

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



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2nd, 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.



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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: Gather Us In (ELW 532) v. 1-3

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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*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



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

† Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from 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: 1 Kings 3:5-12

To put this reading into context:

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

Hear now the reading.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not

know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

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



Before and after the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us

† Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

To put this reading into context:

Throughout Matthew’s gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that “the kingdom of heaven is near!” Here, Jesus offers several

through the Gospel reading.	<i>brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.</i> The holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord. ³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” ³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” ⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ. Children’s Sermon
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	<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. Daniel Beaudoin, Bishop of Northwestern Ohio <i>Silence for Reflection. Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You’re invited to reflect on the following question:</i> <i>What treasures may be keeping you from experiencing the life Jesus calls us to live? What treasures help you experience the abundant life of Jesus? How will you respond?</i>
<i>The Hymn of the Day is the assembly’s response to the sermon—making the sermon event a mutual faith conversation.</i>	† Hymn of the Day: God of Grace and God of Glory (ELW 705) v. 1, 3, 4 1 God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow’r; crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flow'r. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour. 3 Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal. 4 Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,

	serving you whom we adore. Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969
<i>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:</i> <i>+ The Church + Creation + Nations and leaders +Those in need + The great cloud of witnesses/those resting with God</i>	† Prayers of the Church Trusting in God’s steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. <i>A brief silence.</i> God our wisdom and our song, we pray for the Church and all who seek to lead your disciples. We especially pray for the joint call process between Good Soil and Bethesda as interviews begin in August. God of grace, receive our prayer. God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems and wild places. God of grace, receive our prayer. God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples’ stories with compassion and curiosity. We especially pray for peace and justice in Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, Israel and surrounding countries in the Middle East. God of grace, receive our prayer. God our intercessor, we pray for all suffering with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. We pray especially for Dale, Jane, Darlene, Diane, Mike, Steve, the Busby family, Joe, Elizabeth, Jon, Audrey, Frank, Kay, Kay and her family, Brendan, Sarah, Donna, Chris, Rev. John Keller, Jim & Toni, Kate, Charley & Cindy, Bianca, Joyce, Susan, Lou, Sally, Ruth, Kristina, Kim, Jeanette, James, ...and all those we name aloud or in our hearts [<i>A brief silence</i>]. God of grace, receive our prayer. God who seeks, finds, and saves: for the riches of faith and hope, and for all loved ones who have come before us, we give you thanks. 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> Offering <i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus</i> 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

† 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**

*The Lord's
Prayer is Jesus'
response to his
disciples when
they asked him*

<i>to teach them how to pray.</i>	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: Seek Ye First (WOV 783) 1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu-, alleluia. 2 Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find; knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu-, alleluia. 3 We do not live by bread alone,

but by ev'ry word
that proceeds
from the mouth of God.
Allelu-, alleluia.

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Communion Hymn: Be Thou My Vision (ELW 793)

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

† 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 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: In Thee is Gladness (ELW 867) 1 In thee is gladness amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart. By thee are given the gifts of heaven, thou the true redeemer art. Our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou breakest. Who trusts thee surely has built securely and stands forever: Alleluia! Our hearts are pining to see thy shining, dying or living, to thee are cleaving; naught can us sever: Alleluia! 2 Jesus is ours! We fear no powers, not of earth or sin or death. He sees and blesses in worst distresses; he can change them with a breath. Wherefore the story tell of his glory with heart and voices; all heav'n rejoices in him forever: Alleluia! We shout for gladness, triumph o'er sadness, love him and praise him and still shall raise him glad hymns forever: Alleluia! Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
<i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body: nourished, fed,</i>	† Dismissal Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! Thanks be to God.

and ready to
serve. Worship
has ended, &
our service
begins!

Postlude

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Today’s Worship Servants:

Ushers: Taylor Nichols & Stan Zeager	Livestream: Sean Lanter
Reader: Sharon Bechtel	Acolyte: TJ Lanter
Counters: David Paine & Stan Zeager	Cantor: David Paine
Online Usher: Pam Lanter	Altar Care: Anne Paine
Communion Bread: Anne Paine	



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, August 2nd, 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, 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: Jeanne Livingood (8/3), Darlene Wahl (8/6), Jennifer Mitterholzer (8/7), Lily Connor (8/8)

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries: Taylor & Matt Nichols (8/6)

For those celebrating baptism anniversaries: Mandy Forshey (8/3)

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.

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.

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 completed a practice interview this past week, and candidate interviews will begin in August. 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, Aug 2	In-Person & Livestream Worship: 10th Sunday After Pentecost	9:30 am
Sun, Aug 9	In-Person & Livestream Worship: 11th Sunday After Pentecost	9:30 am
Sun, Aug 16	In-Person & Livestream Worship: 12th Sunday After Pentecost Back to School Blessing	9:30 am
Sun, Aug 23	Outdoor Worship & Picnic @ Bethesda on the Bay 28607 Wolf Rd Bay Village (park on Beach Ln or W Oakland Rd), bring a lawn chair!	10:00 am
Sun, Aug 30	In-Person & Livestream Worship: 14th Sunday after Pentecost and Baptism of Elsie and Ayla Nichols	9:30 am
Sun, Sept 6	In-Person & Livestream Worship: 1st Sunday in the Season of Creation: River Sunday	9:30 am

