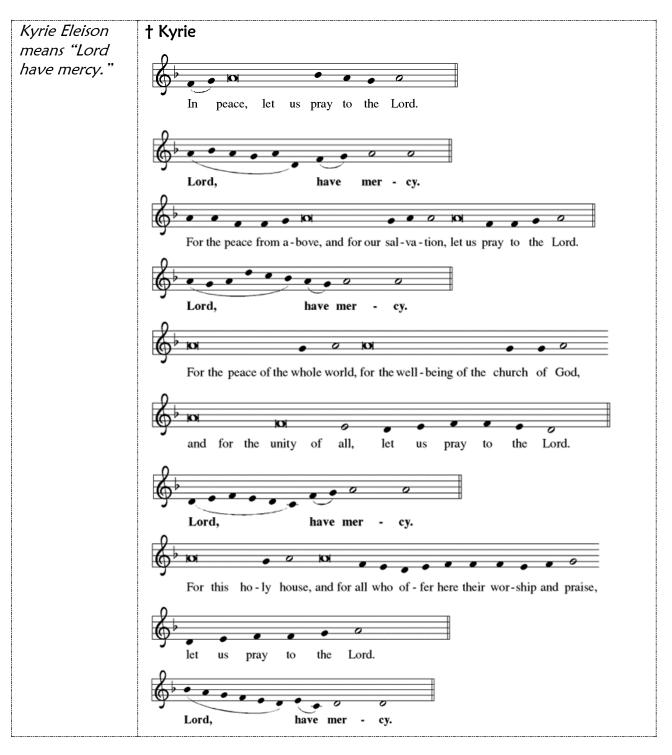
God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's eternal love with all the world.

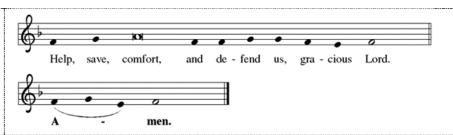
	Gathering The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
	Prelude Welcome
In the	† Confession and Forgiveness
Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the	Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, The source of all love, persisting and powerful, drawing all people together in Christ. Amen.
	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 repentance.	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. 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: Restore in Us, O God - ELW 328
	1 Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love; renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.
	2 O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow'r; from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flow'r.
	3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy; baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.
	4 Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace, that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.
	Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
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.

2 Corinthians)





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

† Prayer of the Day

O God, with your eternal love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

To put this reading into context:

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

Hear now the reading.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me,

<u> </u>			
	from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will		
	forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.		
	Word of God. Word of Life.		
	Thanks be to God.		
	Thanks be to God.		
	Psalm 51:1-3, 6-12		
	Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;		
	in your great compassion blot out my offenses.		
	² Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.		
	³ For I know my offenses,		
	and my sin is ev- er before me.		
	·		
	⁶ Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.		
	⁷ Remove 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.		
	⁹ Hide 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. 11Cast 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.		
	and substantial year search and spinit		
We welcome the gospel by singing the	† Gospel Acclamation: I Love to Tell the Story– ELW 661, v. 1		
Gospel Acclamation.	1 I love to tell the story		
We rise, if able, in	of unseen things above,		
anticipation of Christ being revealed to us	of Jesus and his glory,		
through the Living	of Jesus and his love.		
Word of the Gospel.	I love to tell the story,		
	because I know it's true;		
	it satisfies my longings		
L	it satisfies my fongings		

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 through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel: John 12:23-33

To put this gospel reading into context:

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

The holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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: Deaconess Anne Paine

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

What have been some experiences in your life that you would consider a kind of death (job transition, move, relationship change, different losses, etc.),? Who were your comforters then? How did they share God's love with you? For whom might you be a comforter in the coming weeks?

† Hymn of the Day: As the Deer Runs to the River - ELW 331

1 As the deer runs to the river, parched and weary from the chase, we have come from hurt and hurry, thirsting for your healing grace.

Refrain: Jesus, source of living water, may we drink of you and live!

- When your Israel crossed the desert where no stream or spring was seen, Moses struck the rock, and water flowed for them, refreshing, clean. *Refrain*
- 3 "Come and drink," Isaiah summoned, "all who for God's mercy plead! God's forgiveness, like a fountain, flows to satisfy your need." Refrain
- Christ, we come from desert places, deepest thirst unsatisfied.
 Lead us to the waters flowing

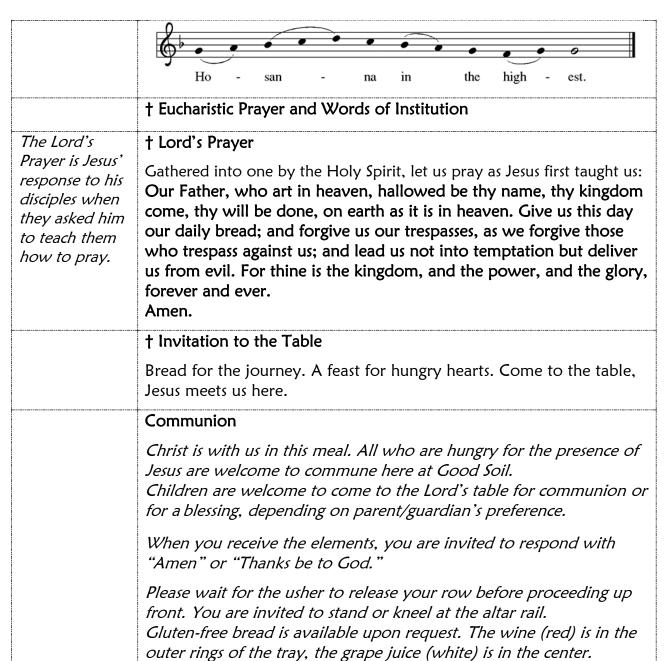
	from the cross on which you died. Refrain
	Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
As the church,	† Prayers of Intercession
we pray for those in our community and	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.
around the	A brief silence.
world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing	God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace (word and sacrament) around which we gather. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.
our own participation.	God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for
Each petition addresses a	future generations. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.
different topic, often in the same pattern:	God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Be especially with the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, and
+ The Church	Haiti. Receive our prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.
+ Creation + Nations and leaders +Those in need + This faith community + The great cloud of witnesses/those	God, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable. We pray especially for Diane, Helen, Carl, Pam, Joe, Tanya, Joe, Frank & Vicki, Gary, Willie, Char, Susan, Rich, Gus & Michele, Jeanette, Archer, Ruth, Steve, Dick, friends and family of Gwendolyn, Sandy, family and friends of Jim, 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.
now resting with God	God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of

prayer, O God. Your mercy is great.

prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Receive our

	God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us. Grant us faith to trust in your eternal love. 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 the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.	† 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.	
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.	† Special Offertory Music: One Thing Remains/Your Love Never Fail † 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 with with you. The Lord be And al - so you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. thanks Let us give the Lord our God. to is right thanks and It to give our praise. † Preface † Sanctus ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, Ho - ly, ho ly, ho are full of your heav en and earth glo - ry. Но the high in na san est. Bless is he who comes in the of the Lord. ed name



back to your seat.

Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way

Communion Hymn: Just a Closer Walk with Thee - ELW 697

Refrain: Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea; daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

- I am weak but thou art strong:Jesus, keep me from all wrong;I'll be satisfied as longas I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Refrain*
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares,if I falter, Lord, who cares?Who with me my burden shares?None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Refrain*
- 3 When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more; guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. *Refrain*

Text: North American traditional

Communion Hymn: O, Living Breath of God – ELW 407

- O living Breath of God, wind at the beginning upon the waters; O living Breath of God, bearing the creation to wondrous birth; Refrain
- O living Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth among us;
 O living Breath of God, who to the creation gives life anew;
 Refrain
- O living Breath of God, bearing us to life through baptismal waters; O living Breath of God, sighing with creation for freedom's birth; Refrain

Refrain: Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant.

O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.

Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923 Tr. © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

	† 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 For a Thousand Tongues to Sing - ELW 886 v. 1, 2, 3, & 5 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace! 2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name. 3 The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease, sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace. 5 Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race! Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace!

	Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.
The dismissal sends us out as Christ's	† Dismissal
Body—fed,	Go in peace. Share your bread.
nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins! The dismissal is based	Thanks be to God.
on Good Soil's	
Purpose Statement.	
	Postlude

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You are warmly invited to gather upstairs in the lounge for coffee fellowship!

Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Trey Harrison	Reader: Abbie Blocksom
Ushers: Dave Blocksom & Amanda Inman	Counters: Dave Blocksom & Michael
	Wancata
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Acolyte: Alexandra Inman
Cantor: William Eversole	



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Mar 17, 2024

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Diane Alusheff, Helen Andrews, Carl Bruns, Pam Bruns, Tanya Calcote, Joe Forshey, Joe Gray, Frank and Vicki, Gary Kaiser, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Susan Omerod, Archer Oster, Ruth Patrick, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Gus and Michele Robles, Dick Schluep, friends and family of Gwendolyn Snell, Sandy Towberman, family and friends of Jim Warrick, Jeanette Weidlich, Khams Zotal and his family & people of Manipur, India, & the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine & Haiti.

For those celebrating their birthdays: Sharon Regan (3/17), Chris Jacobson (3/20), & Amelia Collins (3/23).

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Donna Handy (3/20) & Alex Verdova (3/23).

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 have three different Lenten devotional choices:

- 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

Holy Week Invitations- Invitations are available on the welcome table to invite friends and neighbors to experience the spiritual journey of Holy Week with Good Soil. Consider who in your life might be interested in this experience and take a few to share!

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 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 is leading practice sessions on Wed. evenings leading up to Easter week. The final session is this Wednesday at 6:30pm.

See Jesus Christ Superstar with Good Soil- On March 24 at 2 pm, a group from Good Soil will be attending Jesus Christ Superstar at First Baptist of Greater Cleveland--Good Soil's own Beau Reddington will be playing Jesus! RSVP to Pr. Marissa at pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org if you'd like to attend so she can add you to our block order with the box office. Tickets are \$20.

Sunday School Updates for EVERYONE as we head toward Holy Week

3/24 - Palm Sunday

Resurrection Eggs: Children in Jr. Kindergarten & Pre-K/Nursery Sunday School will learn about Resurrection Eggs & hear special stories in their classroom. All other children, adults, & families are invited to learn about & make Resurrection Eggs for their household in the lounge @ 10:30am, w/ overflow in the Gr 1-6 Sunday School room across the hall.

3/31 - Easter Sunday: Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn (or Fellowship Hall in case of rain) & Coffee Fellowship for all ages following Easter Sunday Service.

Candy Donations are being accepted in the basket in the lounge through 3/24.

Join the FUN with these volunteer opportunities:

Sat, 3/30: Fill eggs & organize baskets (AM time TBD by volunteer availability).

<u>Sun, 3/31:</u> Hide eggs before worship (9 am). *Hunt Helpers*- Assist children, empty baskets into take-home bags, clear staging area, put away baskets (15-20 min).

SIGN UP on the sheets next to the donation basket in the lounge or contact JoAnne Wancata (440-655-3674 text or call).

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Mar 17	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Tue Mar 19	Council Meeting	7:45 pm
Wed, Mar 20	Centering Prayer Practice in the Lounge	6:30 pm
Sat, Mar 23	New Covenant Produce Distribution	8:30 am
Sun, Mar 24	In-Person and Livestream Worship- Palm/Passion Sun	9:30 am
	Resurrection Egg Making	10:30 am
	Jesus Christ Superstar- Good Soil Group Attendance	2:00 pm
Thurs, Mar 28	In-Person and Livestream Worship- Maundy Thursday	6:30 pm
Fri, Mar 29	Good Friday Worship with Lakewood Ministerium @	7:00 pm
	Lakewood Baptist	
Sun, Mar 31	In-Person and Livestream Worship- Easter Sunday	9:30 am
	Easter Egg Hunt	10:30 am