

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries  
*Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve*



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 3rd, 2025  
9:30 am



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Rocky River, OH 44116  
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## Welcome

Reflecting the abundant welcome of the Kingdom of God as revealed by Jesus, GSLM welcomes all who seek God's love and grace. We affirm and celebrate the diversity of humanity in all its races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, social and economic circumstances, abilities, and disabilities. Together, we commit ourselves to racial equity and to justice for all, because in God's kingdom, we are all beloved children of God.

## 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 worshipping 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 worshipping 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.



## Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

### 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.*

#### **† Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience, kindness,  
and generosity,  
but we grow weary in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break our bonds,  
and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.  
In the cross of † Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

† **Gathering Hymn: Build a Longer Table v. 1, 3, 4**

- 1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,  
feeding those who hunger, making room for all.  
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,  
Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.
- 3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.  
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.  
When we embrace compassion more than fear,  
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.
- 4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,  
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.  
So must our tables welcome those who roam.  
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984 Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

*The assembly and  
presiding minister  
greet each other  
(scripture ref.  
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.**

*The Prayer of the  
Day highlights  
themes in  
today's scripture.*

† **Prayer of the Day**

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our  
lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive  
to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**The Word**

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

**First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

To put this reading into context:

*The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for  
mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity  
of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find  
enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.*

Hear now the reading.



<p><i>through the Gospel reading.</i></p>	<p>The holy Gospel according to Luke.  <b>Glory to you, O Lord.</b></p> <p><sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” <sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup>And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup>Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup>So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”</p> <p>The gospel of the Lord.  <b>Praise to you, O Christ.</b></p>
	<p><b>Children’s Sermon</b></p> <p><i>Sunday School is on summer break! Young children are welcome to remain in the sanctuary during the sermon or go to the “learn &amp; grow in faith” area (nursery room at the end of the hall, east side of the building). Children must be supervised by an adult. On select Sundays there may be a craft activity with a Sunday School teacher in the lounge.</i></p>
	<p><b>Sermon: The Rev. Donald Frantz</b></p> <p><i>Silence for Reflection.</i></p> <p><i>Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You’re invited to reflect on the following question:</i></p> <p><i>What do you build barns to hold for later life?</i></p>
<p><i>The Hymn of the Day is the assembly’s response to the sermon—</i></p>	<p>† <b>Hymn of the Day: Son of God, Eternal Savior (ELW 655) v. 1 &amp; 2</b></p> <p>1 Son of God, eternal Savior,  source of life and truth and grace,  Word made flesh, whose birth among us</p>

*making the sermon event a mutual faith conversation.*

hallows all our human race,  
you our head, who, throned in glory,  
for your own will ever plead:  
fill us with your love and pity,  
heal our wrong, and help our need.

2 As you, Lord, have lived for others,  
so may we for others live.  
Freely have your gifts been granted;  
freely may your servants give.  
Yours the gold and yours the silver,  
yours the wealth of land and sea;  
we but stewards of your bounty  
held in solemn trust will be.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932

*As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our participation.*  
  
*Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:*  
  
*+ The Church*  
*+ Creation*  
*+ Nations and leaders*  
*+ Those in need*  
*+ This faith community*  
*+ The great cloud of witnesses/those resting with God*

**† Prayers of the Church**

We pray for the Church in all its forms here and abroad.  
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for Creation and all that you, O God, have lovingly made.  
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for leaders in our nation and in nations around the world,  
that they work for justice and peace and bring an end to oppression,  
war, and violence. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer or are in any need. Today we especially  
pray for Dale, Dave, Helen, Gail, Mary Lou, The Busby Family, Frank,  
Ed, Sara, Donna, Toni, Kate, Stan & Ann, Charley & Cindy, Bill, Susan,  
Sally, Thomas, Ruth, Kenya, Diane, Jeanette, Cole and family, Khams  
& his community in Manipur, ...and those we name aloud or in our  
hearts. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this faith community. Teach us to be generous with all that  
you've entrusted to us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all your saints, all those who are now at rest in you.  
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Gather our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our  
Savior. **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.*

## The Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### Offering

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 [pushpay.com/g/goodsoillutheran](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: The Trumpets Sound the Angels Sing, (ELW 531)

- 1 The trumpets sound, the angels sing,  
the feast is ready to begin.  
the gates of heav'n are open wide,  
and Jesus welcomes you inside.

*Refrain: Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.  
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.  
Take your place at the table of the King.  
The feast is ready to begin; the feast is ready to begin.*

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## † Offering Prayer

Creator God,  
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good  
and the harvest is plentiful.  
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth  
and our labor,  
that we may work for the good of all;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Words of Institution

*The Lord's 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

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice. **Amen.**

**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 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: Morning has Broken (ELW 556)

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
- 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

## Communion Hymn: When Peace Like a River (ELW 785)

- 1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.  
  
*Refrain:* It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.
- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain*
- 3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*
- 4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;

even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

### † 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

The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit  
✠ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

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

### † Sending Hymn: In Christ There is No East or West (ELW 650)

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one community of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.
- 3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

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

### † Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

### Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Bill & Darlene Wahl	Livestream: Jessica Berkshire
Reader: David Paine	Acolyte: Luke Williamson
Counters: Jessica Berkshire & David Paine	Cantor: Kaitlyn Regan
Online Usher: Beau Reddington	Altar Care: Evan Paine
Communion Bread: Anne Paine	



## Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, August 3, 2025

**Especially in our prayers:** Dale Alexander, Dave, Helen Andrews, Gail Boggs, Mary Lou Busby, The Busby Family, Frank Dunaway, Ed Fink, Sara Gresh, Donna Handy, Toni Kulma, Kate Labuda, Stan & Ann Layman, Charley & Cindy McCabe, Bill Meyer, Susan Omerod, Sally Pate, Thomas Pate, Ruth Patrick, Kenya Russell, Diane Traxler, Jeannette Weidlich, Cole Younger and family, Khams Zotal & his people in Manipur.

**For those celebrating birthdays this week:** Jeanne Livingood (8/3), Darlene Wahl (8/6), Jennifer Mitterholzer (8/7), & Lily Connor (8/8).

**For those celebrating baptism anniversaries this week:** Mandy Forshey (8/3).

**For those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week:** Dave & Abbie Blocksom (8/5) and Taylor & Matt Nichols (8/6).

**The flowers adorning the altar today are given in the glory of God in celebration of Jen Otto-Mitterholzer's birthday.**

**Meet Katie Rininger!** Katie was baptized at Good Soil on 7/27. Keep reading to learn more about her! "Hello, my name is Kaitlin but please call me Katie. I was born and raised in Carrollton, Ohio and moved to Cleveland in 2021. I love to express myself by doing art. I love to color and paint and I am a huge tattoo fan. I love anything to do with water, my mom called me her little mermaid when I was growing up. My mom passed away when I was 14, my dad now lives in North Carolina and my brother still lives in my hometown. I'm so happy to be joining such a wonderful church and I can't wait to continue this journey of faith at Good Soil."



**Learn to Knit!** As part of our congregational renewal activities, Anne Paine offered to teach knitting lessons. If you'd be interested in learning to knit, please let Anne know. She can be reached at [anne.c.paine@gmail.com](mailto:anne.c.paine@gmail.com). She's hoping to be able to offer a class on Thursday evenings starting in the fall.

**Save the Date!** On 8/24, Good Soil will be worshipping with Bethesda on the Bay for outdoor worship and a joint church picnic held at Bethesda (no worship held at Good Soil that day). Worship begins at 10am, please bring your own lawn chairs. The food truck from Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry will be there to provide main dishes for those who want to purchase a meal to support their ministry. Please sign up with this QR code to RSVP.



**Good Soil's New AED-** A new AED has been installed at the bottom of the stairs leading down from the parking lot entrance. It has been given to God's love in memory of Jerry W. Hoegner. Scan the QR code to the left to learn more about the usage of an AED in an emergency.

**Home Communion Ministry to begin Sept/Oct 2025:** Good Soil will be starting a Home Communion Ministry team beginning Sept/Oct 2025 to take communion once a month to our homebound members. Deaconess Anne Paine is coordinating the launch of this ministry, please reach out to her [anne.c.paine@gmail.com](mailto:anne.c.paine@gmail.com) (or Pastor Marissa) if you'd like to serve on that team or have questions. We'll be hosting a Home Communion Training on 8/10 or 8/24.

**Looking to put your faith into action?** Hunger continues growing in our community affecting people of all ages and backgrounds. You can be part of the solution by volunteering:

1. **Lakewood Fresh Produce Distribution:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, 9am-12pm, through 11/15/25. Meet at the Lakewood Congregational Church parking lot located on the corner of 1375 W. Clifton Blvd at Detroit Ave, Lakewood.
2. **New Covenant Produce for the People:** 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month, 9am-12pm, through 9/27/25 at New Covenant Lutheran Church, 1424 Hayden Ave, Cleveland.

Both service opportunities take place rain or shine. No beforehand sign-up is necessary. You'll help fill sacks with a variety of fresh, nourishing produce and then distribute them to waiting pre-qualified recipients cafeteria style. The rewarding part is getting to put your faith into action and share God's love with others. We'll see you there! Good Soil is also collecting plastic grocery bags for these ministries (black bin in the hallway).

**Emergency Trials for Hope Donations Needed-** Trials for Hope has experienced a surge in

people they serve and they are in great need of the following items:

- |                    |                    |            |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| -paper towels      | -dish soap         | -bar soap  |
| -spray cleaner     | -toothpaste        | -deodorant |
| -laundry detergent | -bodywash / 3 in 1 |            |

TFH shared that quantity is more important than quality so they can serve more people. TFH also requests that items be normal sized or smaller, as larger bulk sizes do not fit in the bags they use to distribute aid. Please place donations in or around the TFH collection bin at the parking lot entrance. We will collect these items through August.

**Congregational Renewal Activities-** The Renewal Committee reflected on the congregation's interest in meaningful activities centered on rest based on the sign-up sheets in the hallway. Four areas emerged as priorities for Good Soil at this time:

1. Creative Rest: We'll focus on hands-on *crafting* activities to inspire joy and creativity.
2. Spiritual Rest: A *Book Club* will be launched to create space for thoughtful reflection and rich discussion.
3. Physical Rest: *Hikes in Nature* with the Holy Hikes Northeast Ohio planned events (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month, see Holy Hikes-Northeast Ohio Facebook Page for details).
4. Social Rest: There was also interest in a *potluck*, but we're in need of someone to coordinate this activity. If you'd like to volunteer to plan a time of relaxation and connection over good food, music, and conversation in the coming months, please contact [admin@goodsoillutheran.org](mailto:admin@goodsoillutheran.org).

There's still plenty of time to sign up and share interest in any of these activities. More details will be provided as each group meets and begins planning in the coming weeks & months.



**Bethesda Staff Partnership-** Scan the QR code to learn more about Good Soil and Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran's staff partnership for a shared Minister for Christian Formation! Please pray for our joint call committee as they journey together. Read an update from them below:

**Call Committee Work-** Bethesda on the Bay and Good Soil have formed a committee to find and call a shared Minister for Christian Formation, to work on faith formation, spiritual family growth, and more. The committee members are Chris Webner (co-leader), Lynne Zeidler, Scott Pohlkamp, and Lisa Hanson from Bethesda, and JoAnne Wancata (co-leader) Evan Paine, Emma Sleva, and Amelia Forshey from Good Soil. Please feel free to reach out to any of them. The committee has begun their work, utilizing a guide from the ELCA. One of the committee's primary goals is to regularly communicate with and involve congregations throughout the search. The committee hopes to hold informative and participative meetings with the congregations, during or after service, before September. The committee asks for

prayers during this process.

**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](mailto:rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org) for further info.

**More online ushers needed!** Online ushers are a vital part of helping folks experience a sense of God's wide welcome and hospitality through Good Soil, even from afar. You are welcome to attend in-person while serving as the online usher if you keep your phone/tablet on silent. You can also serve from home. If you're interested in serving as an online usher, sign up using the QR code to the left or this link <https://secure.rotundasoftware.com/30/enrollment/goodsoil>



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



**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> \*\*\*E-news is on summer break\*\*\*



Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Aug 3	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship</b>	9:30 am
Sun, Aug 10	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship</b>	9:30 am
Sat, Aug 16	Lakewood Fresh Produce Distribution, <i>corner of 1375 W. Clifton Blvd at Detroit Ave, Lakewood</i>	9:00 am
Sun, Aug 17	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship</b>	9:30 am
Sat, Aug 23	New Covenant Produce for the People, <i>New Covenant Lutheran Church, 1424 Hayden Ave, Cleveland</i>	9:00 am
Sun Aug 24	<b>Outdoor Worship @ Bethesda on the Bay</b> <i>(no worship at GSLM)</i>	10:00 am

