

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



Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7th, 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*  
*The Rev. Jim Kulma, [jkulma@cox.net](mailto:jkulma@cox.net)*  
Cell Phone: 216-221-7333

*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.



## Second Sunday of Advent

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

### 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: Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264) v. 1, 2, 4**

1 Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:

*Refrain:* Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

2 God's people, see him coming:  
your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. '

*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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By  
his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Advent Wreath Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (ELW 257)v 1, 2**

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.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalteriolum 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 11: 1-10**

To put this reading into context:

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

Hear now the reading.

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
 the calf and the lion will feed together,  
 and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
 their young shall lie down together;  
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
 on all my holy mountain,  
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
 as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;  
 the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19



<sup>1</sup> Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,  
 and your righteousness to | the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your | people righteously**  
**and the | poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
 and the | hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,**  
**rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**  
<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
 from one generation | to another.  
<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,**  
**like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> In his time may the | righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be  
no more.

<sup>18</sup> **Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;  
you alone do | wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious | name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.

*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: Matthew 3: 1-12**

To put this reading into context:

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to

	<p>carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”</p> <p>The gospel of the Lord.  <b>Praise to you, O Christ.</b></p>
	<p><b>Children’s Sermon</b></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
	<p><b>Sermon: The Rev. Jim Kulma</b></p> <p><i>Silence for Reflection. Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You’re invited to reflect on the following question:</i></p> <p><i>How has your mind been changed over the years?</i></p>
<p><i>The Hymn of the Day is the assembly’s response to the sermon—making the sermon event a mutual faith conversation.</i></p>	<p><b>† Hymn of the Day: Let Justice Flow Like Streams (ELW 717)</b></p> <p>1 Let justice flow like streams  of sparkling water, pure,  enabling growth, refreshing life,  abundant, cleansing, sure.</p> <p>2 Let righteousness roll on  as others' cares we heed,  an ever-flowing stream of faith  translated into deed.</p> <p>3 So may God's plumb line, straight,  define our measure true,  and justice, right, and peace pervade  this world our whole life through.</p> <p><small>Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press</small></p>
<p><i>As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world. The</i></p>	<p><b>† Prayers of the Church</b></p> <p>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. <i>A brief silence.</i></p>

<p><i>prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our participation. Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>+ The Church</i></li> <li><i>+ Creation</i></li> <li><i>+ Nations and leaders</i></li> <li><i>+ Those in need</i></li> <li><i>+ This faith community</i></li> <li><i>+ The great cloud of witnesses/those resting with God</i></li> </ul> <p><i>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 the church office at 440-331-1773.</i></p>	<p>With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. We pray especially for Dale, Diane, Mike, Steve, family &amp; friends of Paul, especially Susan, Joe, Jon, Audrey, Kay, Brendan, Kay, Ed &amp; Verna, Donna, Herb, Toni, Charley &amp; Cindy, Bill, 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, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. <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>

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](http://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.

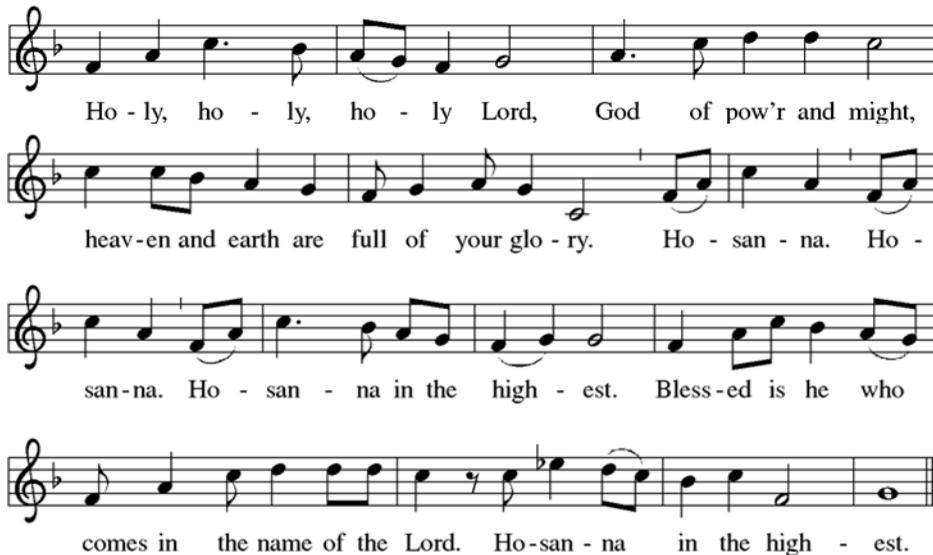
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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: Hark the Glad Sound! (ELW 239)**

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

### **Communion Hymn: All Earth is Hopeful (ELW 266)**

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";  
she conceived him, "God with us,"  
our brother, whose birth  
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
new highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Spanish text © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

### † 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

#### 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: Light Dawns on a Weary World (ELW 726)

1 Light dawns on a weary world  
when eyes begin to see  
all people's dignity.  
Light dawns on a weary world:  
the promised day of justice comes.

*Refrain:* The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy,  
and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world

when hungry hearts find bread  
and children's dreams are fed.  
Love grows in a weary world:  
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*

3 Hope blooms in a weary world  
when creatures, once forlorn,  
find wilderness reborn.  
Hope blooms in a weary world:  
the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain*

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*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](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.

*Please help yourself to a cup of coffee, then head to the fellowship hall for the congregational meeting!*

**Today's Worship Servants:**

Ushers: Taylor Nichols & Bill Wahl	Livestream: Sean Lanter
Reader: Nancie Smith	Acolyte: Amelia Forshey
Counters: Joe Lanter & Ellen Young	Cantor: William Eversole
Online Usher: Pam Lanter	Altar Care: Evan Paine
Communion Bread: Michael Mitterholzer	



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

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

**For those celebrating birthdays this week:** Aaron Krankowski (12/8) & Alin Sburlea (12/9).

**For those celebrating baptism anniversaries this week:** Stan Zeager (12/11) & Madeline Sburlea (12/12).

**Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Sharon Holowell's birthday.**

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](mailto:cclc@goodsoillutheran.org) or call the church office at 440-331-1773. Thank you for your prayers for those in need.

**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!



**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](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.

**Socks "Plus" Giving Tree for Trials for Hope!** Please join in decorating our Advent Giving Tree with gifts of comfort and joy for those served by Trials for Hope. Sunday 12/7 thru Sunday 01/04. The tree is set up in the Lounge this year. SUGGESTED GIFTS: Warm Socks - USB Charging Blocks - Multi-charging Power Cords - Hats- Gloves-Individual Packets of Starkist Tuna Creations and/or Spam Single Classics. *Ongoing items requested by Trials for Hope (e.g., Diapers size 6, canned meats, personal hygiene products, etc....can also be placed in the box beneath the tree.)*

**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).

### **Free Christmas Concert at John Knox Presbyterian Church on 12/14.**

**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).

<b>Calendar of Events</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
Sun, Dec 7	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship- Second Sunday of Advent, <i>Last day to submit poinsettia orders, Pre-Meeting Coffee Break</i></b>	9:30 am
Sun, Dec 7	Congregational Meeting	10:30 am
Sun, Dec 14	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship- Second Sunday of Advent, <i>Advent Coffee Hour</i></b>	9:30 am
Sun, Dec 21	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship- Third Sunday of Advent, <i>Children's Christmas Pageant, Post-Pageant Coffee Hour</i></b>	9:30 am
Wed, Dec 24	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship- Candlelight Christmas Eve</b>	6:30 pm
Sun, Dec 28	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship- Lessons and Carols, <i>Coffee Fellowship</i></b>	9:30 am