

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



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 12th, 2026
9:30 am



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

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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 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.



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth & brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Gathering

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

Prelude and Welcome

† 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: Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty (ELW 533) v. 1-3

1 Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,

	filled with solace, light, and grace! 2 Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me; where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, oh, enter thou, let it be thy temple now! 3 Here thy praise is gladly chanted, here thy seed is duly sown; let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone, so that all I hear may be fruitful unto life in me. Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
<i>The assembly and presiding minister greet each other (2 Corinthians)</i>	† 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.
<i>Kyrie Eleison means, "Lord have mercy."</i>	† Kyrie <i>Refrain</i> Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way. Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.
<i>The Prayer of the Day highlights themes in today's scripture.</i>	† Prayer of the Day Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
	<u>The Word</u> <i>God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.</i> First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

To put this reading into context:

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

Hear now the reading.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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.
<i>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.</i>	† Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9 To put this reading into context: <i>In Matthew’s gospel, both Jesus and his disciples “sow the seed” of God’s word by proclaiming the good news that “the kingdom of heaven is near.” Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.</i> The holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord. ¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!” 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.</i>

	<i>You're invited to reflect on the following question:</i> <i>What kind of soil (hard, rocky, overwhelmed, choked, open, etc.) characterizes your heart and/or faith in this season or chapter? How have you felt God's extravagant grace and love sowed in your life in the midst of that?</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: What is This Place (ELW 524) 1 What is this place where we are meeting? Only a house, the earth its floor. Walls and a roof sheltering people, windows for light, an open door. Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered here, and know our God is near. 2 Words from afar, stars that are falling, sparks that are sown in us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders sent from the past are all we need. We in this place remember and speak again what we have heard: God's free redeeming word. 3 And we accept bread at this table, broken and shared, a living sign. Here in this world, dying and living, we are each other's bread and wine. This is the place where we can receive what we need to increase: our justice and God's peace. Text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; tr. David Smith, b. 1933 Text © 1984 TEAM Publications, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
<i>As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world. The prayers are also</i>	† Prayers of the Church Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. <i>A brief silence.</i> God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue

<i>responsive, emphasizing our participation. Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:</i> <i>+ The Church</i> <i>+ Creation</i> <i>+ Nations and leaders</i> <i>+ Those in need</i> <i>+ This faith community</i> <i>+ The great cloud of witnesses/those resting with God</i>	to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace, receive our prayer. God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life. Help us to care for all you’ve made. God of grace, receive our prayer. God our life, you give us your Spirit. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. We pray especially for conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, Israel & surrounding countries in the Middle East. God of grace, receive our prayer. God our healer, we pray for all in need, especially: Dale, 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. God our source, we give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. 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</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>ministry of the church.</i>	<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.

† 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: Lord Let my Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Communion Hymn: Light Dawns on a Weary World (ELW 726)

1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain: The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*

	3 Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. <i>Refrain</i> Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
	† Post-Communion Table Blessing Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.
	† Prayer for Home Communion Ministry Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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: For the Fruit of All Creation (ELW 679) 1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

	2 In the just reward of labor, God's will is done. In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done. In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done. 3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God. For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God. Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000 Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
<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

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. Imago Dei 2026 Pride worship materials used by permission from Reconciling Works.

Second Sunday Fellowship is on break until October. Check the Bulletin Calendar for Summer Fun Pop-Up Events.

Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Chris & Larry Jacobson	Livestream: Joe Lanter
Reader: Jennifer Krankowski	Acolyte: Ryan Williamson
Counters: Joe Lanter & Kim Wylie	Cantor: Erik Bogen
Online Usher: Beau Reddington	Altar Care: Paula Maeder Connor
Communion Bread: Michael Mitterholzer	



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, July 12, 2026

Especially in our prayers: Dale Alexander, 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: Diane Bennett (7/11), Stormy Younger (7/12), Natalie Tasseff (7/15), & Sammie Forshey (7/17).

For those celebrating baptism anniversaries: Ursula Hamrick (7/8), Karen Erchul (7/9), Jeanne Livingood (7/11), & Lisa Sierk (7/16).

Christmas in July Worship, 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 have been submitted into the ELCA mobility system. Pr. Mitch Phillips, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership, is coordinating with interested rostered candidates and the Call Committee. Interviews are taking place this summer. 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, Jul 12	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am
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