

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



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 10th, 2025
9:30 am



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

The Rev. Marissa Harrison
pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org
Cell Phone: 813-494-6507

Church Administrator
Sean Kennedy, admin@goodsoillutheran.org

Worship and Music Coordinator
Brynna Bailer Mango, brynnabailermango@gmail.com

Communications and Community Life Coordinator
Cara Rovella, CCLC@goodsoillutheran.org

Facebook/Instagram: [goodsoillutheranministries](https://www.facebook.com/goodsoillutheranministries)
YouTube: Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

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.



RECONCILING IN CHRIST

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

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: Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer, ELW 618 v. 1, 2**

- 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.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.

*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**

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Word

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

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12

To put this reading into context:

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

Hear now the reading.

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered himself faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

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



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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

† Gospel Reading: Luke 12:32-40

To put this reading into context:

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

*through the
Gospel reading.*

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

³² [Jesus said:] “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those servants.

³⁹ “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

Children’s Sermon

Sunday School is on summer break! Young children are welcome to remain in the sanctuary during the sermon or go to the “learn & 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.

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for Reflection.

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You’re invited to reflect on the following question:

When has Jesus unexpectedly shown up in your life: “breaking through” & blessing you with an experience of affirmation, solidarity, redemption, forgiveness, or wholeness? What was the context? Who was involved? Were you surprised? What difference did that make in your life?

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: O Master Let Me Walk with You, ELW 818
v. 1, 3, 4

- 1 O Master, let me walk with you
in lowly paths of service true;
tell me your secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.
- 3 Teach me your patience; share with me
a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,
- 4 In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.

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

† Prayers of the Church

We pray for the Church in all its forms here and abroad. We give thanks for the ministry and leadership of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and pray for her transition to retirement. We give thanks and celebrate the election of Presiding Bishop Elect Yehiel Curry as he concludes his ministry as bishop of the Metro Chicago Synod and prepares to transition into this new role. 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, family & friends of Dakota, Mary Lou, The Busby Family, Frank, Ed & Verna, Sara, Donna, Mary Lou & Glenn, Toni, Kate, Stan & Ann, Charley & Cindy, Bill, Susan, Sally, Thomas, Ruth, Kenya, Diane, Jeanette, Cole & family, Khams & his community in Manipur, ...and those we name aloud or in our hearts. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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

<p><i>witnesses/those resting with God</i></p>	<p>We pray for this faith community. Help us to have faith and expect that you will show up and break into our lives. God of grace, receive our prayer.</p> <p>We give thanks for all your saints, all those who are now at rest in you. God of grace, receive our prayer.</p> <p>Gather our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.</p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, we share in Christ's peace & recognize it in each other.</i></p>	<p>† Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Meal</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Offering</p> <p>God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and 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</p>  <p><i>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.</i></p>
<p><i>The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.</i></p>	<p>† Offering Hymn: The Trumpets Sound the Angels Sing, ELW 531</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Refrain:</i> 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.</p> <p><small>Text © 1989 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere. All rights reserved. ASCAP</small></p>

† 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 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: O God, Our Help in Ages Past, ELW 632 v. 1-4

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:
- 2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Communion Hymn: Praise to the Lord Almighty, ELW 858

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

† 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: Oh For a Thousand Tongues to Sing, ELW 886 v. 1-3

- 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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, 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

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Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Chris & Larry Jacobson	Livestream: Joe Lanter
Reader: Barbara Munch	Acolyte: Evan Lanter
Counters: Joe Lanter & Barbara Munch	Cantor: Paula Maeder Connor
Online Usher: Kathy Berkshire	Altar Care: Darlene Wahl
Communion Bread: Anne Paine	



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, August 10, 2025

Especially in our prayers: Dale Alexander, Dave, Helen Andrews, Gail Boggs, family & friends of Dakota Brooks, Mary Lou Busby, The Busby Family, Frank Dunaway, Ed & Verna Fink, Sara Gresh, Donna Handy, Mary Lou & Glenn Kolla, 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 & family, Khams Zotal & his people in Manipur, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Gaza.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: Ava Kanagaraj (8/10), Joy Christensen (8/12), Brenna Connor (8/12), Janet Whiley (8/12), & Audrey Dorin (8/13).

For those celebrating baptism anniversaries this week: David David (8/14).

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week: David & Anne Paine (8/10).

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the glory of God in honor of the birthdays of Lily and Brenna Connor.

Back to School Blessing- During worship on 8/17 (next Sunday), there will be a Back to School Blessing for all ages! Make sure to join us in person to participate!

Meet Katie Rininger! Katie was baptized at Good Soil on 7/27. Read on to learn 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.”

Knitting Lessons- As part of our congregational renewal activities, Anne Paine has offered to teach knitting lessons. If you’d like to learn, let Anne know at anne.c.paine@gmail.com. She hopes to offer a class on Thursday evenings in the fall.

Save the Date! On 8/24, Good Soil will be joining 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 use this QR code to RSVP.



Good Soil’s New AED- A new AED is located 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 for info on using an AED in an emergency.

Home Communion Ministry to begin Sept/Oct 2025, Training TODAY after worship: Good Soil is starting a Home Communion Ministry team in Sept/Oct 2025 to take communion monthly to homebound members. Deaconess Anne Paine (anne.c.paine@gmail.com) is coordinating the launch of this ministry. Contact her or Pr. Marissa with questions, or if you'd like to serve. There is a Home Communion Training TODAY (8/10) after worship in the lounge.

Save the Date: Sun 9/28 for a Woodland Themed Baby Shower for Pastor Marissa & Trey, in the Fellowship Hall right after worship. More details to come. Contact Jennifer Krankowski (hansonjenm@yahoo.com) or Sharon Hollowell (hollowells99@gmail.com) with questions.

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:** 3rd 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: 4th 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 sign-up needed. You'll help fill bags with fresh, nourishing produce and distribute them to waiting pre-qualified recipients cafeteria style. Put your faith into action and share God's love with others! Good Soil is also collecting plastic grocery bags for these ministries (black cannister 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 held to encourage deep reflection & rich discussion.
3. Physical Rest: *Hikes in Nature* with the Holy Hikes Northeast Ohio planned events (4th Saturday of every month, see Holy Hikes-Northeast Ohio Facebook Page for details).
4. Social Rest: There was interest in a *potluck*, but we need someone to plan the event. If you'd like to volunteer to organize a time of relaxation & connection over good food, music, & conversation in the coming months, contact admin@goodsoillutheran.org.

More details provided as each group meets and makes plans 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 & call a shared Minister for Christian Formation, to work on faith formation, spiritual family

growth, & more. The committee members are Chris Webner (co-leader), Lynne Zeidler, Scott Pohlkamp, & Lisa Hanson from Bethesda, and JoAnne Wancata (co-leader), Evan Paine, Emma Sleva, & Amelia Forshey from Good Soil. 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 congregants throughout the search. The committee hopes to hold informative & participative meetings with the congregations, during or after service, soon. 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 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 adorning Christ's altar with flowers for worship? Sign up on the flower list on the hallway bulletin board or online using this QR code. Please note: The physical bulletin board list has priority. Best efforts are made to ensure the digital calendar matches the physical one. If you sign up online for a date that is taken on the physical list, we will reach out to reschedule. Each vase costs \$20. You may bring your own flowers instead of buying through Good Soil, but please 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 10	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sun, Aug 10	Home Communion Ministry Training, <i>after worship in the lounge</i>	10:30 am
Tue, Aug 12	Church Council Meeting	7:45 pm
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	In-Person & Livestream Worship, Back to School Blessing (for all ages) during worship	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	Outdoor Worship @ Bethesda on the Bay (no worship at GSLM)	10:00 am