

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



**First Sunday of the Season of Creation, Ocean Sunday**  
**September 7th, 2025**  
**9:30 am**



20300 Hilliard Blvd  
Rocky River, OH 44116  
(440) 331-1773 | [GoodSoilLutheran.org](http://GoodSoilLutheran.org)

*The Rev. Marissa Harrison*  
[pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org](mailto:pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org)  
Cell Phone: 813-494-6507

*Church Administrator*  
Sean Kennedy, [admin@goodsoillutheran.org](mailto:admin@goodsoillutheran.org)

*Worship and Music Coordinator*  
Brynna Bailer Mango, [brynnabailermango@gmail.com](mailto:brynnabailermango@gmail.com)

*Communications and Community Life Coordinator*  
Cara Rovella, [CCLC@goodsoillutheran.org](mailto: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**

## First Sunday of the Season of Creation, Ocean Sunday

*Today begins "The Season of Creation" -- a time when the global church unites to intentionally reflect on God's presence in creation and our calling to care for it. We give thanks, we pray, we lament, we hope, and we recommit ourselves to healing our relationship with our sacred home. This Sunday is Ocean Sunday! We worship with the oceans of Earth, created by the wisdom of God. We sing with the seven seas and celebrate the wondrous creatures of the watery deep.*

### Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### **Prelude and Welcome**

#### **† Call to Worship**

In the name of the Spirit of God,  
who hovered over the primal waters.

In the name of the Word of God,  
who parted the waters for Earth to appear.

In the name of the Wisdom of God,  
who filled the deep with amazing designs.

**Amen.**

On this First Sunday in the Season of Creation, we invite the oceans to worship with us:

**Deep sea currents and ocean reefs, mountain peaks on the ocean floor.**

We call the seven seas to celebrate with us:

**Icebergs that break off from the North Pole, calm waters that caress the equator.**

We join all ocean life in songs of praise:

**Whales and dolphins dancing on the surface, and choirs of angel fish gathered below.**

We summon the seashore to magnify the Lord:

**The pelican, the stingray, the flamingo, the white caps and waves that splash in praise.**

Oceans, seas and watery deeps, celebrate with all that lives within you:  
**And roar in praise with us today.**

*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

As we give gratitude for the ocean, we confess that we have become alienated from Earth and viewed this planet as disposable, a source of endless resources, a mere stopping place enroute to heaven.

**We have polluted Earth's waters with toxins,**

**We have harmed millions of species in the ocean.**

**We have turned our greed into global warming.**

**We have contributed to the melting of arctic regions.**

**We have devalued life.**

**We have loved progress more than the planet.**

**We are sorry.**

*(Silence for reflection)*

Christ hears our confession, forgives our sins, and teaches us to love the oceans as a precious part of our planet home. We are invited to celebrate and preserve the waters of life in God's sanctuary. **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.

## † Hymn of Praise



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

*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

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the ocean depths, we celebrate the wondrous design of the seas that surround us. Help us to discern how we have polluted our oceans and to empathize with the groaning of creation. Teach us to know the presence of God in the tides and currents around us. Teach us to care for the oceans and all our waterways. In the name of the Wisdom of God, the creative force that designs and sustains all creation. **Amen.**

## The Word

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

**First Reading: Job 38:1, 4-11, 16-18**

To put this reading into context:

*After his friends have been giving unhelpful advice about his suffering, Job finally hears from God. God comes not with answers, but questions Job about his place in all of Creation, giving him a new perspective.*

Hear now the reading.

<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

<sup>4</sup> “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?  
Tell me, if you have understanding.

<sup>5</sup> Who determined its measurements—surely you know!  
Or who stretched the line upon it?

<sup>6</sup> On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone

<sup>7</sup> when the morning stars sang together  
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

<sup>8</sup> “Or who shut in the sea with doors  
when it burst out from the womb,

<sup>9</sup> when I made the clouds its garment  
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

<sup>10</sup> and prescribed bounds for it,  
and set bars and doors,

<sup>11</sup> and said, ‘Thus far shall you come and no farther,  
and here shall your proud waves be stopped’?

<sup>16</sup> “Have you entered into the springs of the sea  
or walked in the recesses of the deep?

<sup>17</sup> Have the gates of death been revealed to you,  
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

<sup>18</sup> Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?  
Declare, if you know all this.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 104:1-6, 8, 24-25, 35b**

<sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

**You are clothed with honor and majesty,**

**<sup>2</sup> wrapped in light as with a garment.**

You stretch out the heavens like a tent;

<sup>3</sup> you set the beams of your chambers on the waters;

**You make the clouds your chariot;**

**you ride on the wings of the wind;**

<sup>4</sup> You make the winds your messengers,  
fire and flame your ministers.



into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” <sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’s knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” <sup>11</sup> When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

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: Deaconess Anne Paine**

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

*Which commonality between humans and the ocean seemed most pertinent to you? How can you use this awareness to improve your relationship to your use of God’s gift of water and the ocean?*

*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: Wash O God Our Sons and Daughters (ELW 445)**

1 Wash, O God our sons and daughters,  
 where your cleansing waters flow.  
 Number them among your people;  
 bless as Christ blessed long ago.  
 Weave them garments bright and sparkling;  
 compass them with love and light.

Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,  
holy dove and heart's delight.

2 We who bring them long for nurture;  
by your milk may we be fed.  
Let us join your feast,  
partaking cup of blessing, living bread.  
God, renew us, guide our footsteps;  
free from sin and all its snares,  
one with Christ in living, dying,  
by your Spirit, children, heirs!

3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!  
Unimagined, all your ways!  
To your name be glory, honor!  
With our lives we worship, praise!  
We your people stand before you,  
water-washed and Spirit-born.  
By your grace, our lives we offer.  
Recreate us; God, transform!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

*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.*

## † Prayers of the Church

We thank you, O God, for a wondrous planet home, especially the waters of the ocean. Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the well-being of all creatures, especially those who dwell in and around the ocean. Lord in your mercy, **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. Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer or are in any need. Today we especially pray for Dale, Dave, Helen, Mike, Gail, Mary Lou, the Busby family, Joe, Jon D, Frank, Matthew, 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, ...& those we name aloud or in our hearts. Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

	<p>We give thanks for all your saints, all those who are now at rest in you. Lord in your mercy, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>Gathered together with all of creation in the communion of the Holy Spirit, we offer these and all our prayers to you. <b>Amen.</b></p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, we share in Christ's peace &amp; recognize it in each other.</i></p>	<p><b>† Passing of the Peace</b></p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always. <b>And also with you.</b></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;"><b><u>The Meal</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p><b>Offering</b></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 <a href="https://pushpay.com/g/goodsoillutheran">pushpay.com/g/goodsoillutheran</a></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><b>† Offering Hymn: For the Fruit of All Creation, (ELW 679) v. 1, 3</b></p> <p>1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.</p> <p>3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God. For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,</p>

most of all, that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### † Offering Prayer

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for all in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth. **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.**

### † Preface

### † Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san-na in the high - est, ho-san - na in the high - est.

### † Words of Institution

<p><i>The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i></p>	<p><b>† Lord's Prayer</b></p> <p>Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us: <b>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.</b></p>
	<p><b>† Invitation to the Table</b></p> <p>The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice. <b>Amen.</b></p>
	<p><b>Communion</b></p> <p><i>Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil.</i></p> <p><i>Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.</i></p> <p><i>When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
	<p><b>Communion Hymn: Let Justice Flow Like Streams (ELW 717)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure, enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.</li> <li>2 Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed, an ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.</li> </ol>

3 So may God's plumb line, straight,  
define our measure true,  
and justice, right, and peace pervade  
this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

### **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.**

### **Prayer for Home Communion Ministry**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As  
you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those  
who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are

	<p>homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. <b>Amen.</b></p>
	<p><b>Farewell and Godspeed for Mark and Mary Kay Liston</b></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Sending</u></b>  <i>God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.</i></p> <p><b>† Blessing</b></p> <p>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. <b>Amen.</b></p>
<p><i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i></p>	<p><b>† Sending Hymn: God's Work Our Hands v. 1-3</b></p> <p>1      God's work, our hands: working together,  building a future, repairing the world,  raising up homes, planting new gardens,  feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.  Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  sharing the good news of your gospel.</p> <p>2      God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,  following Jesus to places unknown,  walking as friends, marching for freedom,  running the race with God's future the goal.  Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,  sharing the good news of your gospel.</p> <p>3      God's work, our voice: singing together,  praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,  praying for peace, shouting for justice,  claiming God's love for the lost and the least.  Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  sharing the good news of your gospel.</p> <p><small>Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress</small></p>
<p><i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body: nourished.</i></p>	<p><b>† Dismissal</b></p> <p><b>Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.</b></p>

*fed, & ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Scripture: New Revised Standard Version Bible©1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. Worship texts: [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com) Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SAS020986 Music reprinted under One License #A-719034/CCLI license #3013830. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**Today's Worship Servants:**

Ushers: Bill Fink & Darlene Wahl	Livestream: Trey Harrison
Reader: Mary Kay Liston	Acolyte: Luke Williamson
Counters: Ellen Young & Mark Liston	Cantor: Beau Reddington
Online Usher: Stormy Younger	Altar Care: Bill Wahl
Communion Bread: Michael Mitterholzer	
Home Communion Ministers: Michael Mitterholzer, Dee Willis, Erik Bogen, Anne Paine, Bill Fink, Beau Reddington, Kaitlyn Regan, Chris Jacobson, & George Andrews	



**Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, September 7, 2025**

**Especially in our prayers:** Dale Alexander, Dave, Helen Andrews, Mike Bishop, Gail Boggs, family & friends of Dakota Brooks, Mary Lou Busby, the Busby family, Joe Cassatta, Jon Deye, Frank Dunaway, Matthew Eaton, Ed & Verna Fink, Sara Gresh, Donna Handy, Mary Lou & Glenn Kolke, 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:** Verna Fink (9/7), Louise DeBell (9/8), John Younger (9/11), and Lisa Sierk (9/12).

**For those celebrating baptism anniversaries this week:** Mark Liston (9/12).

**The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God by Mike & JoAnne remembering Mildred Wancata (Mike's mom) and Herman Mahnke (JoAnne's dad) with love and gratitude on their birthdays.**

**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](mailto:anne.c.paine@gmail.com). She hopes to offer a class on Thursday evenings in the fall.

**Home Communion Ministry launches TODAY:** Good Soil is starting a Home Communion Ministry team to take communion monthly to homebound members. Deaconess Anne Paine ([anne.c.paine@gmail.com](mailto:anne.c.paine@gmail.com)) is coordinating the launch of this ministry. Contact Anne or Pr. Marissa with questions, or if you'd like to serve.

**Upcoming service outreach opportunities:** TODAY is God's Work Our Hands Sunday across the ELCA nationwide. Right after church today, there will be a service project for all ages in the fellowship hall. We will be putting together Blessing Bags. These bags will contain such items as: bottled, water, a few food items, self-care samples and a Christian scripture card. Good Soil members can carry one or a few of these bags in their car and distribute as you encounter a homeless person. An example of distribution may be when exiting the highway handing a bag to a person who is collecting donations at the exit. This is a small way that we can continue to support the wider community.

SAT SEPT 13 Team Up to Clean Up, an annual event at Lutheran Metro Ministries (2100 Lakeside Ave) that brings shelter residents, volunteers, staff, & community partners together for a day of gardening, neighborhood cleanup, woodworking, art projects, games, live music, & a cookout! Projects include planting bulbs & flowers, assembling picnic tables, refurbishing a garden bench, & refreshing a gazebo. *9/13 Schedule:* registration 8:30am-9am, projects 9am-11:45am, cookout 12pm-1:30pm. Volunteers provide their own transportation. There is street parking. **Sign up for this event on the bulletin board by the lounge until 9/7.** Questions? Text or email Sharon Regan: [regansharon17@gmail.com](mailto:regansharon17@gmail.com), 216-408-0304.

**Joint Outdoor Worship and Ice Cream on 9/21!** On 9/21, Universe Sunday, we will be having joint outdoor worship (in-person only) here at Good Soil, with Bethesda on the Bay. After worship, we will be hosting the Polar X-Press Ice Cream Truck! Everyone who attends worship will be treated to an ice cream treat of their choice! **Please bring a lawn chair.** Hope to see you there!

**Save the Date: Sun 9/28** Please join us on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> for a Woodland Themed Baby Shower honoring Pastor Marissa and Trey in Fellowship Hall after worship. Festivities include a light lunch with additional activities, such as guessing games (with prizes!), craft activities for the kids and a few surprises kicking off at 11:00. Your presence, fellowship and good wishes are your gift to Pastor Marissa and Trey. If you'd like to give an additional gift to celebrate the coming arrival of Baby Harrison, you can:

- Bring a gift of your choosing, or making, to the shower. Please refer to the registry at [babylist.com](http://babylist.com) (search for Marissa Harrison).
- Bring a book to add to the Harrison Family Library.

- Contribute to a consolidated gift from Good Soil members consisting of cash or a gift card. Please contact Jennifer Krankowski ([hansonjenm@yahoo.com](mailto:hansonjenm@yahoo.com)) or Sharon Hollowell ([hollowells99@gmail.com](mailto:hollowells99@gmail.com)) on how to make your contribution.

Please do not wrap your individual gift or book but, be sure to add attach a gift tag with your name or the name of your family. Individual gifts and books will be displayed on a table for Pastor Marissa and Trey -- freeing up time otherwise spent on the "unwrapping gift ritual" to instead mingle, receive good wishes from the church family and participate in the festivities.

**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 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 in the black cannister in the hallway.

**Conference-Wide Disaster Relief Trip (11/2/25-11/7/25, Roan Mountain, TN)** -- Consider participating in this "spiritual retreat with nails" and share Christian compassion and love with this TN community as they continue to recover from Hurricane Helene. Participants will leave 11/2 after worship and return on 11/7. Contact Conference Dean Pr. Angela Freeman to learn more or with questions. [pastor.angela@bethesdaonthebay.org](mailto:pastor.angela@bethesdaonthebay.org) or call (440) 871-2276.

**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 the end of 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 (4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 see an update from Good Soil and Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran's staff partnership to search for a shared Minister for Christian Formation, shared on 8/24! Please pray for our joint call committee as they journey together. Read additional info 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 an ELCA guide. One of the committee's primary goals is to regularly communicate with and involve congregants throughout the search. The committee will be holding informative & participative meetings with the congregations, during or after service, throughout the search. 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.

**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>

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Sept 7	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship: Season of Creation: Ocean Sunday</b>	9:30 am
Sun, Sept 7	God's Work, Our Hands Service Project, <i>after worship in the Fellowship Hall</i>	10:30 am
Sat, Sept 13	LMM Team Up to Clean Up, @ 2100 Lakeside Ave	9:00 am
Sun, Sept 14	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship: Storm Sunday</b>	9:30 am
Sun, Sept 21	<b>Outdoor Worship (In-Person Only): Universe Sunday</b>	9:30 am