

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



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 16th, 2026
9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116

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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 "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.



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

In Isaiah we hear that God’s house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today’s gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

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.

*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.*

† Gathering Hymn: All Are Welcome (ELW 641) v. 1, 4, 5

- 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.

- 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain*

- 5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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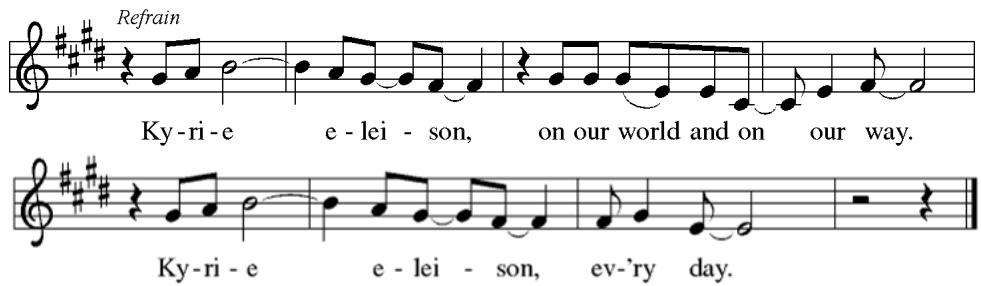
*The assembly
and presiding
minister greet
each other
(2 Corinthians)*

† 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



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

† Prayer of the Day

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through 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 56:1, 6-8

To put this reading into context:

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;

their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

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
through the
Gospel reading.*

† Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

To put this reading into context:

In the preceding verses, Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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: Pastor Marissa Harrison

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

Have you ever had an experience where your assumptions were challenged and you ended up changing your mind? What happened? Who was involved? How was the Holy Spirit present?

The Hymn of the Day is the assembly’s response to the sermon—making the sermon event a

† Hymn of the Day: In Christ There is No East or West (ELW 650) v. 1, 2, 4

1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

<i>mutual faith conversation.</i>	2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere their high communion find; his service is the golden cord close binding humankind. 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north; all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth. Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969 Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941
<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 + This faith community + The great cloud of witnesses/those resting with God</i>	† Prayers of the Church Let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. <i>A brief silence.</i> For believers around the world, that all be united in faith and harmony. Let your church be a witness to beloved community in you. Merciful God, receive our prayer. For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Merciful God, receive our prayer. For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders, that they lead and serve justly. We pray especially for Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, Israel and surrounding countries in the Middle East. Merciful God, receive our prayer. For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle. We especially pray for Dale, Davon, 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, Preston, Joyce, Susan, Sally, Ruth, Kristina, Kim, Jeanette, James, ...and all those we name aloud or in our hearts [<i>A brief silence</i>]. Merciful God, receive our prayer. For this congregation, that we may recognize the presence of Christ in every face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God, receive our prayer. For the saints before us, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. Merciful God, receive our prayer. Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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</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.

*for God's
blessings.*

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.

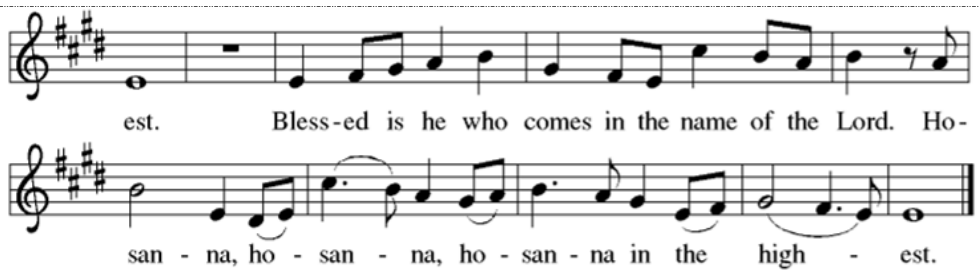
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† 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 -



† 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 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 Whose Love in Humble Service (ELW 712)

1 Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.

2 Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.

4 Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984. Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.

Communion Hymn: Build a Longer Table (ACS 1062)

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.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984. Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

† Back-to-School Blessing

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

† 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: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (ELW 886) v. 1, 2, 5 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace! 2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name. 5 Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race! Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace! Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
<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: Larry Jacobson & Kim Wylie	Livestream: Isaac Krankowski
Reader: Jennifer Krankowski	Acolyte: Lily Connor
Counters: Kim Wylie & Stan Zeager	Altar Care: Paula Maeder Connor
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Communion Bread: Anne Paine



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, August 16th, 2026

Especially in our prayers: Dale Alexander, Davon, 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, Preston McLendon, Joyce Miller, Susan Omerod, 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:

Lisa Dormann (8/18), John Shumaker (8/19), Larry Jacobson (8/21)

For those celebrating baptism anniversaries: Pastor Marissa Harrison (8/19), Cadence Mattson (8/21)

After service today: Fun at Lakewood Park, 8/16 – Join us for a family fun day at Lakewood Park
TIME CHANGE: right after worship (about 11am-1pm), instead of 12pm-2pm. All families, with kids any age, are welcome to join in the fun (and extended family/friends as well). There's a free splash pad (bring suits/towels) and a large playground. Please bring your own lunch to the park, Good Soil will provide a cooler of sodas, sparkling water, and other drinks. We'll set up in or around the big pavilion by the playground area. To find the group, contact Matthew Badgett (703-501-9757), Taylor Nichols (630-398-1981), or Pr. Marissa (813-494-6507). Hope to see you there!

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. During Land Sunday (9/27 in the Season of Creation), Good Soil will host Bethesda for outdoor worship.

Parking Info: Please park in Bethesda's north parking lot or down the streets around Bethesda (Beach Ln or W. Oakland Rd. See map after calendar below.). The side parking lot to the West of Bethesda is closed due to construction at the school.

Season of Creation begins in September, bring a friend! The Season of Creation is a time when the global church unites to intentionally reflect on God's presence in creation and our calling to care for it. We give thanks, we pray, we lament, we hope, and we recommit ourselves to healing our relationship with our sacred home. This year's themes are River (9/6), Wilderness (9/13),

Forest (9/20), and Land (9/27, outdoor worship, no livestream). If you'd like to help decorate the sanctuary, please contact Mandy Forshey at amandamforshey@gmail.com or (216) 640-6145.

Hike With Gather Together (20s/30s Young Adult Ministry), Saturday 9/12 at 4pm – Please join us for an afternoon of faith and fellowship at the Rocky River Nature Center on September 12. We will meet in the parking lot at 4 pm. The group will walk for about an hour and conclude with a contemplative period. Please feel free to bring family and pets! RRNC is located in the Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Reservation: 24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted, OH 44070. Kindly RSVP to emmacsleva@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

"Gather Together" is a self-organized young adult group across several Lutheran communities focused on building affirming community through meaningful engagement with one another, with God, and with our wider world. See gathernetwork.org/ more information about the ELCA's Gather Ministry, or use the QR code to view CLE's Gather Together page and join the contact list for upcoming events.



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.

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 rlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org.

Bethesda Staff Partnership for Shared Minister for Christian Formation – The Call Committee is interviewing candidates this month! 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 currently not accepting responses). 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? Email Church Admin Sean Kennedy at admin@goodsoillutheran.org or call the church office at 440-331-1773.

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 16	Good Soil Family Fun Day at Lakewood Park (all families with kids and extended family/friends welcome to join, bring your lunch and water clothes for the splash pad!)	11:00 am
Tues, Aug 18	Council Meeting via zoom	7:45 pm
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! See parking diagram.	10:00 am
Sun, Aug 30	In-Person & Livestream Worship: 14th Sunday after Pentecost and Baptism of Elsie and Ayla Nichols	9:30 am
Thurs, Sept 3	Confirmation kickoff @ Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran for confirmation students and parents	6:00 pm
Sat, Sept 5	Ladies Breakfast @ Gene’s Place to Dine, (Lorain Rd & RR Drive)	9:30 am
Sun, Sept 6	In-Person & Livestream Worship: 1st Sunday in the Season of Creation: River Sunday	9:30 am

Parking Info at Bethesda: Please park in Bethesda's north parking lot or down the streets around Bethesda (Beach Ln or W. Oakland Rd. See map on next page). The side parking lot to the West of Bethesda is closed due to construction at the school.

