## Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Sixth Sunday of Easter May 5th, 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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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.

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares is the image of friendship. We're called to serve others as Jesus served; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community Christ commanded & enabled by the Spirit.

	Gathering The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.  Prelude and Welcome			
In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.	† Thanksgiving for Baptism			
	Alleluia! Christ is risen.  Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!			
	Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. Amen.			
	Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.			
	We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.  The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the Red Sea into freedom's land.  At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.			
	We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. <b>Amen.</b>			

## † Gathering Hymn: I Come with Joy (ELW 482)

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
  The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

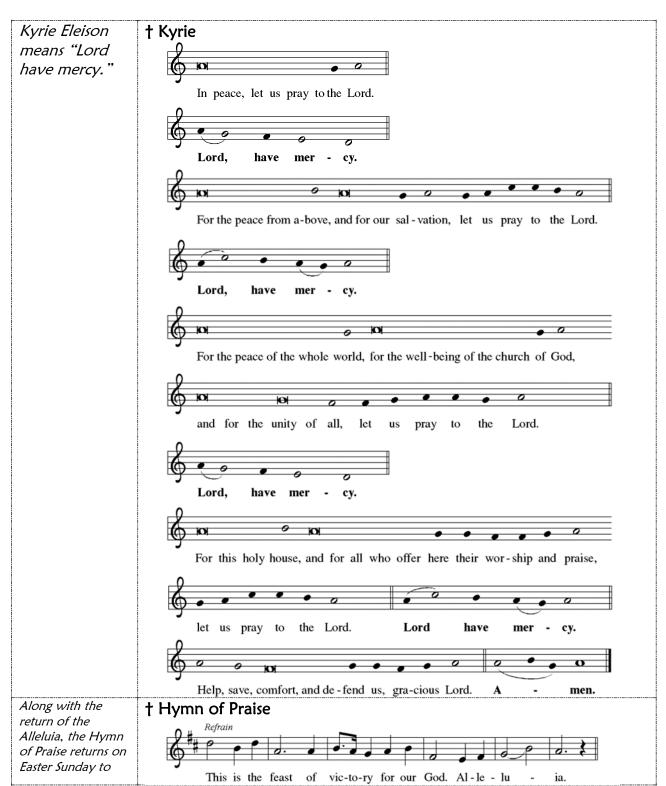
Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The assembly and presiding minister greet one another. (scriptural reference:

2 Corinthians)

## † 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.



signify the joy of the resurrection.



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

## † Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Season of Easter features stories from the Book of Acts following the news of Christ's resurrection and the development of the early church.

### The Word

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

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

To put this reading into context:

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier & his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews & Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

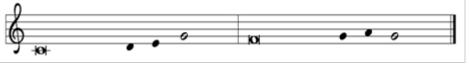
Hear now the reading.

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 98



<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done I marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have I won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, you have made | known your victory,

you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the I house of Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory I of our God.

<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you lands;

lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD | with the harp, with the harp and the | voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound | of the horn shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.

the world and those who I dwell therein.

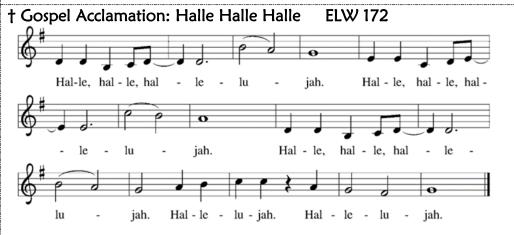
<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and <sup>1</sup> all that fills it.

<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers | clap their hands,

and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to  $\slash\hspace{-0.07cm}^{\dagger}$  judge the earth.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the I world with righteousness and the peo-I ples with equity.

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.



Music: Traditional Caribbean

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 15:9-17

To put this gospel reading into context:

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

The holy Gospel according to John.

## Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's

life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

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 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 felt Christ's love through a close friend? What did they do to help you feel that love? Or, when have you embodied Christ's love for one of your friends? What difference did that make?

# † Hymn of the Day: Great God, Your Love has Called Us (ELW 358) v. 1, 2, 3, & 5

- Great God, your love has called us here as we, by love, for love were made. Your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonored, disobeyed. We come, with all our heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
- We come with self-inflicted pains of broken trust and chosen wrong, half-free, half-bound by inner chains, by social forces swept along,

by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.

- Great God, in Christ you call our name and then receive us as your own not through some merit, right, or claim, but by your gracious love alone.

  We strain to glimpse your mercy seat and find you kneeling at our feet.
- Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your joy to share. Give us your Spirit's liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair, and offer all that faith can do while love is making all things new.

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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

## † Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give us understanding hearts so we strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace, receive our prayer.

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace, receive our prayer.

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. Be especially with the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, and Haiti. God of grace, receive our prayer.

+ Nations and
leaders
+Those in need
+ This faith
community
+ The great
cloud of
witnesses/those
now resting
with God

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love. We pray especially for Helen, Gail, Carl, Pam, Mary Lou, Joe, Tim, Frank D., Joe, Frank & Vicki, family & friends of Paul, Kate, Char, Susan, Rich, Archer, Ruth, Steve, Dick, Mindy, Kristina, Jack, Sandy, Jeanette, Khams & his people & family in Manipur, India... & all those we name aloud or in our hearts. God of grace, receive our prayer

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. God of grace, receive our prayer. Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those

who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around

your heavenly banquet table. God of grace, receive our prayer. Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. Amen.

† Passing of the Peace ancient church. 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.

together. God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the

A practice of the

Christ's peace in

one another and

where we

recognize

share it

church.

# The Meal

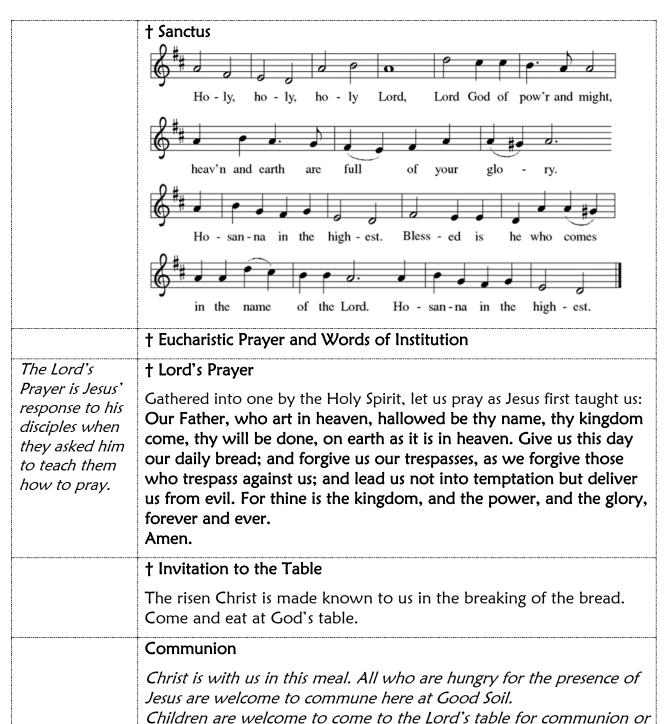
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## 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 † Offering Hymn: Alleluia! Jesus is Risen ELW 377 vs 1 brought forward Alleluia! Jesus is risen! to the altar to signify our Trumpets resounding in glorious light! gratitude for Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! God's blessings. Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia! Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. † Offering Prayer Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen. † Great Thanksgiving Lord be The with you. And al - so with you. Lift hearts. We lift them to the Lord. up your Let us give thanks the Lord our God. to right to give our thanks and is † Preface



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 down the center aisle to the front in a single-file line. We will be observing standing processional communion, rather than kneeling at the rail.

Gluten-free bread is available on 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: Beautiful Savior (ELW 838)

- Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior,
  Lord of the nations,
  Son of God and Son of Man!
  Glory and honor,
  praise, adoration,
  now and forevermore be thine!

Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

## Communion Hymn: Jesus Loves Me! (ELW 595)

1 Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

- 2 Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gates to open wide; he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. Refrain
- 3 Jesus loves me! he will stay close beside me all the way; when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high. *Refrain*

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

## † 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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.

Amen.

Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.

## † Sending Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW 836)

- Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
  Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.
- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!

  Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body: fed, nourished, & ready to serve. Worship has ended, & our service begins!

#### † Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

## **Postlude**

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

### Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Joe Lanter	Reader: Nancie Smith	
Ushers: Bill Fink, Stan Zeager, & Chris Jacobson	Counters: Joe Lanter & Ellen Young	
Online Usher: Kim Wylie	Acolyte: Evan Lanter	
Cantor: Bryan McGucken		



## Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, May 5, 2024

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Helen Andrews, Gail Boggs, Carl Bruns, Pam Bruns, Mary Lou Busby, Tim Chiang, Frank Dunaway, Joe Forshey, Joe Gray, Frank & Vicki, family & friends of Paul Kohler, Kate Labuda, Char Mattson, Susan Omerod, Archer Oster, Ruth Patrick, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Dick Schluep, Mindy S., Kristina Seeley, Jack Tewell, Sandy Towberman, Jeanette Weidlich, Khams Zotal & his family & people of Manipur, India, & the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, & Haiti.

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Abbie Blocksom (5/8) & Steve Bugosh (5/11).

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God by Kim Wylie.

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 OR code to the left.

**Newsletter-** Want to keep up with the latest Good Soil news or share the e-news 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

**RIC Bible Study "Horney Moses":** Did you know that for almost 1000 years, artistic expressions in Western Christianity depicted Moses with horns because of bad Latin translation? If not, then you need to come to Horny Moses: The Faulty Development of Biblical Support Against Homosexuality to hear how we can keep a similar thing from happening in our day. In this class we'll look at what created horny Moses and how an awareness of that history can attune us to respond to the clobber passages used to attack the LGBTQ+ community and discover that Lutherans have a unique relationship with certainty around uncertain topics. (5/5 via zoom at 12:30pm). Facilitator: The Rev. Dr. Eric L. Bodenstab currently serves as pastor of Trinity Lutheran in Kent, Ohio. He was ordained as a pastor in the ELCA in 2003 and has served congregations in Kansas, Minnesota, Illinois, and Ohio. He received his bachelors from Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, masters from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina, and doctorate from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. As a St. Louis native, he enjoys good baseball and roots for the Cardinals. He is married to Deacon Erin T. Bodenstab, and their daughter, Althea, keeps them busy. When he has time, Eric loves to play board games.

**Project Isaiah 43 TODAY:** "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you see it?" God spoke these words to the people of Israel in exile in Babylon, but there is no reason to believe God isn't saying the same thing to the church today. Please be praying for this event happening this afternoon at Bethesda on the Bay: Bishop Barbins and the Northeastern Ohio Synod Staff is inviting every congregation to send four people to a Project Isaiah 43 event in every conference. Each Project Isaiah 43 event will include a brief presentation time, but will be heavily focused on conversations as we think together about the future of Lutheran Christianity. Information gleaned from the Project Isaiah 43 events will be shared with the whole Northeastern Ohio Synod prior to June 1, 2024 as the conversations at these events will flow into what we are doing at our Synod Assembly.

Paving the Way (for more ministry) Campaign- It is time to replace Good Soil's parking lot with one that is sleek, safe, and provides a good impression of our faith community!

This project also includes connecting water and electricity to the grassy back lot area to support future possibilities and ministry on that land. Our goal is to raise \$20,000.00 to help fund the overall cost of this project. There's been an outpouring of generosity, and after just TWO WEEKS we met our congregational goal, amen! Every dollar beyond our \$20,000 goal will



continue to go toward offsetting the cost of this project (estimated to be over \$100k). Your gift can be made as a lump sum payment, or provided in a series of increments. Please use the Intent Form found in your worship bulletin, or this QR code to let us know your intended gift by May 19, 2024. Funds due by Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for your generosity!

Paving The Way: Pledge Level Summary					
Number of Intents	Pledge Level Total Pledg				
1	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00			
3	\$2,500.00	\$7,500.00			
1	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00			
3	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00			
1	\$900.00	\$900.00			
1	\$750.00	\$750.00			
2	\$600.00	\$1,200.00			
1	\$550.00	\$550.00			
4	\$500.00	\$2,000.00			
1	\$400.00	\$400.00			
5	\$300.00	\$1,500.00			
3	\$250.00	\$750.00			
1	\$200.00	\$200.00			
4	\$100.00	\$400.00			
1	\$25.00	\$25.00			
32		\$24,675.00			

Shop for Free at Good Soil's Craft & Office Supply FREE MARKET! Starting TODAY & continuing each Sunday in May, a Free Market of hundreds of excess arts & crafts supplies, paper, ribbon, chalk, office supplies & ad hoc items (salt shakers?!) will be displayed in a room on the north side of the basement education wing. (Follow the signs) The Free Market will open approximately 10 minutes following the end of each Sunday's service in May and close by 11:30 a.m.

- You will find Sunday School, Art Camp and other supplies accumulated by this faith community over many years.
- All are invited to take any items they can put to good use with children home for the summer, boy or girl scout troops, adult projects, visiting relatives or any adult or child you may know who could use them.

- Good Soil ministry partners using our building and the New Covenant Sunday School Leader have shopped the supplies prior to this Free Market opening.
- Items have been tested (e.g., do the flashlights & markers work?), compiled from dozens of unrelated boxes and roughly sorted to the extent possible in the Free Market space.
- Large paper shopping bags and some smaller plastic bags will be available you may want to bring your own additional smaller bags.

Questions? Contact JoAnne Wancata (440-655-3674) or Chris Jacobson (440-241-4291).

#### WHAT'S COMING UP FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Classes continue through 5/19 & Summer Break Begins Memorial Day Weekend, 5/26.

Calendar of Events				
Date	Event	Time		
Sun, May 5	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am		
	Good Soil's Craft & Office Supply Free Market Begins	10:40 am		
	RIC Bible Study on "Clobber Passages" (via Zoom)	12:30 pm		
	Project Isaiah 43 @ Bethesda	2:00 pm		
Sun, May 12	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Mother's Day	9:30 am		
Sun, May 19	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Pentecost Sunday	9:30 am		
	RIC Cottage Meeting (small group discussions)	11:00 am		
Sun, May 26	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Holy Trinity Sunday	9:30 am		
Sat, Jun 1	Ladies Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am		
	CLE Pride Parade	11:00 am		
Sun, Jun 2	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am		
	1946 Movie screening and discussion	11:00 am		
Sun, Jun 9	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am		
	Annual Meeting to celebrate the ministry of the 2023-	10:30 am		
	2024 program year and vote on new council members			