Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Third Sunday in Lent March 23rd, 2025 9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd Rocky River, OH 44116 (440) 331-1773 | GoodSoilLutheran.org

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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

Ask an usher about 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.

Third Sunday in Lent

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

news for all of us. Thanks be to God!		
	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. From God's Story on Our Hearts: Lenten Liturgy by The Rev. Tina Crog, used with permission.	† Confession and Forgiveness God's story shapes who we are, yet we often resist its truth, choosing our own way instead. In humility and hope, let us turn to God, confessing our sins and seeking mercy. Silence for reflection. Merciful God, You have written your story of love and faithfulness upon our hearts, yet we confess how often we stray from its truth. We misunderstand what is truly precious, giving into our temptations. We doubt your promises, making choices because of fear. We chase after what does not satisfy, squandering the gifts you have given. Forgive us, O God. When we forget your faithfulness, remind us of your covenant. When we wander far from home, run to meet us with open arms. When we cling to the wrong treasures, turn our hearts back to you. Shape us again by your mercy, that we may carry your story in all we say and do. Amen. Beloved in Christ, hear the good news: God's mercy is deeper than our failings, and God's love reaches beyond our wandering. By the power of Christ's redeeming love, your sins are forgiven, and you are made new. Carry this promise in your heart and live in God's peace. Amen.	

† Gathering Hymn: Eternal Father, Strong to Save (ELW 756) v. 1, 2, 4

- 1 Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave, who bade the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep: oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.
- 2 O Savior, whose almighty word the winds and waves submissive heard, who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.
- 4 O Trinity of love and pow'r, all trav'lers guard in danger's hour from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe'er they go; thus evermore shall rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt.

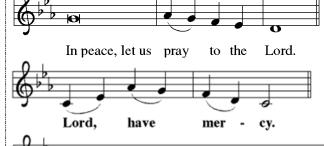
The assembly and presiding minister greet each other (scripture ref. 2 Corinthians)

Kyrie Eleison means "Lord have mercy." Chanting is an ancient practice of the church.

† Greeting

† Kyrie

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.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



The Prayer of the Day highlights themes in the scripture we will hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through 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.

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

To put this reading into context:

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

Hear now the reading.

¹I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63:1-8

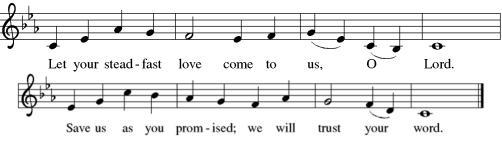


¹O God, you are my God; eager- I ly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there I is no water.

- ² Therefore I have gazed upon you in your I holy place, that I might behold your power I and your glory.
- ³ For your steadfast love is better than I life itself; my lips shall I give you praise.
- ⁴ So will I bless you as long | as I live and lift up my hands | in your name.
- ⁵ My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods, and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,
- ⁶ when I remember you up- | on my bed, and meditate on you in | the night watches.
- ⁷ For you have I been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I I will rejoice.
- ⁸ My whole being | clings to you; your right hand | holds me fast.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation.
We rise, if able, to anticipate Christ being revealed to us in the Living Word of the Gospel.

† Gospel Acclamation



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

† Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9

To put this reading into context:

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did."
⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "
The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.
 Children's Sermon
Children grade 4 and younger are invited to step out with our Sunday School teachers for a "Learn and Grow in Faith" class during the sermon. They will return during the Passing of the Peace.
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¹At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the

Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans

The holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

through the

Gospel reading.

The Hymn of the Day is the assembly's response to the sermon— making the sermon event a mutual faith conversation.

† Hymn of the Day: Jesus Still Lead On (ELW 624) v. 1, 3, 4

- Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, although the way be cheerless, we will follow, calm and fearless; guide us by your hand to the promised land.
- 3 When we seek relief from a long-felt grief, when temptations come alluring make us patient and enduring; show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
- 4 Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'nly leader, still direct us, still support, console, protect us, till we safely stand in the promised land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

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:

† Prayers of the Church

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to all church leaders and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to abundance. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries,

+ The Church + Creation + Nations and leaders +Those in need + This faith community + The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. We especially pray for war-torn areas of Ukraine, Russia, and the Middle East. God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need. May all know they are not alone. We pray especially for Helen, Fred, Jane, Gail, Mary Lou, Frank, Sara, Donna, Irene, Toni, Kate, Stan and Ann, Bill, Susan, Archer, Cherubim, Sally, Thomas, Ruth, Rich, family & friends of Gary, Diane, Jeanette, Khams and his community in Manipur, ... for our home-bound members: Diane, Steve, Audrey, Ed and Verna, Kay, Joyce, Else, and Kristina, and those we name aloud or in our hearts. God of grace, receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst, including Meals on Wheels, Trials for Hope, and Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries. God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

A practice of the ancient church, we share in Christ's peace & recognize it in each other.

† 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.

Offering

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.



God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, & your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil keep making an impact by giving today using the QR code or at https://pushpay.com/g/goodsoillutheran

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: I Love to Tell the Story, v. 1 & refrain (ELW 661)

I love to tell the story 1 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.

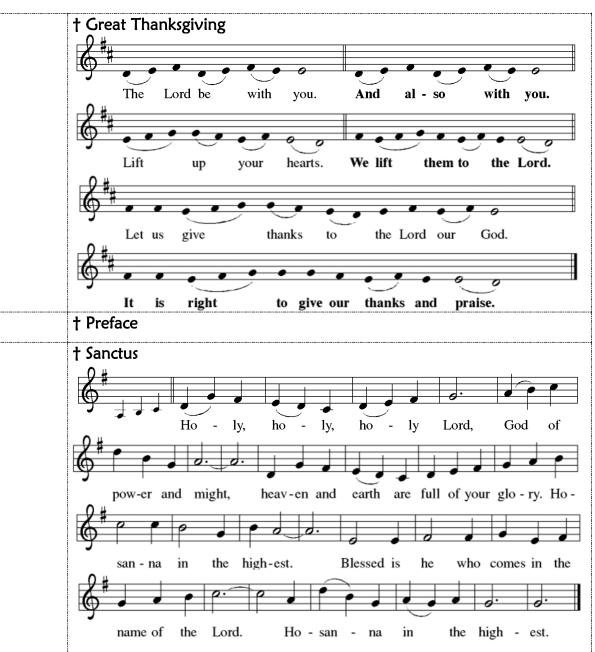
Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

From God's Story on Our Hearts: Lenten Liturgy by The Rev. Tina Crog, used with permission.

† Offering Prayer

Faithful God, you have entrusted us with your story: a story of promise, grace, and abundant love. As we offer these gifts, we remember that all we have comes from you. Like Abram beneath the stars, we trust in your provision. Like the prodigal welcomed home, we rejoice in your generosity. Like Mary at Jesus' feet, we give with hearts full of love. Bless these offerings, that they may carry your story into the world and bear witness to your faithfulness. Amen.



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† Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

Blessed are You, O God, Author of life and Keeper of promises...

...Remembering his life, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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
	All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.
	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 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: Light Dawns on a Weary World (ELW 726)
	1 Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.
	Refrain: The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing! We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

- 2 Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*
- Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.
 Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. Refrain

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Communion Hymn: Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (ELW 623)

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
- 2 Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.
- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling.
 Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.
- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,

	Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee. Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778
	† Post-Communion Table Blessing Now 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
	God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever. Amen.
Through the	† Sending Hymn: Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (ELW 618)
sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.	1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'rful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore.
	2 Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with your mighty arm, shield me with your mighty arm.
	3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore,

	I will raise forevermore.
	Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.
The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body: nourished, fed, & ready to serve. Worship has ended, & our service begins!	† Dismissal Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. Thanks be to God!
	Postlude

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Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Bill & Darlene Wahl	Livestream: Trey Harrison			
Reader: David Connor	Acolyte: Edward Inman			
Counters: David Connor & David Paine	Altar Care: Evan Paine			
Online Usher: Kathy Berkshire	Communion Bread: Michael Mitterholzer			
Cantor: David Paine				



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Mar 23, 2025

Especially in our prayers: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bp. Barbins of the NEO Synod, Helen Andrews, Fred Ayers, Jane Beese, Gail Boggs, Mary Lou Busby, Frank Dunaway, Sara Gresh, Donna Handy, Irene Krankowski, Toni Kulma, Kate Labuda, Stan & Ann Layman, Bill Meyer, Susan Omerod, Archer Oster, Cherubim Pate, Sally Pate, Thomas Pate, Ruth Patrick, Rich Petrusky, family & friends of Gary Smith, Diane Traxler, Jeanette Weidlich, & Khams Zotal & his people in Manipur. We also pray for our homebound members: Diane Bennett, Steve Bugosh, Audrey Dorin, Ed & Verna Fink, Kay Eaton, Joyce Miller, Else Rolland, & Kristina Seeley.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: Amelia Collins (3/23), Isaac Krankowski (3/26), and Kay Eaton (3/29).

For those celebrating their wedding anniversary this week: Nick and Ellen Young (3/23).

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism this week: Sammie Forshey (3/27) & Verna Fink (3/29).



Bethesda Staff Partnership- Scan the QR code to learn more about how Good Soil and Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran are exploring a potential staff partnership for faith formation!

Lenten Devotionals- Looking for a devotional for Lent 2025? Scan the QR code to the right for a devotional developed by pastors around Ohio and North Carolina, including Pr. Marissa!



Optional Mid-Week Lenten Gatherings at Bethesda- For those who may wish to participate in a more traditional mid-week worship service (rather than Good Soil's "Scriptures and Stories" mid-week gatherings), Bethesda on the Bay is offering one more opportunity for fellowship and evening prayer: April 2, 6:00pm- Soup Supper, 7:00pm- Evening Prayer

RIC Pre-Vote Survey Through March- Good Soil has been engaging the RIC process (to become a designated safe and affirming place for LGBTQIA+ people and people of color) over the past year with learning opportunities, congregational discussions and activities. The RIC process includes a "pre-vote" survey to get a preview of how the congregation may vote before the official vote to become RIC is scheduled. Responses are anonymous, unless you indicate that you need information about whether or not you are a voting member. Thank you for your input! You may fill out the survey using the QR code, or the physical forms on the welcome table.

Stories and Scriptures: Lent is a time to grow deeper in our faith. This year Good Soil will be offering 5 mid-week gatherings called "Stories and Scripture" led by Pastor Marissa and Pastor Jim Kulma. The gatherings will take place at 6:30 pm on the following dates: 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, & 4/9. All meetings will be held in the lounge, in-person only. Questions? Contact admin@goodsoillutheran.org. Grow in faith with one another, Pastor Marissa and Pastor Jim this Lenten season as we explore stories from scripture and our lives.

We are also looking for volunteers to bring snacks for each Stories and Scriptures meeting! We need one more volunteer for 4/9, and all the other slots are filled. Thank you to those who have already signed up! Use the QR code to the right to access the sign up sheet, call 440-331-1773, or email cclc@goodsoillutheran.org.





Sabbatical FAQ Sheet- Thank you for participating in the sabbatical questionnaire. The Renewal planning team along with Pastor Marissa has put together an FAQ sheet to summarize those responses and answer questions that were proposed. Scan the QR code to the left for that document and/or reference the bulletin board for a printed version.

Coffee Hour Fellowship- We need volunteer hosts to set-up, brew, and clean-up the coffee/tea service &/or bring snacks/baked goods. The Coffee Hour volunteer sign-up is on the bulletin board by the lounge. Contact JoAnne Wancata (cell: 440-655-3674) w/ questions.

MOW looking for Drivers- West Shore Rocky River-Lakewood Meals on Wheels is in search of drivers to deliver meals to our recipients, especially Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please contact 440-333-6298 or rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org for further info.

Newsletter- Want to keep up with news at Good Soil or share the e-news with friends? Sign up or share our newsletter using the QR code or URL to the right: https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp



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

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. Each vase costs \$20. You may also bring your own flowers instead of buying them through Good Soil, but please do still sign up.

SUNDAY SCHOOL- Weekly Sunday faith formation for kids includes Learn & Grow and Experience & Grow opportunities during Sunday services. Additionally, kids will participate in special activities during planned monthly congregational events after worship. (Event updates will be announced, ongoing.) Contact JoAnne Wancata (cell: 440-655-3674) with questions OR to join the weekly rotation of Learn & Grow teachers/helpers.

<u>Learn & Grow time during the worship service:</u> Coloring, crafts, Bible stories, sharing, light snack, etc., in the classrooms on the first floor during the sermon & reflection time for adults in the sanctuary. For children in Preschool/Kindergarten through 4th grade.

<u>Experience & Grow time participating in the worship service:</u> Participating in the worship experience, including sermon & reflection time. Access to special materials on the "Experience & Grow" stand in the Prayground. For Grade 5 through Confirmation.

Calendar of Events			
Date	Event	Time	
Sun, Mar 23	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am	
Wed, Mar 26	Scriptures and Stories Week 3 Gathering	6:30 pm	
Sun, Mar 31	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am	
Wed, Apr 2	Scriptures and Stories Week 4 Gathering	6:30 pm	
Wed, Apr 2	Lenten Midweek Soup Supper 6pm & Evening Prayer 7pm @	6:00 pm	
	Bethesda on the Bay (optional)	7:00 pm	
Thurs, Apr 3	Confirmation Class @ Bethesda on the Bay	6:00 pm	
Sat, Apr 5	Ladies' Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am	
Sun, Apr 6	In-Person & Livestream Worship Easter Plant orders due	9:30 am	
Wed, Apr 9	Scriptures and Stories Week 5 Gathering (last one)	6:30 pm	
Sun, Apr 13	In-Person & Livestream Worship: Palm/Passion Sunday	9:30 am	