

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



First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026
9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116
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Welcome

Reflecting the abundant welcome of the Kingdom of God as revealed by Jesus, GSLM welcomes all who seek God's love and grace. We affirm and celebrate the diversity of humanity in all its races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, social and economic circumstances, abilities, and disabilities. Together, we commit ourselves to racial equity and to justice for all, because in God's kingdom, we are all beloved children of God.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshipping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshipping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Ask an usher about hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Bulletin Key

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.



RECONCILING IN CHRIST

First Sunday in Lent

In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead. This lent we are exploring a sermon series on why we do what we do in worship. Today's focus is The Word.

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 before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you.
For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word.
For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers.
For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith—the free gift of God—
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

† **Gathering Hymn: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (ELW 325)**

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

*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.**

*Kyrie Eleison
means "Lord have
mercy."*

† **Kyrie**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



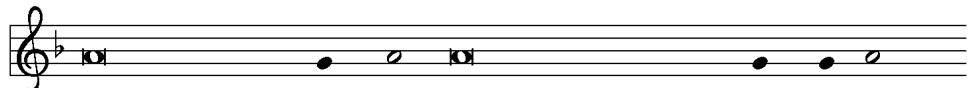
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

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

† Prayer of the Day

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Word

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

New Testament Reading: Romans 10:9-17

To put this reading into context:

A right relationship with God is not achieved by heroic efforts. It is a

gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable part of God's saving actions.

Hear now the reading.

⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" ¹⁶ But not all have obeyed the good news, for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19:7-10, 14



⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.

⁸ **The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | jice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.**

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable | in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.

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



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: John 1:1-5, 14-17

To put this reading into context:

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

The holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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 after the sermon.

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

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

Reflect on words in scripture and the spiritual life that are meaningful for you. Choose a word or phrase ("Be still and know that I am God," "Light of the world," "Beloved," "Have mercy," etc.) to ground you this Lenten season.

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: Word of God Come Down on Earth (ELW 510)

- 1 Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
- 2 Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring,
speak to us, your love outpouring.
- 3 Word that speaks God's tender love,
one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919 Text © James Quinn, SJ, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent.

As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world. The prayers are also responsive,

† Prayers of the Church

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to worship and serve you alone. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. We pray especially for Dale, Diane, Mike, Steve, Joe B, the Busby family, Joe C, Elizabeth, Jon, Audrey, Frank, Kay, Brendan, Kay, family and friends of Ed, especially Verna, Sarah, Donna, Herb, Toni, Kate, 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. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **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." This greeting can take the form of shaking hands, waving, or making the peace sign with one another.

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 to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.

† Offering Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (ELW 803) v. 4

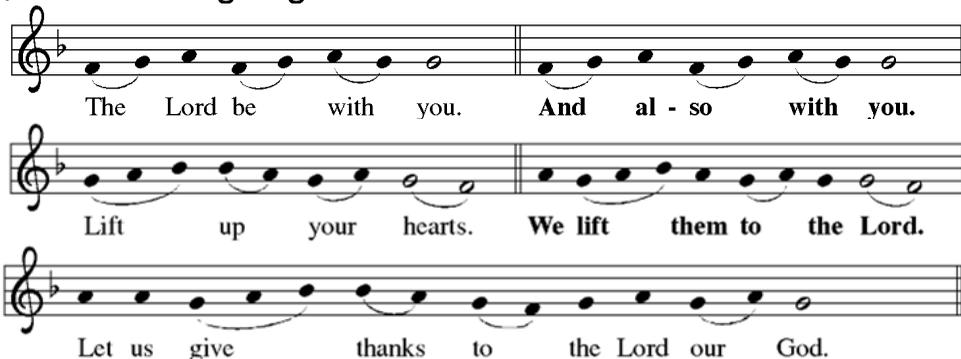
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

† Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

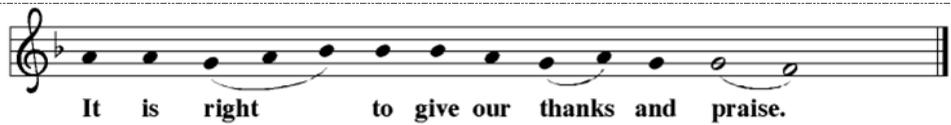
† Great Thanksgiving



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

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

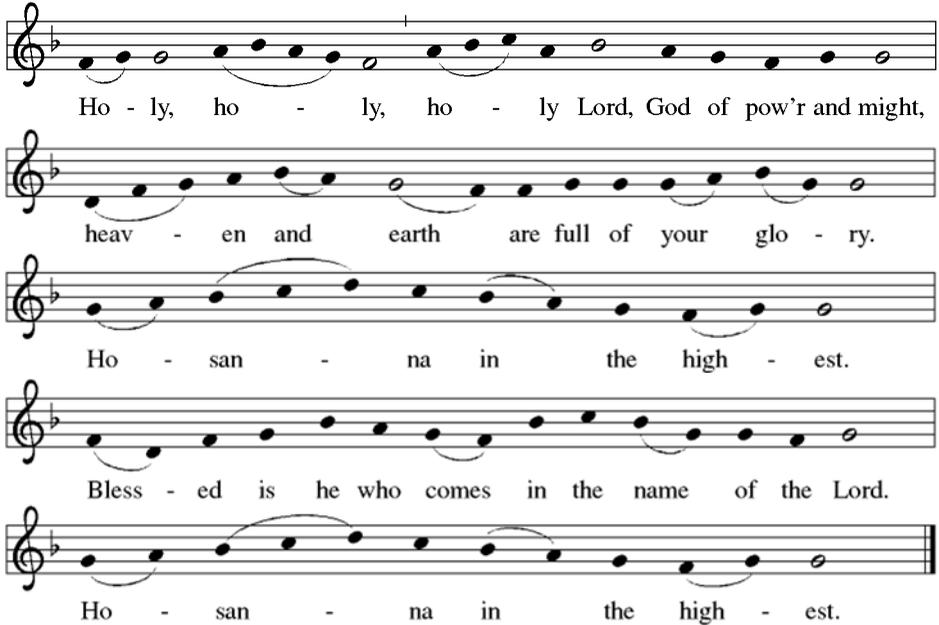
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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 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

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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: Thy Holy Wings (ELW 613)

- 1 Thy holy wings, O Savior,
spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely
through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion,
my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment
be lived within thy grace.
- 2 Oh, let me nestle near thee,
within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort
and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me
and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn
and need thy tender care.
- 3 Oh, wash me in the waters
of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit,
a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping
thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber,
enfold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.

Communion Hymn: Thy Word is a Lamp

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

1 When I feel afraid
And I think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear
As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end. *Refrain*

2 I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end. *Refrain*

© 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company; Vinny Mae's Girl

† 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

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
† bless you now and always. **Amen.**

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

† Sending Hymn: Jesus, Still Lead On (ELW 624)

1 Jesus, still lead on,
till our rest be won;
and, although the way be cheerless,
we will follow, calm and fearless;

guide us by your hand
to the promised land.

2 If the way be drear,
if the foe be near,
let no faithless fears o'ertake us,
let not faith and hope forsake us;
safely past the foe
to our home we go.

3 When we seek relief
from a long-felt grief,
when temptations come alluring
make us patient and enduring;
show us that bright shore
where we weep no more.

4 Jesus, still lead on,
till our rest be won;
heav'nly leader, still direct us,
still support, console, protect us,
till we safely stand
in the promised land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

*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. Believe the good news.

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 coffee
fellowship following worship!*

Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Bill & Darlene Wahl	Livestream: Sean Lanter
Reader: Nancie Smith	Acolyte: TJ Lanter
Counters: Joe Lanter & Stan Zeager	Cantor: Beau Reddington
Online Usher: Pam Lanter	Altar Care: Evan Paine
Communion Bread: Michael Mitterholzer	



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, February 22, 2026

Especially in our prayers: Dale Alexander, Diane Bennett, Mike Bishop, Steve Bugosh, Joe Buntyn, the Busby family, Joe Cassatta, Elizabeth Danish, Jon Deye, Audrey Dorin, Frank Dunaway, Kay Eaton, Brendan Erchul, Kay Eaton, family and friends of Ed Fink, especially Verna Fink, Sarah Gresh, Donna Handy, Herb Harrison, Toni Kulma, Kate Labuda, 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: Stan Zeager (2/23).

New Member Intro: Alissa Neuhaus

Alissa and Ethan Neuhaus are a young couple living in Rocky River and thankful to have found a new church to attend!

Hobbies, interests: Spending time outdoors, and riding motorcycles

I grew up Lutheran and started looking for a Lutheran church in Rocky River where I live. I love the welcoming, relaxing atmosphere and everyone, especially Pastor Marissa, is so nice. Looking forward to building our relationship/ faith with the congregation.



Sunday Sermon Series: Why Do We Do What We Do in Worship?

2/22 Word, 3/1 Hymns, 3/8 Peace, 3/15 Offering, 3/22 Baptism, 3/29 Communion (Palm/Passion Sunday), 4/2 Blessing & Sending (Maundy Thursday)

Wednesday Gatherings during Lent (2/25, 3/11 & 3/25) "God in the Space Between Us": The German Jewish theologian, Martin Buber, lived a century ago. His major work, I and Thou, has had a profound impact on counseling psychology and has influenced how people experience the divine in their lives. Dee Willis will lead a three-session discussion of Buber as an opportunity for growing deeper in faith this Lenten season

Our neighbor Trials For Hope needs food items. Let's put our love in action this month to support them with needed items. Suggested items should be easy to open such as pouches,

pull tabs or tear away tops: tuna, fruit cups, protein or granola bars, applesauce, etc.... Please place items in the designated bucket next to the front door or under the table and label as TFH if bucket is full.

Young adult ministry: Cleveland’s “Gather Together” group is now officially part of the nationwide Gather Network. Our first event of the year will be a virtual Lenten devotional focused on Luke. See dates/times below. If you plan on joining us for one or more sessions or have friends who would like to participate, please email emmacsleva@gmail.com (the Zoom link and devotional e-book will then be emailed to you). Dates/times: Thursdays beginning Feb 26 through April 2, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm ET on Zoom.

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- Flowers are paused during the Season of Lent. 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, Feb 22	In-Person & Livestream Worship: First Sunday in Lent	9:30 am
Wed, Feb 25	Mid-Week Lenten Gathering in Good Soil's Lounge: God in the Space Between Us	6:30 pm
Sun, Mar 1	In-Person & Livestream Worship: Second Sunday in Lent	9:30 am
Sat, Mar 7	Ladies' Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun, Mar 8	In-Person & Livestream Worship: Third Sunday in Lent	9:30 am
Wed, Mar 11	Mid-Week Lenten Gathering in Good Soil's Lounge: God in the Space Between Us	6:30 pm