

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



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Imago Dei ("Made in the Image of God") Sunday
June 28th, 2026
9:30 am



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

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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 worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room (with changing table) behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping 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.



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost / Imago Dei Sunday

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

Gathering

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

Prelude and Welcome

† Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water,
the light that no gloom can overcome,
the embrace that calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with mercy and forgiveness,
and named as God's children.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. *(a brief silence)*

We give you thanks, O God,
for the waters of creation:
for rivers and rain, oceans and springs.
For waters that sustain our community.

We give you thanks for the waters of liberation:
the Red Sea that gave safe passage to the Hebrew people,
the River Jordan where Jesus was baptized,
the Living Water from the well given freely to the Samaritan woman
and us, proclaiming freedom and grace found in you.

We give you thanks for the baptismal waters that make us one Body
in Christ, affirming and celebrating the diversity of humanity in all its
races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions,
social and economic circumstances, abilities, and disabilities.

Shine forth in us the light of Christ,
that we may see your face in one another,

upon your loving kindness and compassion. Strengthen our hearts and minds to continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Word

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

New Testament Reading: Romans 6:13b-18, 23

To put this reading into context:

Sin is a controlling power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's control to live obediently under God's grace, which offers the free gift of eternal life, both now and in the life to come.

Hear now the reading.

^{13b}Present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

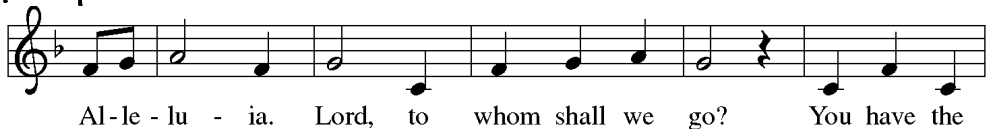
¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient servants, you are servants of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you who were servants of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become obedient to righteousness. ²³For the wages that sin pays are death, but God's gift is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

*We welcome
the gospel by
singing the
Gospel
Acclamation.
We rise, if able,
in anticipation*

† Gospel Acclamation



of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.



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 10:40-42

To put this reading into context:

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰ “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous,

⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sunday School is on summer break! Young children are welcome to remain in the sanctuary during the sermon or go to the “learn & grow in faith” area (nursery room, end of the hall, east side of the building). Children must be supervised by an adult. On select Sundays there may be a faith craft activity with a Sunday School teacher in the lounge.

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

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

When have you felt truly welcomed (to a new group, new class, new place, new job or position)? What contributed to you feeling welcome? How can you channel that with others you encounter at church and/or other places you are present?

The Hymn of the Day is the assembly's response to the sermon—making the sermon event a mutual faith conversation.

† Hymn of the Day: All Are Welcome (ELW 641) v. 1-3

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain*

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain*

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"Creed" comes from the Latin word for "I believe." When we say the words of a creed, we articulate our faith together as one Body of Christ. Lutherans recognize 3 Creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian), so we pray this Statement of Faith as a prayer.

† Statement of Faith: A New Creed

Let us proclaim our faith to each other and to the world:

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

"A New Creed" is an affirmation of faith used widely in the worship of the United Church of Canada (1968; rev. 1980, 1995). Used by permission.

*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*

† Prayers of the Church

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome, embody your peace, and proclaim your hope to the world.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division. Work through world leaders to foster understanding, justice, and peace. We pray especially for conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, Israel & surrounding countries in the Middle East. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Provider God, give your children what they need physically,

<i>+ This faith community + The great cloud of witnesses/those resting with God</i>	emotionally, and spiritually. We pray especially for Dale, Martin, Jane, Darlene, Diane, Mike, Steve, Joe B, the Busby family, Joe C, family & friends of Brad, especially Paulette, Elizabeth, Jon, Audrey, Frank, Kay, Kay, Brendan, Sarah, Donna, Chris, Rev. John K., Toni, Kate, Charley & Cindy, Bianca, Joyce, Susan, family & friends of Elise, Lou, Sally, Ruth, Emily, Kristina, Kim, Jeanette, James, ...and those we name aloud or in our hearts. God of grace, receive our prayer. Eternal God, we remember the faithful departed and give thanks for saints of all times and places. God of grace, receive our prayer. We commend our prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.
<i>A practice of the ancient church, we share in Christ's peace & recognize it in each other.</i>	† Passing of the Peace The Peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you. <i>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.</i>
<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>	<u>The Meal</u> <i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i> 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 <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>
<i>The offering is brought to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.</i>	† Offering Hymn: We are an Offering (ELW 692) We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands,

we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
We are an offering.

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† Offering Prayer

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

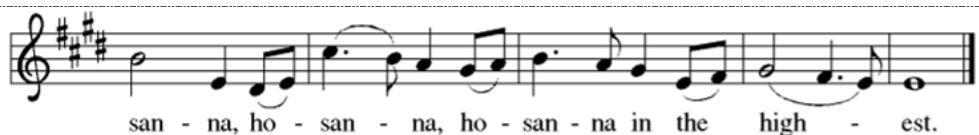
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Preface

† Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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 -



† Eucharistic Prayer and 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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

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 down the center aisle to the front in a single-file line. We will be observing standing processional communion, one side of the sanctuary at a time, for the summer.

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: Build a Longer Table

1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,
feeding those who hunger, making room for all.

Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,
Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

- 2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.
- 3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.
- 4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

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Communion Hymn: Canticle of Turning (ELW 723)

- 1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

- 2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,

	you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. <i>Refrain</i> 3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. <i>Refrain</i> 4 Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. <i>Refrain</i> Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932 Text © John B. Geyer
	† Post-Communion Table Blessing Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.
	<u>The Sending</u> <i>God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.</i> † Blessing May the Creator of all embolden us to be fiercely and authentically human. May the Holy Protector guide us as we continue to discover the fullness of who we are. And may the Spirit of Truth and Wisdom guide us to seek justice for all. Amen.
<i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i>	† Sending Hymn: Just as I am, Without One Plea (ELW 592) v. 1, 3, 4 1 Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

	3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come, 4 Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down; now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come. Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871
<i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body: nourished, fed, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, & our service begins!</i>	† Dismissal Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! Thanks be to God.
	Postlude

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Today’s Worship Servants:

Ushers: Bill & Darlene Wahl	Livestream: Isaac Krankowski
Reader: Paula Maeder Connor	Acolyte: Lily Connor
Counters: David Connor & Kirsten Reading	Cantor: William Eversole
Online Usher:	Altar Care: Paula Maeder Connor
Communion Bread: Anne Paine	



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, June 28, 2026

Especially in our prayers: Dale Alexander, Martin Bauer, Jane Beese, Darlene Beesley, Diane Bennett, Mike Bishop, Steve Bugosh, Joe Buntyn, the Busby family, Joe Cassatta, family and friends of Brad Charnas, especially Paulette, Elizabeth Danish, Jon Deye, Audrey Dorin, Frank Dunaway, Kay Eaton (Welsh Home), Kay Eaton (Renaissance Home), Brendan Erchul, Sarah Gresh, Donna Handy, Chris Jacobson, Rev. John Keller, Toni Kulma, Kate Labuda, Charley & Cindy McCabe, Bianca Miller, Joyce Miller, Susan Omerod, family and friends of Elise Paine, Lou Paine, Sally Pate, Ruth Patrick, Emily Reilly, Kristina Seeley, Kim Taylor, Jeanette Weidlich, James Younger, and all those suffering because of war, violence and humanitarian crises, including in Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, Israel, & surrounding countries in the Middle East.

For those celebrating birthdays: James Younger (7/2) & Ellen Young (7/3).

For those celebrating baptism anniversaries: Jennifer Krankowski (7/3).

Looking to put your faith into action? Hunger continues growing in our community affecting people of all ages and backgrounds. You can be part of the solution by volunteering:

New Covenant Produce for the People: 4th Sat of each month, 9a-12p, at New Covenant Lutheran, 1424 Hayden Ave, Cleveland.

Lakewood Fresh Produce Distribution: 3rd Sat of each month, 9am-12pm, through October. Meet at the Lakewood Congregational Church parking lot located on the corner of 1375 W. Clifton Blvd at Detroit Ave, Lakewood.

Our neighbor Trials For Hope needs food items. Items should be easy to open such as pouches, pull tabs or tear away tops: tuna, fruit cups, protein or granola bars, applesauce, etc. Place items in the designated bucket next to the front door or under the table & label as TFH if bucket is full.

Do you have a handy person in your life? Good Soil is in search of a reliable and responsive person to help serve as a backup for our maintenance contractor and provide on-call support for building-related issues. This Sexton role includes responding to building alarms or emergencies, coordinating with contractors while they are on site, and assisting with maintenance needs during unexpected weather events or other special occasions. We're looking for someone dependable, hands-on, and willing to be available in an on-call capacity as needed. If you are interested or would like to recommend someone—please contact Sean at admin@goodsoillutheran.org to learn more.

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 for Shared Minister for Christian Formation – The Ministry Site Profiles (MSP) for each congregation have been submitted into the ELCA mobility system. Pr. Mitch Phillips, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership, will coordinate with interested candidates and share their Rostered Minister Profiles for review by the Call Committee. Interviews will then take place in the coming months. Please hold our Call Committee, council leaders, and this call process in your prayers as we discern who God is calling to serve as our shared Minister for Christian Formation. Questions? Contact Call Committee Co-Chair, JoAnne Wancata at (440) 655-3674. What is Christian Formation? Sunday School, Confirmation, Bible Studies, small group ministry, service and learning opportunities, acolyte and communion instruction classes, spiritual practices, and worship are all examples of how we are “formed” in the Christian faith and life.

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 \$35. 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. The newsletter is currently on summer break.

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Jun 28	In-Person & Livestream Worship: Imago Dei (Made in the Image of God) Sunday	9:30 am
Fri, Jul 3	<i>Church Office Closed (Independence Day Observed)</i>	
Sun, Jul 5	In-Person & Livestream Worship: US Semiquincentennial	9:30 am
Sun, Jul 12	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am