

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

January 11th, 2026

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.



RECONCILING IN CHRIST

Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

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,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
**you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

† **Gathering Hymn: Shall We Gather at the River (ELW 423) v. 1-3**

1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. *Refrain*

3 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain*

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

*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**

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your
beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are
baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and
sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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: Isaiah 42:1-9

To put this reading into context:

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

Hear now the reading.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,

I tell you of them.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴ The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶ the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips
the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

*We welcome the
gospel by singing
the Gospel
Acclamation.
We rise, if able, in
anticipation of
Christ being
revealed to us
through the Living
Word of the
Gospel.*

† Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia – ELW 174



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Celtic Alleluia. Both staves are in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

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 3:13-17

To put this reading into context:

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon by David Dick

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:

Who has looked at you with eyes of affirmation and delight?

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: Baptized and Set Free (ELW 453) v. 1, 3, & 4

1 We are people created,
chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently,
in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more.
Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing,
and wholeness and more.

- 3 We are nourished by water,
all living things,
and by life that the Spirit
abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home,
may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing,
now carry us home.
- 4 Now with praise and thanksgiving,
we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather
to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free!
From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water,
baptized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

*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*

† Prayers of the Church

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, & the well-being of the earth, our home.

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill. We pray especially for Dale, Diane, Mike, Steve, the Busby family, Joe, Jon, Audrey, Frank,

<p><i>witnesses/those resting with God</i></p>	<p>Kay, Brendan, Kay, Ed & Verna, Sarah, Donna, Herb, Toni, Kate, Jason, Charley & Cindy, Bill, Joyce, Susan, Sally, Ruth, Kristina, Jeanette, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, & Gaza, ...and those we name aloud or in our hearts. Merciful God, receive our prayer.</p> <p>Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God, receive our prayer.</p> <p>Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God, receive our prayer.</p> <p>Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.</p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, we share in Christ's peace & recognize it in each other.</i></p>	<p>† Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.</p> <p><i>The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.</i></p>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Meal</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Offering</p> <p>God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil keep making an impact by giving today using the QR code or at pushpay.com/g/goodsoillutheran</p>  <p><i>Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.</i></p>
<p><i>The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.</i></p>	<p>† Offering Hymn: Let the Vineyards be Fruitful (ELW 182)</p> <p>Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.</p>

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

† Offering Prayer

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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

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.

	<p>† Words of Institution</p>
<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>† Lord's Prayer</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>† Invitation to the Table</p> <p>Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.</p>
	<p>Communion</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 up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar 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>Communion Hymn: Christ When for Us You Were Baptized (ELW 304)</p> <p>1 Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's Spirit on you came, as peaceful as a dove, and yet as urgent as a flame, as urgent as a flame.</p> <p>2 God called you, "My beloved Son"; you are God's servant true, sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n,</p>

God's holy will to do,
God's holy will to do.

3 Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed the call
to serve with free and willing heart,
to give your life for all,
to give your life for all.

4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find,
may perfect freedom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.

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Communion Hymn: As With Gladness Men of Old (ELW 302)

1 As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led by thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
keep us in the narrow way;

and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

5 In the heav'nly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
alleluias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, 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

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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

† Sending Hymn: Hail to the Lord's Anointed (ELW 311) v. 1, 3, 4

1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression
and rule in equity.

3 He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.

Before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing.
To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

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. Do justice. Love mercy.
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 2026 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.

You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for Second Sunday coffee fellowship following worship!

Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Sharon Hollowell & Anne Paine	Livestream: Sean Lanter
Reader: Kaitlyn Regan	Acolyte: Luke Williamson
Counters: Kirsten Reading & David Paine	Cantor: William Eversole
Online Usher: Kathy Berkshire	Altar Care: Paula Maeder Connor
Communion Bread: Sarah Sburlea	



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, January 11, 2026

Especially in our prayers: Dale Alexander, Diane Bennett, Mike Bishop, Steve Bugosh, the Busby family, Joe Cassatta, Jon Deye, Audrey Dorin, Frank Dunaway, Kay Eaton, Brendan Erchul, Kay Eaton, Ed & Verna Fink, Sarah Gresh, Donna Handy, Herb Harrison, Toni Kulma, Kate Labuda, Jason Mattson, Charley & Cindy McCabe, Bill Meyer, Joyce Miller, Susan Omerod, Sally Pate, Ruth Patrick, Kristina Seeley, Jeannette Weidlich, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, & Gaza.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: Jane Beese (1/13)

For those celebrating baptism anniversaries this week: Aaron Krankowski (1/11)



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.

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, Jan 11	In-Person & Livestream Worship, Baptism of Our Lord Sunday	9:30 am
Sun, Jan 11	Second Sunday Coffee Fellowship	10:30 am
Sun, Jan 18	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Mon, Jan 19	<i>MLK Day, Church Office Closed</i>	
Sun, Jan 25	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am