

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



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19th, 2026
9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116

The Rev. Marissa Harrison
pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org
Cell Phone: 813-494-6507

Church Administrator
Sean Kennedy, admin@goodsoillutheran.org

Worship and Music Coordinator
Brynna Bailer Munro, brynnabailermango@gmail.com

Church office: (440) 331-1773 (9:30am-1pm M-F)

Website: 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 worshiping with you. There's also a "playground" 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.



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

Gathering

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

Prelude and Welcome

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we're 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 compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

† Gathering Hymn: Praise & Thanksgiving (ELW 689) v. 1, 2, 4

1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.

4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt. Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

*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

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.
Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

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

† Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with
firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your
kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The First
Reading comes
from the Old
Testament in
the Bible.*

The Word

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

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

To put this reading into context:

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not

fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

Hear now the reading.

⁶Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

† Gospel Acclamation

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Before and
after the
Gospel, we
give thanks and*

† Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30

To put this reading into context:

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this

<i>praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.</i>	<i>world. God’s judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.</i> The holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord. ²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ” The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.
	Children’s Sermon <i>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.</i>
	Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison <i>Silence for Reflection. Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You’re invited to reflect on the following question:</i> <i>What’s God calling you to “weed” in this season of your life or the life of the world? What’s God calling you to “feed”? What’s one action step you can take this week?</i>

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: O Holy Spirit, Root of Life (ELW 399)

- 1 O Holy Spirit, root of life,
creator, cleanser of all things:
anoint our wounds, awaken us
with lustrous movement of your wings.
- 2 Eternal vigor, Saving One,
you free us by your living Word,
becoming flesh to wear our pain,
and all creation is restored.
- 3 O holy Wisdom, soaring pow'r,
encompass us with wings unfurled,
and carry us, encircling all
above, below, and through the world.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179 Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. 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:

† Prayers of the Church

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

A brief silence.

We pray for the Church. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for Creation. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely and justly toward the flourishing of all. We pray especially for Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, Israel and surrounding countries in the Middle East. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and leaders
+ Those in need*

We pray for those in need, especially: Dale, Jane, Darlene, Diane, Mike, Steve, the Busby family, Joe, Elizabeth, Jon, Audrey, Frank, Kay, Kay, Brendan, Sarah, Donna, Chris, Rev. John K., Jim & Toni, Kate, Charley & Cindy, Bianca, Joyce, Susan, Lou, Sally, Ruth, Emily, Kristina, Kim, Jeanette, James, ...and those we name aloud or in our

+ <i>The great cloud of witnesses/those resting with God</i>	hearts. [<i>A brief silence.</i>] God of grace, receive our prayer. We give thanks for the lives and witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your eternal presence. God of grace, receive our prayer. Trusting in your goodness, we give our prayers to you through the abundant grace of Jesus Christ. 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</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. Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC. All rights reserved. Used By Permission.

† 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 -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Words of Institution

<i>The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i>	† 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 <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> <i>Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.</i> <i>When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."</i> <i>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.</i> <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>
	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. www.selahpub.com.

Communion Hymn: As the Grains of Wheat (ELW 465)

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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† Post-Communion Table Blessing

	Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.
	Council Installation <i>We thank these leaders for serving on council:</i> <i>Jennifer Krankowski, President</i> <i>Nancie Smith, Vice President</i> <i>Kirsten Reading, Treasurer</i> <i>Kathy Aloï, Secretary</i> <i>Matthew Badgett, Member</i> <i>Bill Wahl, Member</i> <i>Kim Wylie, Member</i>
	<u>The Sending</u> <i>God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.</i> † Blessing Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✚ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. Amen.
<i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i>	† Sending Hymn: God the Sculptor of the Mountains (ELW 736) v. 1, 3 1 God the sculptor of the mountains, God the miller of the sand, God the jeweler of the heavens, God the potter of the land: you are womb of all creation, we are formless; shape us now. 3 God the dresser of the vineyard, God the planter of the wheat, God the reaper of the harvest, God the source of all we eat: you are host at ev'ry table, we are hungry; feed us now. Text: John Thornburg, b. 1954 Text © 1993 John Thornburg, admin. Augsburg Fortress
<i>The dismissal</i>	† Dismissal

*sends us out as
Christ's Body:
nourished, fed,
and ready to
serve. Worship
has ended, & our
service begins!*

Heaven has come near. Go, share 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.

Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Anne Paine & Stan Zeager	Livestream: Sean Lanter
Reader: David Dick	Acolyte: Luke Williamson
Counters: Becky Williamson & David Connor	Cantor: Brenna Connor
Online Usher: Stormy Younger	Altar Care: Darlene Wahl
Communion Bread: Michael Mitterholzer	



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, July 19, 2026

Especially in our prayers: Dale Alexander, Jane Beese, Darlene Beesley, Diane Bennett, Mike Bishop, Steve Bugosh, the Busby family, Joe Cassatta, 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, Jim & Toni Kulma, Kate Labuda, Charley & Cindy McCabe, Bianca Miller, Joyce Miller, Susan Omerod, 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: Marilou Mertz (7/19), Heather Curtis (7/20), Jack Johnson (7/21), Kathy Berkshire (7/22), and Amelia Forshey (7/23)

The flowers adorning the altar today are given in honor of Bob and Emma Beebe, from their daughter Linda.

Thank you, Cara Rovella! – Cara Rovella has resigned from her role as Communications and Community Life Coordinator (CCLC). We thank Cara for her 3 years of service with this faith community. The CCLC position oversees tasks related to the bulletin, worship slides,

livestream recordings, website, social media accounts, newsletter (currently on summer break), and bulletin board. If you're able to volunteer with any of these weekly tasks (or other office-related tasks) during this interim time, please reach out to Sean Kennedy, admin@goodsoillutheran.org or Pastor M, pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org. Please hold this community in prayer as we discern next steps and listen for where God is leading us with this staffing opportunity. Note: the church's office hours are now 9:30am-1pm, M-F, instead of 9:30am-3pm.

Christmas in July Worship, Next Sunday, 7/26 – You're invited to Christmas in July Worship: A Musical Tour of the People and Places of the Nativity on Sunday, 7/26. Through song and scripture, we'll visit again the story of Christ's birth unfolding among us. A noisy offering will be gathered to benefit ELCA Good Gifts' School Supplies and Uniforms, so please bring your change and bills if you'd like to contribute to that ministry cause. O come let us adore!

SAVE THE DATE: Outdoor Worship and Picnic with Bethesda, 8/23 – Worship outside with our siblings in Christ in Bethesda's backyard on 8/23! There will be a potluck afterwards with sides and desserts while Bethesda provides the burgers and dogs from the grill. Later in September, Good Soil will host Bethesda for outdoor worship on Sunday, 9/27. Hope to see you there!

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 are live on the ELCA mobility system and interested candidates have started reaching out to Pr. Mitch Phillips, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership, who is connecting candidates with the call committee. The Call Committee will complete a practice interview this month (standard part of the process), and then candidate interviews will begin soon after that!

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 (the online form is not accepting responses currently). Each Vase is \$35 from Cottage Flowers. You may bring your own flowers instead of purchasing through Good Soil, but please still sign up to reserve your slot. Questions about flowers? Email Church Admin Sean Kennedy at admin@goodsoillutheran.org



Newsletter (on Summer Break) – 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>

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Jul 19	In-Person & Livestream Worship & Council Installation	9:30 am
Sun, Jul 26	In-Person & Livestream Worship: Christmas in July with Noisy Offering to Benefit ELCA Good Gifts	9:30 am
Sun, Jul 26	Christmas Lemonade and Cookies Fellowship	10:30 am

Sun, Aug 2	In-Person & Livestream Worship: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	9:30 am
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