

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



Christ the King Sunday  
November 23rd, 2025  
9:30 am



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

*Pastor of Presence during Pastor M's Parental Leave*  
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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.



## Christ the King Sunday

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

### 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**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,  
you have shown us the ways of your heart,  
yet we stray from your paths.  
We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression  
and do not embrace the freedom  
of your faithful promises.  
We ignore our neighbors.  
We exploit the earth.  
We reject your abundance,  
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.  
Repair our relationships,  
restore what we have broken,  
renew our hearts,  
and bring us to new life. **Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
God the Faithful One loves you,  
† in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.  
**Amen.**



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

## † Prayer of the Day

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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.*

### **First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6**

To put this reading into context:

*Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.*

Hear now the reading.

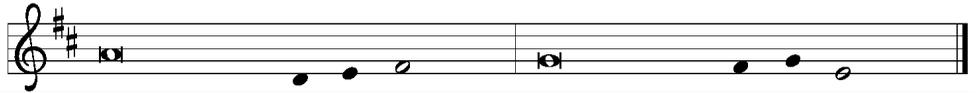
<sup>1</sup>Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. <sup>2</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup>I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 46



- <sup>1</sup> God is our ref- | uge and strength,  
a very present | help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters | rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,  
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
- <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the | break of day.
- <sup>6</sup> The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD of | hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
- <sup>8</sup> Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
- <sup>9</sup> behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns  
the | shields with fire.
- <sup>10</sup> “Be still, then, and know that | I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”
- <sup>11</sup> The LORD of | hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

*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: Great Is Thy Faithfulness, v. 1 and refrain

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960 Text © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

**† Gospel Reading: Luke 23:33-43**

To put this reading into context:

*Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.*

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

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

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

**Children's Sermon**

*After the children's sermon, children grade 4 and younger are invited to step out with our Sunday School teachers for "Learn and Grow in Faith" class during the sermon. They'll return during the Passing of the Peace.*

**Sermon: The Rev. Jim Kulma**

*Silence for Reflection.*

*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: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (ELW 634)

v. 1-3

- 1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown him Lord of all.
- 2 O seed of Israel's chosen race  
now ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace  
and crown him Lord of all.
- 3 Hail him, you heirs of David's line,  
whom David Lord did call  
the God incarnate, man divine  
and crown him Lord of all.  
The God Incarnate, man divine  
and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, sts. 1-4; J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, sts. 5-6

*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:*

† Prayers of the Church

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for leaders & advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability & truth. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*+ The Church  
+ Creation*

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

We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick. Comfort all in need of your tender care. We pray especially for Dale, Dave, Tom, Mike, Gail, Mary Lou, the Busby family, Joe, Jon D, Frank, Matthew, Brendan, Ed & Verna, Sara, Donna, Herb, Mary Lou & Glenn, Toni, Kate, Charley & Cindy, Bill, Susan, Sally, Thomas, Ruth, Katie, the Sburlea Family, Andrew, Diane, Jeanette, Stormy, Khams & his community in Manipur, ...and those we name aloud or in our hearts. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God’s faithfulness together. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all who have died in faith. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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, 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](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: Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP). All rights reserved. International © secured.

### † Offering Prayer

God of healing and hope,  
you bless those who are hungry,  
promising to fill them with good things.  
Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.  
Nourish us with the abundance of your feast  
and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,  
now and forever. **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.



## Communion Hymn: Beautiful Savior (ELW 838)

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

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

## Communion Hymn: Rejoice for Christ is King (ELW 430)

- 1 Rejoice, for Christ is king!  
Your Lord and king adore;  
rejoice, give thanks, and sing,  
and triumph evermore:

*Refrain:* Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

- 2 Our Savior Jesus reigns,

the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above: *Refrain*

3 His kingdom cannot fail;  
he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus giv'n: *Refrain*

4 He sits at God's right hand  
till all his foes submit  
and bow to his command  
and fall beneath his feet: *Refrain*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, 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 the Sovereign strengthen you,  
God the Son save you,  
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.  
The holy Trinity bless you †  
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

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

### † Sending Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns (ELW 855) v. 4 & 5

4 Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing,  
who died and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.

5 Crown him the Lord of years,  
 the potentate of time,  
 creator of the rolling spheres,  
 ineffably sublime.  
 All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
 For thou hast died for me;  
 thy praise and glory shall not fail  
 throughout eternity.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

*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. Share the harvest.  
**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 #SA5020986 Music reprinted under One License #A-719034/CCLI license #3013830. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*All are warmly welcomed after worship to join for coffee fellowship!*

**Today's Worship Servants:**

Ushers: Bill & Darlene Wahl	Livestream: Joe Lanter
Reader: Sharon Bechtel	Acolyte: TJ Lanter
Counters: Joe Lanter & David Paine	Cantor: David Paine
Online Usher: Pam Lanter	Altar Care: Evan Paine
Communion Bread: Anne Paine	



**Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, November 23, 2025**

**Especially in our prayers:** Dale Alexander, Dave, Tom Beck, Mike Bishop, Gail Boggs, Paul Brelo, Mary Lou Busby, the Busby family, Joe Cassatta, Jon Deye, Frank Dunaway, Matthew Eaton, Brendan Erchul, Ed & Verna Fink, Sara Gresh, Donna Handy, Herb Harrison, Mary Lou & Glenn Kolke, Toni Kulma, Kate Labuda, Charley & Cindy McCabe, Bill Meyer, Susan Omerod, Sally Pate, Thomas Pate, Ruth Patrick, Katie Rininger, The Sburlea Family, Andrew Sykaluk, Diane Traxler, Jeannette Weidlich, Stormy Younger, Khams Zotal & his people in Manipur, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Gaza.

**For those celebrating birthdays this week:** Kelsey Johnson (11/25), Jim Kulma (11/25), & George Young (11/29).

**Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of Patricia Eversole, and Charles & Katherine Eversole.**



**Upcoming Congregational Meeting:** Save the date for the upcoming congregational meeting, after worship on 12/7! There will be a vote on the 2026 budget at the meeting, so please attend the Zoom Q&A on 11/30 at noon if you have any questions! Scan the QR code to the left for the link.

**Thank you for your generosity!** Thank you so much for your generosity to Good Soil in this year's intent campaign. We have received 31 intent cards so far! If you would like to fill out the digital intent form, please scan the QR code to the right!



**Meet the McDermott Family!** We're Erin and Pat McDermott, and we've lived in the Cleveland area for the past eight years with our one-year-old son, Miles. Pat grew up outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Erin outside of Chicago, Illinois. We were drawn to Good Soil because of its inclusive values and welcoming community, and we're excited to grow in faith and connection here. As a family, we love traveling, exploring new restaurants, and spending time outdoors together.

**Live Nativity Family Event at Bethesda on the Bay December 14** Bethesda On The Bay Lutheran Church & Childcare Center is hosting its annual Live Nativity for the public Sunday, December 14 from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm on its spacious grounds at the corner of 28607 Wolf Rd. and Beach Lane in Bay Village. For mor info, visit [bethesdaonthebay.org](http://bethesdaonthebay.org).



**Maternity Leave FAQ-** 10/19 was Pr. M's last Sunday before maternity leave. Scan the QR code to the left to see the answers to some frequently asked questions. Pr. Jim Kulma will be the Pastor of Presence while she's gone. His email is [jkulma@cox.net](mailto:jkulma@cox.net) and his cell phone number is 216-221-7333.

**Donations for Trials for Hope-** With SNAP benefits being cut off, Trials for Hope has a special need for food donations. Please place any donations in the Trials for Hope bin in the entranceway. Thank you!

**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: Hands-on *crafting* activities to inspire joy and creativity (i.e. knitting)
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).

**Knitting Lessons-** As part of our congregational renewal activities, Anne Paine is offering knitting lessons. The group meets on Thursdays at 7 pm. If you'd like to learn or have questions, contact Anne at [anne.c.paine@gmail.com](mailto:anne.c.paine@gmail.com), or text her at 440-670-4917.

**MOW looking for Drivers-** West Shore Rocky River-Lakewood Meals on Wheels works in Good Soil's kitchen M-F! They need more drivers to bring meals to recipients, especially Mon, Wed, & Fri. Contact 440-333-6298 or [rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org](mailto:rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org) for more info.



**Bethesda Staff Partnership-** Scan the QR code to read an update from Good Soil and Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran's call committee as they engage the call process seeking a shared Minister for Christian Formation. Please pray for our joint call committee as they journey together. Read additional info below:

**Call Committee Work-** The joint call 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 offering updates throughout the search. Please answer the reflection questions (using the above QR code or handouts on the welcome table) and submit those responses to JoAnne Wancata [jwancata@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwancata@sbcglobal.net), if you haven't already.

**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 \$30. You may bring your own flowers instead of buying through Good Soil, but please still sign up. Questions about flowers? Contact Cara Rovella at [cclc@goodsoillutheran.org](mailto:cclc@goodsoillutheran.org).





**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> Questions about the E-news? Contact Cara Rovella at [cclc@goodsoillutheran.org](mailto:cclc@goodsoillutheran.org).

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Nov 23	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship- Christ The King Sunday</b>	9:30 am
Mon, Nov 24	Thanksgiving Community Worship @ Bethesda on the Bay (with pie to follow)	6:30 pm
Thurs, Nov 27	<i>Thanksgiving Day (Church Office Closed)</i>	
Fri, Nov 28	<i>Day after Thanksgiving (Church Office Closed)</i>	
Sun, Nov 30	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship- First Sunday of Advent</b>	9:30 am
Sun, Nov 30	2026 Proposed Budget Zoom Q&A	12 pm
Sun, Dec 7	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship- Second Sunday of Advent, Last day to submit poinsettia orders</b>	9:30 am
Sun, Dec 7	Congregational Meeting	10:30 am