

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



First Sunday of Advent
November 30th, 2025
9:30 am



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



First Sunday of Advent

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Gathering

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

Prelude and Welcome

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**
God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
† You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

† **Gathering Hymn: The King Shall Come (ELW 260) v. 1, 2, 4, 5**

1 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

2 Not as of old a little child,
to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.

4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes,
and we shall see his face.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

*The assembly and
presiding minister
greet each other
(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**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Advent Wreath Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (ELW 257) v. 1

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

The Word

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

First Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5

To put this reading into context:

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

Hear now the reading.

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore 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, Mandy Forshey

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 after the sermon.

Sermon: The Rev. Jim Kulma

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

What do you do... when you don’t know what is gonna happen next?

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: Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding (ELW 246)

v. 1, 3, 4

- 1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!
 "Christ is near," we hear it say.
 "Cast away the works of darkness,
 all you children of the day!"
- 3 See the Lamb, so long expected,
 come with pardon down from heav'n.
 Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
 one and all, to be forgiv'n;
- 4 So, when next he comes in glory
 and the world is wrapped in fear,
 he will shield us with his mercy

and with words of love draw near.

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878

*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

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation. *A brief silence.*

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom & instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround all with care and consolation. We pray especially for Dale, Diane, Mike, Steve, Paul, Audrey, Kay, Brendan, Kay, Ed & Verna, Donna, Herb, Toni, Charley & Cindy, Joyce, Sally, Ruth, Kristina, Jeanette, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Gaza, ...and those we name aloud or in our hearts. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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



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: Savior of the Nations Come (ELW 263), v. 1

- 1 Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.

Text: attr Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr hymnal version Text©2006 Augsburg Fortress.

† Offering Prayer

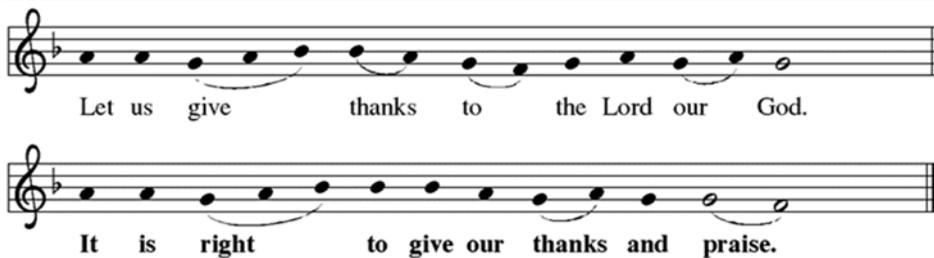
Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

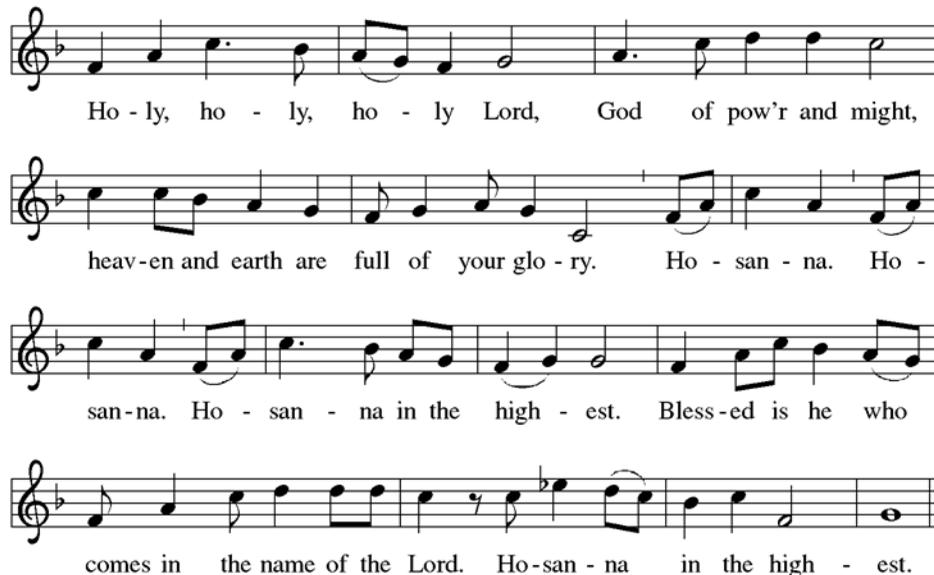
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

† 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

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

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: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (ELW 254)

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Communion Hymn: Each Winter as the Year Grows Older (ELW 252)

- 1 Each winter as the year grows older,
we each grow older, too.

The chill sets in a little colder;
the verities we knew
seem shaken and untrue.

- 2 When race and class cry out for treason,
when sirens call for war,
they overshout the voice of reason
and scream till we ignore
all we held dear before.
- 3 Yet I believe beyond believing
that life can spring from death,
that growth can flower from our grieving,
that we can catch our breath
and turn transfixed by faith.
- 4 So even as the sun is turning
to journey to the north,
the living flame, in secret burning,
can kindle on the earth
and bring God's love to birth.
- 5 O Child of ecstasy and sorrows,
O Prince of peace and pain,
brighten today's world by tomorrow's,
renew our lives again;
Lord Jesus, come and reign!

Text: William Gay, b. 1920, alt. Text © 1971 United Church Press.

† 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

May God who comes among us,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

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

† **Sending Hymn: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (ELW 244) v. 1, 3, 4**

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suffrings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

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. Keep awake.
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 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.

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

Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Stan Zeager & Bill Fink	Livestream: Isaac Krankowski
Reader: Paula Maeder Connor	Acolyte: Amelia Forshey
Counters: Stan Zeager & David Connor	Cantor: Erik Bogen
Online Usher: Stormy Younger	Altar Care: Paula Maeder Connor
Communion Bread: Anne Paine	



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, November 30, 2025

Especially in our prayers: Dale Alexander, Diane Bennett, Mike Bishop, Steve Bugosh, Paul Brelo, Audrey Dorin, Kay Eaton, Brendan Erchul, Kay Eaton, Ed & Verna Fink, Donna Handy, Herb Harrison, Toni Kulma, Charley & Cindy McCabe, Joyce Miller, Sally Pate, Ruth Patrick, Kristina Seeley, Jeannette Weidlich, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, & Gaza.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: Jim Mattson (12/1), Joe Lanter (12/3), Sean Lanter (12/3), Jack Younger (12/3), Josie Younger (12/3), & Brett Jonson (12/6).

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Joe and Sean Lanter's birthdays.

Prayer list names have been reset at the start of the new church year. If you would like to add anyone back on the worship prayer list, please contact Cara Rovella at cclc@goodsoillutheran.org or call the church office at 440-331-1773. Thank you for your prayers for those in need.



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 more info, visit 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 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 (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.

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, 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 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, 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.



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.

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Nov 30	In-Person & Livestream Worship- First Sunday of Advent	9:30 am
Sun, Nov 30	2026 Proposed Budget Zoom Q&A	12 pm
Sun, Dec 7	In-Person & Livestream Worship- Second Sunday of Advent, <i>Last day to submit poinsettia orders</i>	9:30 am
Sun, Dec 7	Congregational Meeting	10:30 am
Sun, Dec 14	In-Person & Livestream Worship- Second Sunday of Advent	9:30 am